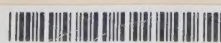


**THIS BOOK
MUST NOT BE REMOVED
FROM THE LIBRARY**

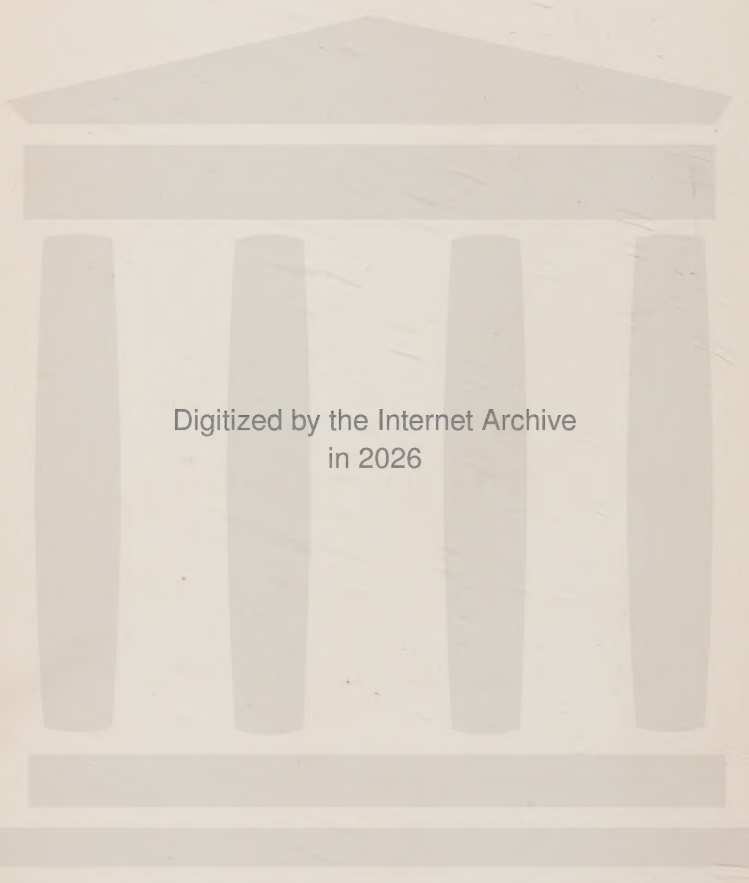
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON LIBRARY

PARL. PAPERS
FOR REFERENCE ONLY.





616989



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2026

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(AUTHORISED EDITION),

FOURTH SERIES.

FOURTH SESSION OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

OF THE

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

3 EDWARD VII.

VOLUME CXXII.

COMPRISING THE PERIOD FROM THE SEVENTH DAY OF MAY TO
THE TWENTY-SIXTH DAY OF MAY, 1903.

FIFTH VOLUME OF SESSION.

1903.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED,

UNDER CONTRACT WITH HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,

BY

WYMAN AND SONS, LIMITED, FETTER LANE, LONDON.

CHRONOLOGY OF "THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES."

THE PARLIAMENTARY HISTORY contains all that can be collected of the Legislative History of this country from the Conquest to the close of the XVIIIth Century (1803), 36 vols. The chief sources whence these Debates are derived are the Constitutional History, 24 vols. ; Sir Simonds D'Ewes' Journal; Debates of the Commons in 1620 and 1621; Chandler and Timberland's Debates, 22 vols. ; Grey's Debates of the Commons, from 1667 to 1694, 10 vols. ; Almon's Debates, 24 vols. ; Debrett's Debates, 63 vols. ; The Hardwicke Papers; Debates in Parliament by Dr. Johnson, &c., &c.

THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES commence with the year 1803, and the contents are set forth in the following Chronological Table:—

HISTORY.

CONQUEST to 34 GEO. II.—1066 to 1760.

Vol. 1 to 15, 1 WILL. I. to 34 GEO. II.
1066-1760

REIGN OF GEORGE III.—1760 to 1820.

Vol. 15 to 35, 1 GEO. III. to 40 GEO. III.
1760-1800

(FIRST PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 35 41 GEO. III.....1801
— 36 42 — 1802

(SECOND PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 36 42 GEO. III.....1802-3

DEBATES.

First Series.

(SECOND PARLIAMENT—continued.)

Vol. 1 & 2...44 GEO. III.....1803-4
— 3 to 5...45 — 1805
— 6 & 7...46 — 1806

(THIRD PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 8 & 9...47 GEO. III.....1806-7

(FOURTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 9 to 11...48 GEO. III.....1807-8
— 12 — 14...49 — 1809
— 15 — 17...50 — 1810
— 18 — 20...51 — ... 1810-11
— 21 — 23...52 — 1812

(FIFTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 24 to 26...53 GEO. III. ... 1812-13
— 27 & 28...54 — 1813-14
— 29 to 31...55 — ... 1814-15
— 32 — 34...56 — 1816
— 35 & 36...57 — 1817
— 37 — 38...58 — 1818

(SIXTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 39 & 40...59 GEO. III. 1819
— 41 60 — ... 1819-20

Second Series.

REIGN OF GEORGE IV.—1820 to 1830

(SEVENTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 1 to 3... 1 GEO. IV. 1820
4 & 5... 2 — 1821
— 6 — 7... 3 — 1822
— 8 — 9... 4 — 1823
— 10 — 11... 5 — 1824
— 12 — 13... 6 — 1825-6
— 14 — 15... 7 — 1826

(EIGHTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 16 7 GEO. IV. 1826
— 17 8 — 1827
— 18 & 19... 9 — 1828
— 20 — 21...10 — 1829
— 22 to 25...11 — 1830

Third Series.

REIGN OF WILLIAM IV.—1830 to 1837.

(NINTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 1 to 3... 1 WILL. IV.....1830-1

(TENTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 4 to 8... 2 WILL. IV. 1831
— 9 — 14... 3 — 1832

(ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 15 to 20... 4 WILL. IV..... 1833
— 21 — 25... 5 — 1834

(TWELFTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 26 to 30... 6 WILL. IV..... 1835
— 31 — 35... 7 — 1836
— 36 — 38... 8 — 1837

REIGN OF VICTORIA—1837 to 1901.
(THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 39 to 44...	1	VICTORIA	1838
— 45 — 50...	2	—	1839
— 51 — 55...	3	—	1840
— 56 — 58...	4	—	(a) 1841

(FOURTEENTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 59	4	VICTORIA	(b) 1841
— 60 to 65...	5	—	1842
— 66 — 71...	6	—	1843
— 72 — 76...	7	—	1844
— 77 — 82...	8	—	1845
— 83 — 88...	9	—	1846
— 89 — 94...	10	—	(a) 1847

(FIFTEENTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 95	10	VICTORIA	(b) 1847
— 96 to 101...	11	—	1848
— 102 — 107...	12	—	1849
— 108 — 113...	13	—	1850
— 114 — 118...	14	—	1851
— 119 — 122...	15	—	(a) 1852

(SIXTEENTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 123	15	VICTORIA	(b) 1852
— 124 to 129...	16	—	1853
— 130 — 135...	17	—	1854
— 136 — 139...	18	—	1855
— 140 — 143...	19	—	1856
— 144	20	—	(a) 1857

(SEVENTEENTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 145 to 147...	20	VICTORIA	(b) 1857
— 148 — 151 ..	21	—	1858
— 152 — 153...	22	—	(a) 1859

(EIGHTEENTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 154 to 155...	22	VICTORIA	(b) 1859
— 156 — 160...	23	—	1860
— 161 — 164...	24	—	1861
— 165 — 168...	25	—	1862
— 169 — 172...	26	—	1863
— 173 — 176...	27	—	1864
— 177 — 180...	28	—	1865

(NINETEENTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 181 to 184...	29	VICTORIA	 1866
— 185 — 189...	30	—	1867
— 190 — 193...	31	—	... 1867-8

(TWENTIETH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 194 to 198...	32	VICTORIA	... 1868-9
— 199 — 203...	33	—	1870
— 204 — 208...	34	—	1871
— 209 — 213...	35	—	1872
— 214 — 217...	36	—	1873

(TWENTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 218 to 221...	37	VICTORIA	1874
— 222 — 226...	38	—	1875
— 227 — 231...	39	—	1876
— 232 — 236...	40	—	1877
— 237 — 242...	41	—	1878
— 243 — 249...	42	—	... 1878-9
— 250 & 251...	43	—	(a) 1880

(TWENTY-SECOND PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 252 to 256...	43	VICTORIA	(b) 1880
— 257 — 265...	44	—	1881
— 266 — 273...	45	—	(a) 1882
— 274 & 275...	45	—	(b) 1882
— 276 to 283...	46	—	1883
— 284 — 292...	47	—	1884
— 293 — 301...	48	—	... 1884-5

(TWENTY-THIRD PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 302 to 307...	49	VICTORIA	(a) 1886
--------------------	----	----------	----------

(TWENTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 308 & 309...	49	VICTORIA	(b) 1886
— 310 to 321...	50	—	1887
— 322 — 332...	51	—	1888
— 333 — 340...	52	—	1889
— 341 — 348...	53	—	1890
— 349 — 356...	54	—	... 1890-1

Fourth Series.
(TWENTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT—*cont.*)

Vol. 1 to 6...	55	VICTORIA	1892
----------------	----	----------	-----------

(TWENTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 7	56	VICTORIA	1892
— 8 to 21...	57	—	... 1893-4
— 22 — 29...	57	—	1894
— 30 — 35...	58	—	1895

(TWENTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 36	59	VICTORIA	1895
— 37 to 44...	59	—	... 1895-6
— 45 — 52...	60	—	1897
— 53 — 65...	61	—	1898
— 66 — 76...	62	—	1899
— 77	63	—	1899
— 78 — 83...	63	—	1900
— 84 ... 63 & 64	—	—	1900
— 85 — 87...	64	—	1900

(TWENTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 88	64	VICTORIA	1900
---------------	----	----------	-----------

REIGN OF EDWARD VII.
(TWENTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT—*cont.*)

Vol. 89	1	EDWARD VII.	...1901
— 90 to 100	1	—	...1901
— 101 ... 1 & 2	—	—	...1902
— 102 to 117	2	—	...1902
— 118 to 122	3	—	...1903

HIS MAJESTY'S PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF STATE, ETC.

THE CABINET.

Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury and Lord Privy Seal—Rt. Hon. ARTHUR BALFOUR.
 Lord President of the Council—His Grace the Duke of DEVONSHIRE, K.G.
 Lord Chancellor—Rt. Hon. Earl of HALSBURY.
 Secretaries of State—
 Foreign Affairs—Most Hon. the Marquess of LANSDOWNE, K.G.
 Home Department—Rt. Hon. A. AKERS-DOUGLAS, M.P.
 Colonial—Rt. Hon. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN, M.P.
 War—Rt. Hon. W. ST. JOHN BRODRICK, M.P.
 India—Rt. Hon. Lord GEORGE HAMILTON, M.P.
 Chancellor of the Exchequer—Rt. Hon. CHAS. T. RITCHIE, M.P.
 First Lord of the Admiralty—Rt. Hon. the EARL of SELBORNE.
 Lord Chancellor of Ireland—Rt. Hon. Lord ASHBOURNE.
 President of the Board of Trade—Rt. Hon. GERALD W. BALFOUR, M.P.
 Postmaster-General—Rt. Hon. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Esq., M.P.
 Secretary for Scotland—Rt. Hon. Lord BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH.
 President of the Local Government Board—Rt. Hon. WALTER H. LONG, M.P.
 President of the Board of Agriculture—Rt. Hon. Earl of ONSLOW.
 President of the Board of Education—The Most Noble the Marquess of LONDONDERRY.
 Chief Secretary for Ireland—Rt. Hon. GEORGE WYNNDHAM, M.P.

NOT IN THE CABINET.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury—Sir A. ACLAND-HOOD, Bt., M.P.
 Financial Secretary to the Treasury—Hon. ARTHUR D. ELLIOT, M.P.
 Secretary of the Board of Education—Sir WILLIAM ANSON, Bt., M.P.
 Secretary to the Admiralty—HUGH O. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Esq., M.P.
 Lords of the Treasury—
 H. T. ANSTRUTHER, Esq., M.P.
 Hon. AILWYN FELLOWES, M.P.
 H. W. FORSTER, Esq., M.P.
 Lords of the Admiralty—
 Admiral Lord W. T. KERR, K.C.B.
 Admiral Sir JOHN FISHER, G.C.B.
 Rear-Admiral W. H. MAY, M.V.O.
 Rear-Admiral JOHN DURNFORD, C.B., D.S.O.
 Civil Lord of the Admiralty—E. G. PRETYMAN, Esq., M.P.
 Parliamentary Secretary, Foreign Office—Lord CRANBORNE, M.P.
 Parliamentary Secretary, Home Office—Hon. T. H. COCHRANE, M.P.
 Parliamentary Secretary, Colonial Office—Rt. Hon. Earl of ONSLOW, G.C.M.G.
 Parliamentary Secretary, India Office—Rt. Hon. Earl PERCY, M.P.
 Parliamentary Secretary, War Office—Rt. Hon. Earl of HARDWICKE.
 Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade—A. BONAR LAW, Esq., M.P.
 Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board—J. GRANT LAWSON, Esq., M.P.
 Financial Secretary, War Office—Lord STANLEY, M.P.
 Attorney-General—Sir R. B. FINLAY, K.C., M.P.
 Solicitor-General—Rt. Hon. Sir E. CARSON, K.C., M.P.
 Lord Lieutenant of Ireland—Rt. Hon. Earl of DUDLEY.
 Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster—Rt. Hon. Sir WM. WALROND, Bt., M.P.
 First Commissioner of Works—Rt. Hon. Lord WINDSOR.

OTHER OFFICERS OF STATE

Judge Advocate-General—Rt. Hon. Sir F. H. JEUNE, K.C.B., President Probate, Divorce, and Admiralty Division.
 Lord Chamberlain—Rt. Hon. Earl of CLARENDON.
 Vice-Chamberlain—Sir A. ACLAND-HOOD, Bt., M.P.
 Lord Steward—Rt. Hon. Earl of PEMBROKE AND MONTGOMERY, G.C.V.O.
 Master of the Horse—His Grace the Duke of PORTLAND, K.G., G.C.V.O.
 Paymaster-General—His Grace the Duke of MARLBOROUGH.
 Comptroller of the Household—Viscount VALENTIA, M.P.
 Treasurer of the Household—VICTOR C. W. CAVENDISH, Esq., M.P.
 Master of the Buckhounds—Right Hon. Lord CHESHAM.
 Captain Yeomen of the Guard—Rt. Hon. Earl WALDEGRAVE.
 Lords-in-Waiting—
 Rt. Hon. Earl of KINTORE, G.C.M.G.
 Rt. Hon. Earl of DENBIGH.
 Rt. Hon. Lord CHURCHILL, K.C.V.O.
 Rt. Hon. Earl HOWE.
 Rt. Hon. Lord LAWRENCE.
 Rt. Hon. Lord BAGOT.
 Rt. Hon. Lord SUFFIELD, G.C.V.O., K.C.B.
 Rt. Hon. Lord KENYON.

SCOTLAND.

Secretary for Scotland and Keeper of the Great Seal—Rt. Hon. Lord BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH.
 Lord Justice-General—Rt. Hon. J. B. BALFOUR.
 Lord Advocate—Rt. Hon. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, K.C., M.P.
 Lord Justice Clerk—Rt. Hon. Lord KINSBURGH, C.B.
 Lord Clerk Register—His Grace the Duke of MONTROSE, K.T.
 Lord High Commissioner—Rt. Hon. Earl of LEVEN AND MELVILLE.
 Solicitor-General—CHARLES SCOTT DICKSON, Esq., K.C., M.P.

IRELAND.

Lord Lieutenant—Rt. Hon. Earl of DUDLEY.
 Lord Chancellor—Rt. Hon. Lord ASHBOURNE.
 Chief Secretary—Rt. Hon. GEORGE WYNDHAM, M.P.
 Under Secretary—Sir ANTONY McDONNELL.
 Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction—President: The Rt. Hon. the CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND; Vice-President: Rt. Hon. HORACE PLUNKETT.
 Attorney-General—Rt. Hon. J. ATKINSON, K.C., M.P.
 Solicitor-General—GEO. WRIGHT, Esq., K.C.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

Chairman of Committees—Rt. Hon. Earl of MORLEY.
 Clerk of Parliaments—Sir HENRY J. L. GRAHAM, K.C.B.
 Deputy Clerk of Parliaments (Clerk Assistant)—Hon. E. P. THESIGER, C.B.
 Reading-Clerk and Clerk of Outdoor Committees—EDWARD HALL ALDERSON, Esq.
 Counsel to the Chairman of Committees—ALBERT GRAY, Esq.
 Chief Clerk and Clerk of Public Bills—A. HARRISON, Esq.
 Senior Clerks—
 Peers' Printed Paper Office—C. L. ANSTRUTHER, Esq.
 Principal Clerk, Judicial Department, and Taxing Officer of Judicial Costs—J. F. SKENE, Esq.
 Clerk of the Journals—W. A. LEIGH, Esq.
 Principal Clerk of Private Committees—J. F. SYMONS JEUNE, Esq.
 Other Clerks—W. H. HAMILTON GORDON, Esq.; Hon. A. McDONNELL; A. H. ROBINSON, Esq. (Clerk of Private Bills); H. P. ST. JOHN, Esq.; V. M. BIDDULPH, Esq.; Hon. E. A. STONOR; H. J. F. BADELEY, Esq.; C. HEADLAM, Esq.; J. B. HOTHAM, Esq.; E. C. VIGORS, Esq.; A. TENNYSON, Esq.; and G. D. LWARD, Esq.
 Accountant and Copyist—Mr. T. A. COURT.
 Assistant Copyists—Mr. H. P. NORRIS and Mr. R. A. COURT.
 Messengers—Messrs. A. A. WOFFELL, C. E. CHIZLETT, A. M. STOLL, J. W. F. LOCKE, J. McMILLAN, G. BENNETT, G. T. PHILIP.
 Librarian—S. ARTHUR STRONG, Esq.
 Assistant Librarian—A. H. M. BUTLER, Esq.
 Attendant—Mr. W. WOFFELL.
 Examiners for Standing Orders—C. W. CAMPION, Esq.; J. F. SYMONS JEUNE, Esq.; Clerk—B. H. FELL, Esq.
 Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod—Gen. Sir MICHAEL A. S. BIDDULPH, G.C.B.
 Yeoman Usher—Captain T. D. BUTLER.
 Serjeant-at-Arms—Lt.-Col. Rt. Hon. Sir FLEETWOOD I. EDWARDS, G.C.V.O., K.C.B.
 Deputy Serjeant-at-Arms—S. HAND, Esq.
 Resident Superintendent—J. K. WILLIAMS, Esq.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS—(Cont.)

Shorthand Writer—W. H. GURNEY SALTER, Esq.
 Principal Doorkeepers—Messrs. W. CHANDLER, E. FOX, F. HOLMAN.
 First Class Assistants—Messrs. C. WALKER, J. HEDLEY, J. LANE.
 Second Class Assistants—Messrs. B. GALLOP, H. B. STREVEENS, G. W. CROSS, W. STOPP.
 Third Class Assistants—Messrs. J. WOOLACOTT, A. A. EDNEY, J. F. BAUM.
 Messengers—Messrs. A. J. SOLMAN, J. B. FORSYTH, C. CHAPMAN, W. PHILLIPS,
 W. W. MEATES.
 Superintendent of Refreshment Rooms—Mr. W. CASBON.
 Inspector of Police attending the House of Lords—Mr. T. KENDRICK.
 Clerk of the Works, Houses of Parliament—Mr. C. J. WILLIAMS.
 Resident Engineer, Houses of Parliament—Mr. A. P. PATEY.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Clerk of the House of Commons—Sir COURTNEY PEREGRINE ILBERT, K.C.S.I., C.I.E.
 Clerk-Assistant—ARTHUR W. NICHOLSON, Esq.
 Second Clerk-Assistant—T. L. WEBSTER, Esq.
 Principal Clerks—
 Public Bill Office, and Clerk of Fees—W. GIBBONS, Esq.
 Clerk of the Journals—W. H. LEY, Esq.
 Committee Office—R. DICKINSON, Esq.
 Private Bill Office—J. H. W. SOMERSET, Esq.
 Senior Clerks—F. ST. GEORGE TUPPER, Esq.; H. C. TOWER, Esq.; C. V. FRERE, Esq.;
 L. T. LE MARCHANT, Esq.; G. C. GIFFARD, Esq.; Sir E. H. DOYLE, Bart.
 Assistant Clerks—S. L. SIMEON, Esq.; ARTHUR I. DASENT, Esq.; E. C. HOWE BROWNE,
 Esq.; HORACE WEST, Esq.; HENRY A. FERGUSON-DAVIE, Esq.; ARTHUR H. ELLIS, Esq.;
 PERCY A. BULL, Esq.; F. R. WILLIAMS WYNN, Esq.; W. E. GREY, Esq.; F. C.
 HOLLAND, Esq.; J. W. G. BOND, Esq.
 Junior Clerks—H. C. DAWKINS, Esq.; R. P. COLOMB, Esq.; B. H. FELL, Esq.; R. E.
 CHILDERS, Esq.; J. SCOTT PORTER, Esq.; F. C. BRAMWELL, Esq.; W. T. LEGGE, Esq.
 C. R. TURNER, Esq.; W. K. GIBBONS, Esq.; A. E. A. W. SMYTH, Esq.; K. J. C.
 MOORSOM, Esq.; C. D. ROBERTSON, Esq.; R. D. RADCLIFFE, Esq.
 Serjeant-at-Arms—H. D. ERSKINE, Esq.
 Deputy Serjeant—F. R. GOSSET, Esq.
 Assistant Sergeant—W. H. ERSKINE, Esq.
 Chaplain to the House—Rev. Archdeacon BASIL WILBERFORCE, D.D.
 Secretary to the Speaker—EDWARD GULLY, Esq.
 Counsel to the Speaker—Hon. Sir E. CHANDOS LEIGH, K.C., K.C.B.
 Trainbearer—Mr. J. FRENCH.
 Messenger—Mr. W. MURRELL.
 Collectors of Fees on Private Bills—C. L. LOCKTON, Esq.
 Referee of Private Bills—ALFRED BONHAM CARTER, Esq., C.B.
 Examiners of Private Bills—C. W. CAMPION, Esq.; J. F. SYMONS JEUNE, Esq.
 Taxing Master—C. W. CAMPION, Esq.; Clerk—B. H. FELL, Esq.
 Vote Office—
 Chief Clerk—H. A. M. KILICK, Esq.
 Assistant Clerks—PHILIP SMITH, Esq.; H. OTWAY MAYNE, Esq.
 Messenger—Mr. JOHN EDWARDS.
 Librarian—R. C. WALPOLE, Esq.; Assistant Librarian—TEMPLE FRANCKS, Esq., B.C.L.;
 Clerks in Library—Messrs. J. R. CRIMP, WM. STEWART; Messengers—Messrs.
 A. FIRMIN, W. HAGUE.
 Shorthand Writer—W. H. GURNEY SALTER, Esq.
 Printers—
 Journals—G. E. BRISCOE EYRE, Esq.
 Votes—J. B. NICHOLS, Esq.
 Postmaster—Mr. EDMUND W. PIKE; Hall Keeper—Mr. J. GLYNN.
 Office Keeper—Mr. W. HARVEY.
 Office Clerk in Committee Office—Mr. T. FIELDEN MITCHELL.
 Office Clerk in Journal Office—Mr. A. A. TAYLOR.
 Messengers—Messrs. J. J. SHELVEY, C. DAVIE, W. QUANTRILL, H. JONES, G. D. WELLER,
 J. ARMSTRONG, J. WOODWARD, J. IVORY, G. NORMAN.
 Doorkeepers—Mr. W. WILSON and Mr. M. INGLEFIELD.
 Office Messenger—Mr. C. J. H. SHEARN.
 Messengers (1st Class)—Mr. H. HAMBLING, Mr. C. WOODCRAFT, Mr. R. ROBERTSON, Mr.
 J. HILLS, Mr. J. SPRAGUE, Mr. A. ANDREWS, Mr. T. B. SPRAY, Mr. G. TYE, Mr. R.
 HOBBY, Mr. G. ANSTAY, Mr. J. H. DAY.
 Messengers (2nd Class)—Messrs. J. HENDERSON, G. WAINWRIGHT, J. GUYATT, R. TURTLE,
 A. HASKELL, A. C. JOHNSON, G. CLAPPERTON, H. E. LININGTON.
 Superintendent of Members' Waiting Room—Mr. J. F. HENLEY; Assistant—Mr. W.
 BROADBENT; Porters—Messrs. J. ORAM and T. MARTIN.
 Chief Inspector of Police attending the House of Commons—Mr. SCANTLEBURY.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TO

VOLUME CXXII.

FIFTH VOLUME OF SESSION, 1903.

HOUSE OF LORDS : THURSDAY, 7TH MAY, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Page

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with :—

Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway ; City and South London Railway.

Also the Certificates that no Standing Orders are applicable to the following Bills :—

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) ; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3).

And also the Certificates that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with :—

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) ; Local Government Provisional Order (Housing of the Working Classes).

The same were ordered to lie on the Table 1

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.—Report from, That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Petitions for additional Provisions in the following Bills ought to be dispensed with, and leave given to the Committees on the Bills to insert the additional Provisions, viz :—

North-Western Electricity and Power Gas [H.L.] ; Salford Corporation [H.L.] ; Hove, Worthing, and District Tramways [H.L.].

That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Baker Street and Waterloo Railway (Extension of Time) Bill ought to be dispensed with.

That the further Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Maidstone Gas Bill ought to be dispensed with, and the Bill allowed to proceed.

Read and agreed to 2

Fife Electric Power Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition thereto having been withdrawn ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table : The orders made on the 12th of March and Thursday last discharged, and Bill committed 3

May 7.]

Page

Bangor Corporation Bill [H.L.].—Petition for additional provision : of the Corporation of Bangor ; together with the proposed Amendments annexed thereto ; read, and referred to the Examiners	3.
Southampton Harbour Bill [H.L.].—The King's consent signified ; and Bill reported, with Amendments	3.
Poole and District Electric Traction Bill [H.L.].—Reported, with Amendments	3.
Birmingham Corporation Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments	3.
Hastings Harbour District Railway Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition thereto having been withdrawn ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table : The orders made on the 19th March and the 30th of April last discharged ; and Bill committed	3.
Pontypridd Urban District Council Bill [H.L.] ; Taff Vale Railway Bill [H.L.] ; London and North-Western Railway Bill [H.L.] ; Aston Manor Improvement Bill [H.L.] ; Macclesfield and District Electric Tramways Bill [H.L.] ; Torquay Corporation Water Bill [H.L.] ; Rochester Corporation Tramways and Improvements Bill [H.L.] ; Chatham and District Light Railways Bill [H.L.] ; Brighton Corporation Bill [H.L.] ; Bury and District Joint Water Board Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Lord Redesdale be proposed to the House as a member of the Select Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Viscount Powerscourt ; read, and agreed to	3.
Ipswich Gas Bill ; Burgess Hill and St. John's Common Gas Bill ; London Hydraulic Power Bill ; Sutton District Water Bill ; Winchester Water and Gas Bill.—Read 2 ^a , and committed	4
Wellington (Salop) Gas Bill [H.L.] ; Frinton-on-Sea Sea Defences Bill [H.L.].—Read 3 ^a , and passed, and sent to the Commons	4
Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (No. 2) Bill : Lanarkshire and Ayrshire Railway Order Confirmation Bill.—Brought from the Commons	4
Great Eastern Railway Bill ; Great Northern Railway Bill.—Brought from the Commons ; read 1 ^a ; and referred to the Examiners	4
Lanarkshire and Ayrshire Railway Order Confirmation Bill .—Read 1 ^a ; to be printed, and (pursuant to the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899), deemed to have been read 2 ^a —(<i>The Lord Balfour</i>), and reported from the Committee. (No. 55.)	4
Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (No. 2) Bill .—Read 1 ^a ; to be printed ; and referred to the Examiners. (No. 56.)	4

PETITIONS.

DECLARATION OF THE SOVEREIGN AGAINST TRANSUBSTANTIATION .—Petition for abrogation of : of Roman Catholics residing in Great Grimsby, Lincolnshire ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table	4
LAND REGISTERS (SCOTLAND) BILL [H.L.].—Petition for amendment of : of the Aberdeen Corporation ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table	4

May 7.]

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).—Code of Regulations for Continuation Classes, 1903 4

RAILWAY RETURNS (PRELIMINARY STATEMENT).—Return relating to the railways of the United Kingdom for the year 1902; with comparative figures for the years 1900 and 1901 ... 5

ARMY (CANTEENS AND REGIMENTAL INSTITUTES).—Evidence taken before the Committee on Canteens and Regimental Institutes.
Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table ... 5

Naval Forces Bill.—Read 3^a [according to Order], and passed ... 5

Berwickshire County Town Bill.—[THIRD READING].—Moved, That the Bill be now read 3^a.—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh*.)

The Earl of Wemyss ... 5

The Secretary for Scotland (Lord Balfour of Burleigh) ... 5

On Question, Bill read 3^a and passed.

THE STRANDING OF THE "FIRTH OF FORTH."

Lord Muskerry ... 6

Lord Wolverton ... 7

PROTECTION OF WILD BIRDS IN IRELAND.

The Earl of Mayo ... 7

Lord Balfour of Burleigh ... 8

House adjourned at twenty minutes before Five o'clock, till Tomorrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: THURSDAY, 7th MAY, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

NEW WRIT.—New Writ for Preston Borough, in the room of the right hon. Robert William Hanbury, deceased.—(*Sir Alexander Acland-Hood*) ... 9

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Great Central Railway Bill.—Read the third time, and passed. [New Title] 9

London County Council (General Powers) Bill.—Read the third time, and passed. [New Title] ... 9

Queensland Investment and Land Mortgage Bill [LORDS].—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments ... 9

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 7).—Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Cambridge and District, Isle of Sheppey and District, Sandwich, Deal, Walmer and District, Sittingbourne and Milton, Stroud and Dartford (Rural Districts), Tadcaster and District (Extension), Uxbridge and District (Extension), and Wimbledon (Extension).

Ordered to be brought in by Mr. Bonar Law and Mr. Gerald Balfour ... 9

May 7.]

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill. —“To confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Cambridge and District, Isle of Sheppey and District, Sandwich, Deal, Walmer and District, Sittingbourne and Milton, Stroud and Dartford (Rural Districts), Tadcaster and District (Extension), Uxbridge and District (Extension), and Wimbledon (Extension).”—Presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. (Bill 185.)	9
Land Drainage Provisional Order Bill. —Reported, without Amendment (Provisional Order confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table.	
Bill to be read the third time To-morrow	10
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill. —Reported, without Amendment (Provisional Orders confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table.	
Bill to be read the third time To-morrow	10
Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill. —Reported, without Amendment (Provisional Orders confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table.	
Bill to be read the third time To-morrow	10
Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill [LORDS].—Reported, without Amendment (Provisional Order confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table.	
Bill to be read the third time To-morrow	10
Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill. —Reported, with Amendments (Provisional Orders confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table.	
Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow	10
Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill. —Reported, with Amendments (Provisional Orders confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table.	
Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow	10
Hampton Court Gas Bill; Cheshire Lines Committee Bill; Ebbw Vale Water and Improvement Bill. —Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed	10
MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS. —That they have passed a Bill, intituled, “An Act to authorise the transfer of the Knaresborough Waterworks to the Corporation of Harrogate, and to enable them to supply water in Knaresborough and adjoining places.” (Harrogate Water Bill [Lords].)	
Also, a Bill, intituled, “An Act to revive and extend the powers for the purchase of land and the time limited for the completion of the railway authorised by The Wirral Railway Act, 1898; to extend the time for disposing of and otherwise dealing with certain surplus lands of the Wirral Railway Company; to increase the capital of that company; and for other purposes.” (Wirral Railway Bill [Lords].)	
Also, a Bill, intituled, “An Act to effect a combination of the undertakings of the Pelican Life Insurance Company and the British Empire Mutual Life Assurance Company; and for other purposes.” (Pelican and British Empire Life Office Bill [Lords].)	

May 7.]

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the Harrow and Stanmore Gas Company to acquire lands, to construct gasworks, to raise additional capital; and for other purposes." (Harrow and Stanmore Gas Bill [Lords].) 11

Harrogate Water Bill [LORDS]; Wirral Railway Bill [Lords]; Pelican and British Empire Life Office Bill [Lords]; Harrow and Stanmore Gas Bill [Lords].—Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 11

PETITIONS.

COAL MINES REGULATION BILL.—Petitions in favour: from Pendleton; Silverdale; No. 17 Pit, Silverdale; High Carr; Woodfield; Watermills; Tibshelf (No. 2); Leacroft; Five Ways; Kingswinford; Platt Bridge; Chesterton; Nos. 14 and 15 Pits, Silverdale; Pencoed; Mwrwg Vale; Eddlewood; and Newmains Collieries; to lie upon the Table 11

COUNTY COURTS JURISDICTION EXTENSION BILL.—Petitions in favour: from Stockport; Great Torrington; Aberystwyth; Banbury; and Heywood; to lie upon the Table 12

DETENTION OF POOR PERSONS (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions in favour: from Urquhart; Logiewester; and Glassford; to lie upon the Table 12

HALL-MARKING OF FOREIGN PLATE (No. 2) BILL.—Petition from Birmingham, in favour; to lie upon the Table 12

LICENSING LAW (COMPENSATION FOR NON-RENEWAL) BILL.—Petition from Loughborough, against; to lie upon the Table 12

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.—Petitions for alteration: from Kiltearn; Stenton; Burghead; Monimail; and Selkirk; to lie upon the Table 12

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.—Petitions in favour: from Auchterarder; and Perth; to lie upon the Table 12

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FRANCHISE AND REPRESENTATION (EXTENSION TO COMPANIES) BILL.—Petition from Birmingham, in favour; to lie upon the Table 12

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.—Petition from Parkstone, against; to lie upon the Table 12

PHARMACY BILL.—Petition from Nottingham, for alteration; to lie upon the Table 12

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL.—Petitions in favour: from Alva; Burnley; Rawdon; Congleton; St. Rollox; Gainsborough; Seghill; Amble; Tadcaster; Ashington; Egremont; Haslingden; and Sunderland; to lie upon the Table 12

PUBLIC HOUSES (HOURS OF CLOSING) (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Glasgow, in favour; to lie upon the Table 13

PUBLIC LIBRARIES.—Petition from Aberystwyth, for alteration of law; to lie upon the Table 13

TRADES DISPUTES BILL.—Petition from Birmingham, against; to lie upon the Table 13

May 7.]

Page

TRADES DISPUTES BILL.—Petitions in favour: from Pendleton: Silverdale; No. 17 Pit, Silverdale; High Carr; Woodfield; Watermills; Tibshelf (No. 2); Leacroft; Five Ways; Kingswinford; Platt Bridge; Chesterton; Tunstall (No. 2); Kents Lane Pits, Silverdale; Knutton; No. 1, East Cannock; Pencoeed; Eddlewood; Newmains; Mwrwg Vale; and Rutherglen Collieries; to lie upon the Table	13
TRADE UNIONS AND TRADE DISPUTES BILL.—Petition from Birmingham, against; to lie upon the Table	13
<i>RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.</i>	
EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) (CONTINUATION) CLASSES.—Copy presented, of Code of Regulations for Continuation Classes, providing further instruction for those who have left School, 1903 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table	13
MERCANTILE MARINE (SIGHT TESTS).—Copy presented, of Report on the sight tests used in the Mercantile Marine for the year ended 31st December, 1902 (in continuation of [C. 1140]); [by Command]; to lie upon the Table	13
ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 4) BILL.—Return presented, relative thereto (ordered 6th May— <i>Mr. Bonar Law</i>); to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 146)...	13
ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 5) BILL.—Return presented, relative thereto (ordered 6th May— <i>Mr. Bonar Law</i>); to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 147)	14
ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 6) BILL.—Return presented, relative thereto (ordered 6th May— <i>Mr. Bonar Law</i>); to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 148.)	
Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House	14
TEMPORARY LAWS.—Register of Temporary Laws for the Fourth Session, Twenty-seventh Parliament, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, pursuant to Report of the Select Committee on Expiring Laws in Session 1866; to be printed. (No. 149)	14
PARLIAMENTARY BOROUGHs, ETC. (DIAGRAMS). — Address for "Return of Diagrams showing the Parliamentary and Municipal Boroughs and the Parliamentary County Divisions of the United Kingdom, with the respective electorates and populations."—(<i>Mr. Kimber.</i>)	14
CORPORAL PUNISHMENT.—Address for "Return of all Sentences of Corporal Punishment inflicted under 26 and 27 Vic., c. 44, upon persons convicted of offences against Section 43 of the Larceny Act, 1861, and Section 41 of the Offences against the Person Act, 1861, in England and Wales, from the 31st day of December, 1900, to the 31st day of December, 1902" (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 204, of Session 1901).—(<i>Mr. Lloyd Morgan.</i>)	14
<i>QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.</i>	
CLAIMS OF SIRDAR BALVANT RAMCHANDRA.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Lord George Hamilton...	14
CONVERSION OF THE KHAIRPUR CURRENCY.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Lord George Hamilton	15

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

xv
Page

May 7.]

GLASGOW ASSISTANT POSTMEN.—Question, Sir J. Stirling-Maxwell (Glasgow College); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain	15
REVISION OF BRISTOL POSTAL STAFF.—Question, Mr. Charles Hobhouse (Bristol, E.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain	16
IMPROVED POSTAL FACILITIES IN THE GWEEDORE AND BUNBEG DISTRICT, COUNTY DONEGAL.—Question, Mr. Hugh Law (Donegal, W.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain	16
MONOPOLY FOR THE SALE OF CURRANTS IN GREECE.—Question, Mr. Charles M'Arthur (Liverpool, Exchange); Answer, Lord Cranborne	16
UNDUE PREFERENCE IN CONSULAR REPORTS.—Question, Mr. D. A. Thomas (Merthyr Tydvil); Answer, Lord Cranborne	17
PHYSICAL TRAINING IN SCOTLAND.—Questions, Mr. Shaw-Stewart (Renfrewshire, E.); Answers, Mr. A. Graham Murray	17
PATENTS ACT, 1902—DATE OF COMING INTO OPERATION.—Question, Sir Alfred Hickman (Wolverhampton, W.); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour	18
REDUCTION OF THE ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.—Question, Sir John Colomb (Great Yarmouth); Answer, Mr. Wyndham	19
IRELAND—REFUSAL TO GRANT GUN LICENCE.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry, W.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham	19
SOUTH AFRICAN WAR MEDALS FOR 78th IMPERIAL YEOMANRY.—Question, Sir J. Stirling-Maxwell; Answer, Mr. Brodrick	20
REPAIRS OF ROADS IN THE NAAS DISTRICT.—Question, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick	20

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

ATTACK ON MR. STANFORD AT CAPE TOWN.—Questions, Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.); Answers, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford)	20
ARMY RETURNS.—Questions, Mr. Winston Churchill (Oldham); Answers, Mr. Brodrick	21
DORCHESTER BARRACKS.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Brodrick	22
PRIVATE FOX, 1st BATTALION 15th FOOT.—Question, Mr. Flavin (Kerry, N.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick	22
BRITISH TRADE IN THE CONGO FREE STATE.—Question, Mr. Bayley (Derbyshire, Chesterfield); Answer, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Lord Cranborne, Rochester)	23
DISTILLATION OF SPIRIT IN ENGLAND.—Questions, Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.); Answers, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Ritchie, Croydon)	23
ALLEGED FRAUDS IN THE WHISKY TRADE.—Questions, Mr. T. M. Healy; Answers, Mr. Ritchie	24
COAL EXPORTS.—Question, Mr. D. A. Thomas (Merthyr Tydvil); Answer, Mr. Ritchie	25

<i>May 7.]</i>	<i>Page</i>
MILLERS' BONDING STORES IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Sullivan (Westmeath, S.); Answer, Mr. Ritchie	25
UNITED KINGDOM MILLERS' BONDING ARRANGEMENTS.—Question, Mr. Sullivan; Answer, Mr. Ritchie	26
LONDONDERRY CUSTOMS—CIGAR SMUGGLING.—Question, Mr. O'Doherty (Donegal, N.); Answer, Mr. Ritchie	26
EXECUTIONS AT HOLLOWAY.—Question, Mr. Lough (Islington, W.); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Akers Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's)	27
WOMEN TELEGRAPHISTS—PROMOTION GRIEVANCES.—Question, Mr. Nannetti (Dublin, College Green); Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.)	27
LIVERPOOL REGISTRY OF SMALL-POX PATIENTS.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, The Secretary to the Local Government Board (Mr. Grant Lawson, Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk)	28
LIVERPOOL SMALL-POX EPIDEMIC.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Grant Lawson	29
VACCINATION—HUMANISED LYMPH.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Grant Lawson	29
NEWPORT (MON.) COUNTY COUNCIL EDUCATION SCHEME.—Question, Mr. D. A. Thomas; Answer, The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education (Sir William Anson, Oxford University)	29
IRISH SCHOOL TEACHERS AND POLITICS.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover)	30
ASSISTANT SCHOOL TEACHERS IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Sloan; Answer, Mr. Wyndham	30
LONDONDERRY LAND COURT APPEALS.—Question, Mr. Wood (Down, E.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham	30
COUNTY DOWN MAGISTRACY.—Question, Mr. Wood; Answer, Mr. Wyndham	30
ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY AT BALLYPOOREEN.—Question, Mr. Cullinan (Tipperary, S.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham	31
IRISH TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION GRANT.—Questions, Capt. Donelan (Cork Co., E.); Answers, Mr. Wyndham	31
GRANARD UNION INQUIRY.—Question, Mr. Tully (Leitrim, S.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham	32
ROSCOMMON EXTRA POLICE TAX.—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, Mr. Wyndham	32
STROKESTOWN UNION INQUIRY.—Question, Mr. Tully; Answer, Mr. Wyndham	33
ALTMORE (TYRONE) TENANTS AND THE LAND BILL.—Question, Mr. Doogan (Tyrone, E.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham	33
IRISH POLICE AND THE EVICTED TENANTS.—Question, Mr. Flavin; Answer, Mr. Wyndham	33

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

xvii
Page

May 7.]

LISTOWEL URBAN COUNCIL AUDIT.—Questions, Mr. Flavin ; Answers, Mr. Wyndham	34
--	----

LISTOWEL MAIL DELAYS.—Question, Mr. Flavin ; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain	34
---	----

GUN LICENCES IN IRELAND—CASTLEBLANEY COMPLAINT.—Question, Mr. Sloan ; Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Arthur Elliot, Durham)	35
---	----

THE KING'S TOUR.—Questions, Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis) ; Answer, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester E.)	35
---	----

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES BILL.—Question, Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.) ; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour	36
---	----

PRIVATE BILL PROCEDURE.—Question, Mr. Henry Hobhouse (Somersetshire, E.) ; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour	36
--	----

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Questions, Mr. Lough, Mr. Gibson Bowles, and Mr. Harrington (Dublin, Harbour) ; Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour and Mr. Ritchie	36
---	----

Employment of Children Bill.—Reported, with Amendments, from the Standing Committee on Trade, etc.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 150.)

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee to be printed. (No. 150.)

Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), to be considered upon Monday next, and to be printed. (Bill 186.) 37

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).—Mr. HALSEY reported from the Committee: That they had added to the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, the following Fifteen Members in respect of the Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill:—Mr. Griffith Boscawen, Mr. Churchill, Mr. John Dewar, Sir Charles Dalrymple, Sir Henry Fowler, Sir Brampton Gurdon, Sir John Kennaway, Mr. Walter Long, Mr. Mellor, Sir Gilbert Parker, Mr. John Rutherford, Sir Barrington Simeon, Mr. Talbot, Lord Edmund Talbot, and Mr. Tomkinson.

Report to lie upon the Table 37

NEW BILLS.

Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Bill.—"To amend the Law relating to Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries," presented by Mr. Richard Cavendish ; supported by Mr. Helme, Sir Herbert Maxwell, Sir Henry Seton-Karr, and Mr. Osmond Williams ; to be read a second time upon Thursday next, and to be printed. (Bill 187.) 38

Workmen's Compensation Act (1897) Amendment (Seamen) Bill.—"To amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897," presented by Mr. Robson ; supported by Lord Hugh Cecil, Mr. Runciman, Sir Francis Evans, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, Mr. Buxton, Sir Fortescue Flannery, and Mr. Harris ; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. (Bill 188.) 38

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (SUPPLY).—Ordered, That the proceedings on the Second Reading of the Irish Land Bill and the Committee of Ways and Means have precedence this day of the Business of Supply.—(Mr. Balfour.) 38

Irish Land Bill.—Order read, for resuming Adjourned debate on Amendment to Question [4th May], “That the Bill be now read a second time.”

Which Amendment was—

“To leave out the word ‘now,’ and at the end of the Question to add the words ‘upon this day six months.’”—(*Mr. Coghill.*)

Question again proposed, “That the word ‘now’ stand part of the Question.”

Debate resumed.

<i>Mr. Atherley-Jones (Durham, N.W.)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	38
<i>Mr. Herbert Robertson (Hackney, S.)</i>	..	...	...	...	...	45
<i>Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	52
<i>Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	66
<i>Mr. T. P. O'Connor (Liverpool, Scotland)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	74
<i>Mr. Gordon (Londonderry, S.)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	85
<i>Mr. Compton Rickett (Scarborough)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	92
<i>Mr. Butcher (York)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	96
<i>Major Jameson (Clare, W.)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	100

And, it being half-past Seven of the Clock, the debate stood adjourned till this evening's sitting.

— EVENING SITTING.

Irish Land Bill.—Order read, for resuming Adjourned debate on Amendment to Question [4th May], “That the Bill be now read a second time.”

Which Amendment was—

“To leave out the word ‘now,’ and at the end of the Question to add the words ‘upon this day six months.’”—(*Mr. Coghill.*)

Question again proposed, “That the word ‘now’ stand part of the Question.”

Debate resumed.

<i>Mr. T. L. Corbett (Down, N.)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	103
<i>Mr. Channing (Northamptonshire, E.)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	105
<i>Mr. Flower (Bradford, W.)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	111
<i>Mr. John Morley (Montrose Burghs)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	113
<i>The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	128

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 443 ; Noes, 26. (Division List No. 76.)

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for Monday next.

SOUTH AFRICAN LOAN AND WAR CONTRIBUTION [GUARANTEE].—Resolution reported, “That it is expedient to authorise the Treasury to guarantee on the security of the Consolidated Fund the interest of a loan to be raised by the Transvaal not exceeding in the aggregate an amount sufficient to raise thirty-five million pounds, and the principal of any such loan by means of the guarantee of Sinking Fund payments, and to provide for the application of any sums paid by the Transvaal or Orange River Colony in respect of expenses incurred in or incidental to the prosecution of the late war in South Africa.”

May 8.]

Resolution agreed to.

Bill ordered to be brought in upon the said Resolution by the Chairman of Ways and Means, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Secretary Chamberlain, Sir Alexander Acland-Hood, and Mr. Arthur Elliot.

South African Loan and War Contribution Bill.—"To authorise the Treasury to guarantee the payment of a loan to be raised by the Transvaal, and to provide for the application of any sums paid by that Colony or the Orange River Colony towards the expenses incurred by His Majesty's Government in or incidental to the prosecution of the late war in South Africa," presented accordingly, and read the first time 151

To be read a second time upon Tuesday next, and to be printed. (Bill 189.)

Adjourned at twenty minutes after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: FRIDAY, 8th MAY, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

South Lancashire Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Tramways Bill [H.L.]; North Cheshire Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Manchester Southern Tramways (Lancashire) Bill [H.L.]; Manchester Southern Tramways (Cheshire) Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Committee of Selection: That the Lord Carysfort (*E. Carysfort*) be proposed to the House as a member of the Select Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Lord Barrymore; read, and agreed to 153

Sutton Coldfield Corporation Bill [H.L.].—Rickmansworth Gas Bill [H.L.]; Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons 153

Great Western Railway (Pension Fund) Bill; Dublin Improvement (Bull Alley Area) Bill.—Read 3^a, and passed 153

Great Central Railway Bill; London County Council (General Powers) Bill.—Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; and referred to the Examiners 153

Queensland Investment and Land Mortgage Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. The said Amendments considered, and agreed to 153

PETITIONS.

DECLARATION OF THE SOVEREIGN AGAINST TRANSUBSTANTIATION.—Petition for abrogation of; of Roman Catholics residing in Southwark; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 153

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).—Report for the year 1902, by the Director, on the Edinburgh Museum of Science and Art 153

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS.—Report of proceedings as regards Ireland, for the year 1902 154

TRADE.—Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions, 1902, compared with the four preceding years. Volume I. 154

<i>May 8.]</i>	<i>Page</i>
SIGHT TESTS.—Report on the sight tests used in the Mercantile Marine, for the year ended 31st December, 1902 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper [Cd. 1140.])	154
TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—No. 2969, China (Hankow); No. 2970, Turkey (Aleppo and Adana).	
Presented [by Command] and ordered to lie on the Table	154
FACTORY AND WORKSHOP (SPECIAL EXCEPTION; NIGHT WORK).—Order, dated 4th May, 1903, made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in pursuance of Section 54 (4) of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, amending and consolidating the Orders of the 16th November, 1895, and the 22nd August, 1902, with regard to the employment at night of male young persons of the age of sixteen years and upwards; Laid before the House [pursuant to Act], and ordered to lie on the Table	154
ARUNDEL POST. —Account and report for 1902–1903; Delivered [pursuant to Act], and ordered to lie on the Table... ..	154
OUT-DOOR RELIEF (FRIENDLY SOCIETIES) (No. 2) BILL, 1900.—Report made to the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, dated 13th February, 1900, on the Out-door Relief (Friendly Societies) (No. 2) Bill, 1900. Ordered to be laid before the House.—(<i>The Earl of Morley</i> , for the <i>Earl of Northbrook</i> .)	154

NEW BILLS.

Musical Copyright Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to amend the law relating to Musical Copyright—Was presented by the Earl of Lytton; read 1 ^a ; and to be printed. (No. 59.)	155
Bishopric of Bristol Bill [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to Order): Bill reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3 ^a on Monday next	155
Prevention of Cruelty to Children (Amendment) Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Select Committee (with proceedings of the Committee), made, and to be printed. (No. 57.) Bill reported with Amendments; and committed to a Committee of the Whole House; and to be printed as amended. (No. 58.)... ..	155

NAVAL TRAINING.

<i>The Earl of Glasgow</i>	155
<i>Earl Spencer</i>	168
<i>The First Lord of the Admiralty (The Earl of Selborne)</i>	175

BOARD OF TRADE EXAMINERS AT LIVERPOOL.

<i>The Duke of Manchester</i>	191
<i>Lord Wolverton</i>	191

House adjourned at five minutes past Seven o'clock to Monday next, at a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: FRIDAY, 8th MAY, 1903.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).—MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz :—

Mersey Docks and Harbour Board Bill [Lords]; Cleveland and Durham County Electric Power Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time 192

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).—MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz :—

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time upon Monday next ... 192

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (NO STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE).—MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz :—

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time upon Monday next ... 193

Commercial Gas Bill.—As amended, considered; Bill to be read the third time 193

Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply Bill.—As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time 193

Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill; Land Drainage Provisional Order Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill.—Read the third time and passed 193

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill.—As amended, considered; to be read the third time upon Monday next... .. 193

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 10).—Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Ashton-under-Lyne, Darwen, Newton-in-Makerfield, Prestwich, and Vaynor and Penderyn, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Grant Lawson and Mr. Walter Long 193

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 11).—Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Ashbourne, the Guildford, Godalming and Woking, and the South Shields (Rural) and Southwick-on-Wear Joint Hospital Districts, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Grant Lawson and Mr. Walter Long 193

May 8.]

Page

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill.—"To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Ashton-under-Lyne, Darwen, Newton-in-Makerfield, Prestwich, and Vaynor and Penderyn," presented, and read for the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. (Bill 190.) ... 193

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11) Bill.—"To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Ashbourne, the Guildford, Godalming and Woking, and the South Shields (Rural) and Southwick-on-Wear Joint Hospital Districts," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. (Bill 191.) ... 194

Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Bill; Great Southern and Western Railway Bill; Lancashire and Yorkshire and London and North Western Railways (Steam Vessels) Bill.—Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed ... 194

RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP No. 8).—Ordered, that William Laidler Robertson, James H. Rennoldson, Robert Redhead, W. E. O. Scott, John Bowman, James Muir Smith, and J. B. Hodgson do attend the Committee on Group No. 8 of Railway Bills upon Wednesday next, at half past Eleven of the clock ... 194

RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP No. 5).—Sir LEWIS MACIVER reported from the Committee on Group No. 5 of Railway Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned until Thursday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table ... 195

Crystal Palace District Gas Bill.—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table ... 195

Hainault Forest Bill.—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed ... 195

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP C).—Sir John Brunner reported from the Committee on Group C of Private Bills; That they had adjourned until Tuesday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table ... 195

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act for incorporating and conferring powers on the Wellington (Salop) Gas Company; and for other purposes." (Wellington (Salop) Gas Bill [Lords].)

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the District Council for the urban district of Frinton-on-Sea, in the county of Essex, to construct and maintain sea walls and other works at Frinton-on-Sea, and to improve and regulate the sea front of the said district; and for other purposes." (Frinton-on-Sea Sea Defences Bill [Lords].) ... 195

Wellington (Salop) Gas Bill [LORDS]; Frinton-on-Sea Sea Defences Bill [Lords].—Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills ... 195

PETITIONS.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE BILL.—Petition from Brighton, against; to lie upon the Table ... 195

May 8.]	
COAL MINES REGULATION BILL.—Petitions in favour: from Adlington; Deep Pit, Hanley; No. 3, Racecourse; Hanley; Grange, Burslem; Hanley, (No. 5); Sandbach, Coleridge; Sneyd, Burslem; Old Hill; Quarry Bank; Netherton (two); Brynn Hall; Eccleston Hall; Langwith; Netherburn; Gornal Wood; Fauldhouse; Lidgett; Barrow Hematite, Barnsley; Blackwood; Vivian; Blaina; Tredegar; and Abertillery Collieries; to lie upon the Table	196
DETENTION OF POOR PERSONS (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions in favour: from Cathcart; Cortachy and Clova; and Premnay; to lie upon the Table ...	196
LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.—Petition from Strathbungo, for alteration; to lie upon the Table	196
LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.—Petition from Glasgow, in favour; to lie upon the Table	196
LOCAL GOVERNMENT FRANCHISE AND REPRESENTATION (EXTENSION TO COMPANIES) BILL.—Petition from Huddersfield, in favour; to lie upon the Table	196
LONDON EDUCATION BILL.—Petition from Bethnal Green, for alteration; to lie upon the Table	196
MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.—Petition against: from Brighton; Lower Gornal; and Tenderden; to lie upon the Table ...	196
PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL.—Petitions in favour: from Frome; Wick and Pulteneytown; Denholme; Weston-super-Mare; Bingley; Basingstoke; Felling; Kilbarchan; Diss; Crosland Moor; Huddersfield; Leicester; Kettering; Stockport; Hadfield; Burton Latimer; Pollokshaws; Nelson; Pegswood; Great Wigston; and Glasgow; to lie upon the Table... ..	196
PUBLIC HOUSES (HOURS OF CLOSING) (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Glasgow, in favour; to lie upon the Table	196
PUBLIC LIBRARIES.—Petition from Grays Thurrock, for alteration of law; to lie upon the Table	197
STEAM ENGINES AND BOILERS (PERSONS IN CHARGE) BILL.—Petition from Huddersfield, against; to lie upon the Table	197
TRADE DISPUTES BILL.—Petition of the Mining Association of Great Britain, against; to lie upon the Table... ..	197
TRADE DISPUTES BILL.—Petitions in favour: from Adlington; Deep Pit, Hanley; No. 3 Racecourse; Hanley; Grange, Burslem; Hanley (No. 5); Sandbach, Coleridge; Syend, Burslem; Old Hill; Quarry Bank; Netherton (two); Brynn Hall; Eccleston Hall; Langwith; Netherburn; Tower and Aberdare Merthyr; Tunnel; Aberaman; Duffryn Isaf; Blaengwawr; Sguborwen; Cwmaman; Padell y Bwlch; Lletty Shenkin; Fforchaman; Dullas; Bwllfa; Cwmneol; Blaenant; Treaman; Gornal Wood; Fauldhouse; Mynydd Newydd; Blackwood; Vivian; Blaina; Tredegar; Abertillery; Lidgett; and Barrow Hematite, Barnsley Collieries; to lie upon the Table	197
TRAMWAYS (HOURS OF LABOUR) BILL.—Petition from Glasgow, in favour; to lie upon the Table	197

May 8.]

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

NATIONAL DEBT.—Copy presented, of Return showing (1) the Aggregate Gross Liabilities of the State as represented by the Nominal Funded Debt, Estimated Capital Liability in respect of Terminal Annuities, Unfunded Debt, and other Liabilities in respect of Debt, the Estimated Assets, and the Exchequer Balances at the close of each financial year from 1835-6 to 1902-3, both inclusive ; and (2) the Gross and Net Expenditure charged annually during that period against the Public Revenue on account of the National Debt, and other payments connected with Capital Liabilities (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper (C. 1,222) of Session 1902) [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table	197
EAST INDIA (FINANCIAL STATEMENT).—Return presented, relative thereto [Address 5th May ; <i>Sir Henry Fowler</i>] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 151.)	198
TRADE (FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND BRITISH POSSESSIONS).—Copy presented, of Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions for 1902. Volume I. [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table	198
DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT.—Copy presented, of Report of Proceedings by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, under the Diseases of Animals Acts, for the year 1902 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table	198
COUNTY COUNCILS (IRELAND) (SALARIES).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 2nd March ; <i>Mr. McGovern</i>] ; to lie upon the Table	198
EDINBURGH MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND ART.—Copy presented, of Report by the Director on the Edinburgh Museum of Science and Art for the year 1902 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table...	198
FACORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS (SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS—NIGHT WORK).—Copy presented, of Order, dated 4th May, 1903, made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department in pursuance of Section 54 (4) of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, amending and consolidating the Orders of the 16th November, 1895, and 22nd August, 1902, with regard to the employment at night of male young persons of the age of sixteen years and upwards [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table	198
ARMY (MILITARY WORKS).—Copy presented, of Approximate Estimate of Expenditure under the Military Works Acts, 1897, 1899, and 1901 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table	198
ARMY (CANTEENS, ETC.).—Copy presented, of Evidence taken before the Committee on Canteens and Regimental Institutes [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table	198
ARMY COMMISSIONS.—Return presented, relative thereto [Address 30th April ; <i>Mr. Pirie</i>] ; to lie upon the Table	199
VOLUNTEERS.—Return presented ; relative thereto [Address 30th April ; <i>Mr. Churchill</i>] ; to lie upon the Table	199
MILITARY WORKS AND STORES.—Return presented, relative thereto [Address 30th April ; <i>Mr. Churchill</i>] ; to lie upon the Table	199

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

xxv

May 8.]

Page

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2969 and 2970 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table	199
---	-----

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House :—

ARUNDEL PORT.—Copy of Annual Report and General Account of the Commissioners of Arundel Port for period from 25th March, 1902, to 25th March, 1903 [by Act]	199
--	-----

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

H.M.S. "CRESCENT"—DELAY IN EXECUTION OF REPAIRS.—Question, Mr. Sydney Buxton (Tower Hamlets, Poplar); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster ...	199
--	-----

DISTURBANCES AT LIVERPOOL.—Question, Mr. Cullinan (Tipperary, S.); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas	199
---	-----

LICENSED VIVISECTORS AT LONDON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.—Questions, Sir Frederick Banbury (Camberwell, Peckham), and Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answers, Mr. Akers Douglas	200
--	-----

LICENCES REFUSED—GROUNDS OF REFUSAL.—Question, Sir William Houldsworth (Manchester, N.W.); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas	201
---	-----

GOVERNMENT VACCINE.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Walter Long ...	201
---	-----

EXPENSES OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS—PROPOSED LEGISLATION.—Question, Sir Brampton Gurdon (Norfolk, N.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long	201
--	-----

* REDUCTION OF ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.—Question, Sir John Colomb (Great Yarmouth); Answer, Mr. Wyndham	202
---	-----

CANDIDATES FOR ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.—Question, Sir John Colomb; Answer, Mr. Wyndham	202
--	-----

INTERFERENCE OF MEMBERS OF ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY IN CIVIL ACTIONS OUTSIDE THEIR DISTRICTS. — Question, Mr. Hugh Law (Donegal, W.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham	202
--	-----

HOME SERVICE FOR 2ND DUBLIN FUSILIERS.—Question, Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick	203
---	-----

CHEAP AMMUNITION FOR RIFLE CLUBS.—Question, Sir Edward Strachey (Somersetshire, S.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick	203
--	-----

INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE GUARDS' HOSPITAL, WESTMINSTER.—Question, Captain Jessel (St. Pancras, S.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick	203
---	-----

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS. —That they have agreed to—Naval Forces Bill, Berwickshire County Town Bill, without Amendment	204
--	-----

Trade Disputes Bill—[SECOND READING].—Order for Second Reading read.

<i>Mr. Shackleton (Lancashire, Clitheroe)</i>	204
<i>Mr. Bell (Derby)</i>	211

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."—(*Mr. Shackleton.*)

<i>Mr. Galloway (Manchester, S.W.)</i>	215
<i>Mr. Lyttelton (Warwick and Leamington)</i>	221

Amendment proposed

"To leave out from the word 'That' to the end of the Question, in order to add the words, 'this House declines to consider a Bill dealing only with certain points affecting trade disputes, inasmuch as it considers any legislation on such a subject should deal with the question as a whole, and when Parliament is in possession, by the Report of a Royal Commission or otherwise, of satisfactory materials for the purpose.'"—(*Mr. Galloway.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

<i>The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Akers Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	226
<i>Mr. Asquith (Fifeshire, E.)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	231
<i>Mr. Cripps (Lancashire, Stretford)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	240
<i>Sir Robert Reid (Dumfries Burghs)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	244
<i>Mr. Lloyd Wharton (Yorkshire, W.R., Ripon)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	248
<i>Mr. Clancy (Dublin County, N.)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	249
<i>Sir Alfred Hickman (Wolverhampton, W.)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	251
<i>Mr. Haldane (Haddingtonshire)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	252
<i>The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	256

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 226 ; Noes, 246. (Division List No. 77.)

Main Question, as amended, put, and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House declines to consider a Bill dealing only with certain points affecting trades disputes, inasmuch as it considers any legislation on such a subject should deal with the question as a whole, and when Parliament is in possession, by the Report of a Royal Commission or otherwise, of satisfactory materials for the purpose.

Railways (Private Sidings) Bill.—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Debate arising.

And it being half-past Five of the clock, the Debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed upon Friday, 22nd May.

Adjourned at twenty-nine minutes before Six o'clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS: MONDAY, 11TH MAY, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with:—

Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London) [H.L.] ;
Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (East Ham, etc.)
[H.L.].

May 11.]

And the Certificates that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with :—

Great Eastern Railway ; Great Northern Railway ; Sittingbourne District Gas ; Walker and Wallsend Union Gas.

And the Certificate that no further Standing Orders are applicable to the following Bill :—

Pier and Harbour Orders Confirmation (No. 1) [H.L.].

And the Certificate that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have not been complied with :—

Bangor Corporation [H.L.]—(Petition for additional Provision).

The same were ordered to lie on the Table 269

Manchester Corporation Bill [H.L.]—Petition for additional provision, of Manchester Corporation ; together with the proposed Clauses and Amendments annexed thereto ; read, and referred to the Examiners 269

Gosport, Fareham, and Cosham Tramways Bill [H.L.]—Petition for additional provision, of the Portsmouth Street Tramways Company ; together with the proposed Amendments annexed thereto ; read, and referred to the Examiners 269

Chatham and District Light Railways Bill [H.L.] ; Rochester Corporation Tramways and Improvements Bill [H.L.]—Leave given to the Select Committee to incorporate in the Rochester Corporation Tramways and Improvements Bill such parts as they think fit of the Chatham and District Light Railways Bill 270

Somerset and District Electric Power Bill [H.L.]—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 270

Tynemouth and District Tramways Bill [H.L.]—Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition thereto having been withdrawn ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table : The Orders made on the 27th of April and 1st of May last discharged, and Bill committed 270

North-Western Electricity and Power Gas Bill [H.L.] ; Exeter Corporation Bill [H.L.] ; Preston and Norwich Tramways Bill [H.L.]—The Lord Glanusk, the Chairman of the Select Committee appointed for the consideration of the said Bills, informed the House that the Lord Aberdare, a member of the Committee, was, on account of illness, unable to be present ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 270

North Cheshire Tramways Bill [H.L.]—Report from the Select Committee, That the promoters do not intend to proceed further with the Bill ; ordered, that the Bill be not further proceeded with 270

Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway Bill ; City and South London Railway Bill.—Read 2a and committed : The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 270

Maidstone Gas Bill.—Read 2a and committed 270

Bishopric of Bristol Bill [H.L.]—Read 3a (according to Order) and passed, and sent to the Commons 270

May 11.]

Page

Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill (No. 61); Land Drainage Provisional Order Bill (No. 62); Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill (No. 63); Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill (No. 64).—Brought from the Commons and read 1a; to be printed, and referred to the Examiners	270
--	-----

London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Bill [H.L.]; Wakefield and District Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Midland Railway Bill; Bangor Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Broadstairs Gas Bill; Bradford Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Gosport, Fareham, and Cosham Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Willesden Urban District Council Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills, viz.:

D. Manchester,
E. Verulam,
L. Sinclair,
L. Brougham and Vaux (Chairman),
L. Sudley (*E. Arran*);

agreed to, and the said Lords appointed accordingly; the Committee to meet on Thursday next at eleven o'clock; and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills, to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills

271

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ARMY.—Approximate estimates of expenditure under the Military Works Acts of 1897, 1899, and 1901	271
---	-----

JUDICIAL STATISTICS, ENGLAND AND WALES, 1901 (PART II.: CIVIL JUDICIAL STATISTICS).—Statistics relating to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, the House of Lords, the Supreme Court of Judicature, county courts, and other civil courts; edited by John Macdonell, Esq., C.B., LL.D., Master of the Supreme Court.

Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table 271

LUNACY.—Report to the Lord Chancellor of visits made, patients seen, and miles travelled by visitors of lunatics, between 1st October, 1902, and 31st March, 1903	271
--	-----

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY OF DURHAM).—Order made by the County Council of the county of Durham altering certain polling districts in the North-Western Parliamentary Division of the County.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table ... 272

OUT-DOOR RELIEF (FRIENDLY SOCIETIES) (NO. 2) BILL, 1900.—Report respecting; Laid before the House (pursuant to Order of Friday last), and to be printed. (No. 60.)	272
---	-----

IRISH LIGHTS TENDERS.

Lord Muskerry 272

Moved, "For a Return specifying the movements of the Irish Lights tenders during the year 1902, and also for a specification of the new steam tender which is now being built."—(*Lord Muskerry*.)

May 11.]

Page

Lord Wolverton 276

Motion, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

EMOLUMENTS OF RESERVE OFFICERS.

Lord Rosmead 277

Moved to resolve, "That, in the opinion of this House, the emoluments received by the senior (pensioned) officers of the Reserve, in respect of services rendered during recent mobilisation, compare most unfavourably with those of the junior officers who had retired with gratuities; and that the consequent grievances of the senior (pensioned) officers should be favourably considered by His Majesty's Government with a view to removing the disparity complained of."—(*Lord Rosmead*.)

The Under Secretary of State for War (The Earl of Hardwicke) ... 279

Motion, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Moved, "That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty, praying His Majesty to make the Order in Council under the Military Manœuvres Act, 1897, a draft of which was presented to this House on the 17th February last."—(*The Earl of Hardwicke*.)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

House adjourned at five minutes past Five o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: MONDAY, 11TH MAY, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz. :—

Milford Docks Bill [Lords]; All Saints, Poplar (Rate Abolition), Bill [Lords]; Knott End Railway (Extension of Time) Bill [Lords]; South Wales Mineral Railway Bill [Lords]; Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Bill [Lords]; Harrogate Water Bill [Lords]; Pelican and British Empire Life Office Bill [Lords]; Harrow and Stanmore Gas Bill [Lords]; Wirral Railway Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time 282

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (Housing of Working Classes) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time To-morrow 282

May 11.]

Page

PUBLIC OFFICES (DUBLIN) BILL (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 5th day of May, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—	
Public Offices (Dublin) Bill	282
Scarborough Gas Bill. —Read the third time, and passed	283
Cork Harbour Bill ; Coventry Electric Tramways Bill ; Gorleston and South-town Gas Bill ; Hyde Corporation Bill ; Nelson Corporation Bill ; Seaforth and Sefton Junction Railway Bill.—As amended, considered ; to be read the third time	283
Exeter Railway Bill [LORDS] ; Faversham Gas Bill [Lords] ; Hexham Gas Bill [Lords] ; India Rubber, Gutta Percha, and Telegraphic Works Company Bill [Lords] ; Life Association of Scotland Bill [Lords] ; Lima Railways Bill [Lords] ; North's Navigation Collieries Bill [Lords] ; Wolverhampton and Cannock Chase Railway (Extension of Time) Bill.—Read a second time, and committed	283
Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill ; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill.—Read the third time, and passed	283
Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill ; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill ; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill.—Read a second time, and committed	283
Midland and Belfast and Northern Counties Railways Bill. —Reported, with Amendments ; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed	283
MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to—Great Western Railway (Pension Fund) Bill ; Dublin Improvement (Bull Alley Area) Bill, without Amendment.	
Amendments to—Queensland Investment and Land Mortgage Bill [Lords], without Amendment.	
That they have passed a Bill, intituled, “An Act to authorise the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Sutton Coldfield to construct and work tramways, and to make further provision with regard to their electric light undertaking ; and for the improvement, health, local government, and finance of the Borough ; and for other purposes.” (Sutton Coldfield Corporation Bill [Lords].)	
And, also, a Bill, intituled, “An Act to empower the Urban District Council of Rickmansworth to purchase the undertaking of the Rickmansworth Gas Company, and to supply Gas ; and for other purposes.” (Rickmansworth Gas Bill [Lords].)	283
Sutton Coldfield Corporation Bill [LORDS] ; Rickmansworth Gas Bill [Lords] ; Read the first time ; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills	284

PETITIONS.

COAL MINES REGULATION BILL.—Petitions in favour : from Coedmoeth, Pontycelyn ; Rudry ; Castle ; Standish ; Ossett Roundwood ; Thornhill ; Reservoir ; Moira ; Measham ; Netherseal ; West Elliott ; Sirhowy ; East Elliott ; Bickershaw ; Hindley Green ; and Dechmont Collieries ; to lie upon the Table	284
---	-----

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

xxxi

Page

May 11.]

DETENTION OF POOR PERSONS (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions in favour: from Logierait; Liff and Benvie; Kingoldrun; and Dundee; to lie upon the Table	284
LICENSING LAW (COMPENSATION FOR NON-RENEWAL) BILL.—Petitions against: from Wesleydale; Largs; and Ayr; to lie upon the Table	284
LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.—Petitions for alteration: from Foveran; Chanonry; West Cambuslang; and Glasgow; to lie upon the Table	284
PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL.—Petitions in favour: from Wheelton; Gravesend; Busby; Newton Mearns; Stafford; Cleator Moor; Millom; Langley Mill and Alderear; Great Horton; Hackleton; Walgrave; and Pilsley; to lie upon the Table... ..	284
TRADE DISPUTES BILL.—Petitions in favour: from Pontyecelyn; Rudry; Castle; Standish; Ossett Roundwood; Thornhill; Reservoir; Moira; Measham; Netherseal; West Elliott; Sirhowy; East Elliott; Dechmont; and Coedmoeth Collieries; to lie upon the Table	285

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

COUNTY COUNCIL (IRELAND) (SALARIES).—Return [presented 8th May] to be printed. (No. 152.)	285
ARMY (COMMISSIONS).—Return [presented 8th May] to be printed. (No. 153.)	285
VOLUNTEERS.—Return [presented 8th May] to be printed. (No. 154.)	285
MILITARY WORKS AND STORES.—Return [presented 8th May] to be printed. (No. 155.)	285
JUDICIAL STATISTICS (ENGLAND AND WALES).—Copy presented, of Judicial Statistics for England and Wales, 1901, Part II. (Civil Judicial Statistics), edited by John Macdonell, Esq., C.B., Master of the Supreme Court [by Command]; to lie upon the Table	285
POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY OF DURHAM).—Copy presented, of Order made by the County Council of the County of Durham altering certain Polling Districts in the North Western Parliamentary Division [by Act]; to lie upon the Table	285
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—Copy presented, of Report of the Straits Settlements Currency Committee, with Minutes of Evidence and Appendices [by Command]; to lie upon the Table	285
COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL).—Copy presented, of Colonial Report, No. 384 (St. Lucia, Annual Report for 1901) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table	286
COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL).—Copy presented, of Colonial Report, No. 385 (St. Vincent, Annual Report for 1901) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table	286

May 11.]

Page

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House:—

LUNACY.—Copy of Report to the Lord Chancellor of the number of visits made, the number of patients seen, and the number of miles travelled by the Visitors of Lunatics between 1st October, 1902, and 31st March, 1903 [by Act]	286
--	-----

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

PROCEDURE OF ECCLESIASTICAL COURTS.—Question, Mr. H. D. Greene (Shrewsbury); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour	286
THE NAVY LIST.—Question, Sir Fortescue Flannery (Yorkshire, Shipley); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster	287
PACIFIC CABLE—INTERRUPTION OF SERVICE.—Question, Sir John Colomb (Great Yarmouth); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain	287
NEW LIGHTHOUSES IN THE RED SEA.—Question, Mr. Helder (Whitehaven); Answer, Lord Cranborne	287
MAILS TO SCOTLAND—DELAYS.—Question, Mr. Harmsworth (Caithness-shire); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain	288
MAILS TO CHINA—CONVEYANCE BY THE TRANS-SIBERIAN ROUTE.—Question, Sir Henry Fowler (Wolverhampton, E.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain	289
PROMOTION IN THE SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT, INLAND REVENUE.—Question, Mr. Harmsworth; Answer, Mr. Arthur Elliot	289
H.M.S. "CANOPUS"—BOILER REPAIRS.—Question, Mr. Harmsworth; Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster	290
PHYSICAL TRAINING IN SCOTLAND.—Question, Mr. Harmsworth; Answer, Mr. A. Graham Murray	290
ARSENICAL POISONING COMMISSION REPORT.—Question, Sir Cuthbert Quilter (Suffolk, Sudbury); Answer, Mr. Walter Long	290
ALLEGED UNDUE VIOLENCE AT WANDSWORTH INFIRMARY.—Question, Mr. John Ellis (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe); Answer, Mr. Walter Long	291
TRANSFERS OF VOLUNTARY SCHOOLS—PUBLIC NOTICE.—Question, Mr. Henry Hobhouse (Somersetshire, E.); Answer, Sir William Anson	291
AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION IN COUNTY LEITRIM.—Question, Colonel M'Calmont (Antrim, E.); Answer, Mr. Atkinson	291
LAND ACT, 1896—HOLDINGS UNDER SECTION 36.—Question, Sir John Colomb; Answer, Mr. Atkinson	293
IRISH LAND BILL—LEASES OVER NINETY-NINE YEARS.—Question, Mr. Kennedy (Westmeath, N.); Answer, Mr. Atkinson	293
DELAY IN ERECTION OF LABOURERS' COTTAGES AT STRABANE.—Questions, Mr. M'Fadden (Donegal, E.); Answers, Mr. Atkinson	294
SALARIES OF SUB-SANITARY OFFICERS IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. O'Doherty (Donegal, N.); Answer, Mr. Atkinson	295

May 11.]

EXTENSION OF BLACKSOD PIER.—Question, Mr. O'Kelly (Mayo, N.); Answer, Mr. Atkinson	295
EXTRA ALLOWANCE FOR EUROPEAN TROOPS SERVING IN SOMALILAND.—Question, Major Rasch (Essex, Chelmsford); Answer, Mr. Brodrick ...	295
ARMY CHAPLAINS—ESTABLISHED AND FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.—Question, Mr. Harmsworth; Answer, Mr. Brodrick	296

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

ARMY CANTEENS.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford)	296
ARMY PURCHASES IN IRELAND.—Questions, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.), and Captain Donelan (Cork, E.); Answers, Mr. Brodrick	297
AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH—THE VONDEL CASE.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.)	297
TRANSCAAL COAL MINES.—Question, Mr. D. A. Thomas (Merthyr Tydvil); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain	297
PLAGUE AT HONG-KONG.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain	298
RUSSIA AND MANCHURIA.—Question, Mr. Joseph Walton (Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley); Answer, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Lord Cranborne, Rochester)	298
RIVER KARUN NAVIGATION.—Question, Mr. Schwann (Manchester, N.); Answer, Lord Cranborne	299
SALONIKA BOMB OUTRAGE.—Question, Mr. Trevelyan (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland); Answer, Lord Cranborne	299
COAL EXPORT DUTY.—Questions, Mr. D. A. Thomas; Answers, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Ritchie, Croydon)	300
VIVISECTION AT LONDON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.—Questions, Mr. Weir; Answers, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Akers Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's)	300
PRISON TREATMENT OF ANTI-VACCINATIONISTS.—Question, Mr. Channing (Northamptonshire, E.); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas	301
POSTAL EMPLOYEES GRIEVANCES—PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON WAGES.—Questions, Sir Charles Dilke, Mr. Bayley (Derbyshire, Chesterfield), Sir Albert Rollit (Islington, W.); Answers, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.)	302
PRIVATE SMALLPOX HOSPITALS.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, The Secretary to the Local Government Board (Mr. Grant Lawson, Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk)	303
ANIMAL VACCINE LYMPH.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Grant Lawson	303
ROYAL EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY.—Questions, Mr. Weir; Answers, Mr. Anstruther (St. Andrews Burghs)	304
VOL. CXXII. [FOURTH SERIES.]	c

May 11.]

CUSTOMS WATCHERS' GRIEVANCES.—Question, Capt. Norton (Newington, W.); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Arthur Elliot, Durham)	304
SUNDERLAND INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND.—Question, Mr. Tomkinson (Cheshire, Crewe); Answer, Mr. Griffith Boscawen (Kent, Tonbridge) ...	304
EVICITION ON THE WARDEN ESTATE, SNEEM.—Questions, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.), and Mr. Flavin (Kerry, N.); Answer, The Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.)	305
COOSCROUM FISHING STATION AND COONANA PIER.—Question, Mr. Boland; Answer, Mr. Atkinson	306
GUN LICENCES IN COUNTY CLARE.—Question, Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.); Answer, Mr. Atkinson	306
UNITED IRISH LEAGUE MEETINGS AT BIRR.—Question, Mr. Reddy (King's County, Birr); Answer, Mr. Atkinson	306
BELFAST CONSTABULARY AND MOTOR CYCLISTS.—Questions, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answers, Mr. Atkinson	307
IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOLS—INSPECTORS' REPORTS.—Question, Mr. O'Shaughnessy (Limerick, W.); Answer, Mr. Atkinson	307
IRISH DEAF, DUMB, AND BLIND INSTITUTIONS.—Question, Mr. Sloan; Answer, Mr. Atkinson	308
RENT APPEALS IN COUNTY WICKLOW.—Questions, Mr. James O'Connor; Answers, Mr. Atkinson	308
DUBLIN SORTING OFFICE—SUPERVISING DUTIES.—Question, Mr. Nannetti (Dublin, College Green); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain	308
COUNTER DUTIES IN THE DUBLIN POST OFFICE.—Question, Mr. Nannetti; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain	309
GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE.—Questions, Mr. Beckett (Yorkshire, N.R., Whitby), and Mr. James Lowther (Kent, Thanet); Answers, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) ...	309
THE SOUTH AFRICAN GARRISON.—Questions, Mr. Beckett; Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour	310
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Questions, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs), Mr. Flower (Bradford, W.), Mr. John Redmond (Waterford), and Mr. Gibson Bowles; Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour and Mr. Ritchie	311
THE DIVISION ON THE TRADES DISPUTES BILL.—Mr. Lyttelton (Warwick and Leamington)	313

NEW BILL.

Purchase of Land (England and Wales) Bill. —"To provide facilities for the Sale of Land to occupying tenants and others in England and Wales," presented by Mr. Jesse Collings; supported by Sir John Dorington, Mr. Spear, Sir John Kennaway, Mr. Herbert Roberts, Sir Lewis Molesworth, Mr. Powell-Williams, and Mr. William Mitchell; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 16th June, and to be printed. [Bill 192.]	313
---	-----

SUPPLY—[EIGHTH ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1903-4.—REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £6,267,500, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the salaries and expenses of the Post Office Services, the expenses of Post Office Savings Banks, and Government Annuities and Insurances, and the collection of the Post Office Revenue."

Mr. Lough (Islington, W.)... .. 314

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £6,267,400, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

<i>Mr. Henniker Heaton (Canterbury)</i>	317
<i>Capt. Norton (Newington, W.)</i>	328
<i>The Postmaster-General (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.)</i> ..	333
<i>Mr. Tennant (Berwickshire)</i>	342
<i>Mr. Claude Hay (Shoreditch, Hoxton)</i>	345
<i>Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory)</i>	348
<i>Mr. Schwann (Manchester, N.)</i>	349
<i>Sir George Bartley (Islington, N.)</i>	351
<i>Mr. Emmott (Oldham)</i>	351
<i>Mr. Marshall Hall (Lancashire, Southport)</i>	352
<i>Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.)</i>	353
<i>Mr. Austen Chamberlain</i>	355
<i>Sir Walter Foster (Derbyshire, Ilkeston)</i>	356
<i>Mr. Nannetti (Dublin, College Green)</i>	358

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 204 ; Noes, 122. (Division List No. 78.)

Question put accordingly, "That a sum, not exceeding £6,267,400, be granted for the said Service."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 122 ; Noes, 199. (Division List No. 79.)

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN claimed, "That the Original Question be now put."

Original Question put accordingly, "That a sum, not exceeding £6,267,500, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the salaries and expenses of Post Office Services, the expenses of Post Office Savings Banks, and Government Annuities and Insurances, and the collection of the Post Office Revenue."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 199 ; Noes, 95. (Division List No. 80.)

It being half-past Seven of the Clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolution to be reported To-morrow ; Committee to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

Old Bridewell Burying Ground Bill (LORDS) [BY ORDER] —[SECOND READING].—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, “That the Bill be now read a second time.”

<i>Mr. Paulton (Durham, Bishop Auckland)</i>	...	...	...	...	371
<i>Mr. Cohen (Islington, E.)</i>	...	...	...	...	373

Amendment proposed—

“To leave out from the word ‘That,’ to the end of the Question, in order to add the words ‘this House declines to sanction a Private Bill, in contravention of general public statutes concerning open spaces, for the express purpose of enhancing the value of a private estate.’”—(*Mr. Paulton.*)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question.”

<i>Mr. J. W. Lowther (Cumberland, Penrith)</i>	...	...	...	...	374
<i>Lord Balcarras (Lancashire, Chorley)</i>	...	...	...	...	376
<i>Mr. Butcher (York)</i>	...	...	...	...	377
<i>Sir Joseph Dimsdale (City of London)</i>	...	...	...	...	378
<i>Sir John Rolleston (Leicester)</i>	...	...	...	...	381
<i>Mr. John Burns (Battersea)</i>	...	...	...	...	381
<i>Mr. Helder (Whitehaven)</i>	...	...	...	...	382
<i>Sir Frederick Banbury (Camberwell, Peckham)</i>	...	...	...	...	382
<i>Mr. Causton (Southwark, W.)</i>	...	...	...	...	382

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 71 ; Noes, 118. (Division List No. 81.)

Main Question, as amended, put, and agreed to.

Resolved : That this House declines to sanction a Private Bill, in contravention of general public statutes concerning open spaces, for the express purpose of enhancing the value of a private estate.

SUPPLY—[EIGHTH ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[**Mr. J. W. LOWTHER** (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1903-4.—REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

Motion made, and Question proposed, “That a sum, not exceeding £536,790, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the expenses of the Post Office Packet Service.”

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

xxxvii

May 12.]

Page

<i>Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty)</i>	385
--	-----

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item A be reduced by £100, in respect of contracts for conveyance of mails in the United Kingdom."—(*Mr. Weir.*)

<i>Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney and Shetland)</i>	386
<i>Mr. John Dewar (Inverness-shire)</i>	387
<i>Mr. Cullinan (Tipperary, S.)</i>	387
<i>Mr. Alfred Davies (Carmarthen Boroughs)</i>	388
<i>The Postmaster-General (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.)</i> ...	389

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question again proposed.

<i>Sir John Leng (Dundee)</i>	392
<i>Mr. Alfred Davies</i>	393
<i>Mr. Austen Chamberlain</i>	393
<i>Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid)</i>	394
<i>Mr. Austen Chamberlain</i>	399
<i>Mr. Henniker Heaton (Canterbury)</i>	401
<i>Mr. Buchanan (Perthshire, E.)</i>	402
<i>Mr. Caldwell</i>	404

And, it being Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again upon Wednesday.

Coal Mines (Certificates) Bill. —Read a second time and committed for Wednesday	404
---	-----

Adjourned at seven minutes after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: TUESDAY, 12TH MAY, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with:—

*London County Council (General Powers); Great Central Railway.

And also the Certificate that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with:—

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (No. 2).

The same were ordered to lie on the Table	405
--	-----

Bangor Corporation Bill [H.L.].—(Petition for additional provision); Examiners' Certificate of non-compliance with the Standing Orders referred to the Standing Orders Committee on Tuesday next.	405
---	-----

Great Northern and City Railway Bill. —Reported, without Amendment ...	405
---	-----

Shepshed Urban District Gas Bill [H.L.].—Reported, with Amendments ...	405
---	-----

May 12.]

	<i>Page</i>
Stoke Newington Borough Council Bill. —Reported, with Amendments ...	405
Exeter Corporation Bill [H.L.] ; Preston and Horwich Tramways Bill [H.L.] ; Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Lord Hylton be proposed to the House as a Member of the Select Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Lord Aberdare. Read, and agreed to	405
Broadstairs Gas Bill. —The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The orders made on Tuesday last and yesterday discharged, and Bill committed	405
Bangor Corporation Bill [H.L.]—The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn : The orders made on the 27th of April last and yesterday discharged, and Bill committed	405
Belfast Water Bill [H.L.]—Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the Committee having found that the petitioner had no <i>locus standi</i> before them; read, and ordered to lie on the Table. The orders made on the 9th of March and the 28th of April last discharged, and Bill committed for Thursday next	406
Southampton Harbour Bill [H.L.]—Read 3 ^a , and passed, and sent to the Commons	406
Oldham Corporation Bill [H.L.]—Report from the Select Committee, That it is not expedient to proceed further with the Bill ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table	406
Macclesfield and District Electric Tramways Bill [H.L.]—Report from the Select Committee, That the promoters do not intend to proceed further with the Bill ; Ordered, That the Bill be not further proceeded with	406
Scarborough Gas Bill. —Brought from the Commons ; read 1 ^a ; and referred to the Examiners	406
Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill (No. 66) ; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill (No. 67). —Brought from the Commons ; read 1 ^a ; to be printed ; and referred to the Examiners	406

PETITION.

LAND REGISTERS (SCOTLAND) BILL [H.L.]—Petition against : of the Society of Solicitors; Airdrie ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table	406
---	-----

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

JOURNAL COMMITTEE. —Report from, that the one hundred and thirty-fourth volume of the Journals (1st and 2nd Edw. VII., 1902), with an Index, was ready for delivery ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table ; and the said volume ordered to be delivered in the same manner as the preceding volumes of the Journals have been delivered	406
COLONIES ANNUAL. —No. 384. St. Lucia (Report for 1901) ; No. 385. St. Vincent (Report for 1901)	407
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS (STRAITS SETTLEMENTS CURRENCY COMMITTEE). —Report, Minutes of Evidence, and Appendices	407
RAILWAY AND CANAL TRAFFIC ACTS, 1854 TO 1894. —Fourteenth Annual Report of the Railway and Canal Commission ; with Appendix	407

May 12.]

MINES AND QUARRIES.—Reports of His Majesty's Inspectors of Mines and Quarries, for the year 1902.

Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table 407

RAILWAY COMPANIES' POWERS ACT, 1864.—Certificate of the Board of Trade, authorising the Yorkshire Dales Railway Company to raise additional capital 407

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1894 AND 1896.—Foreign Animals (Amendment) Order of 1903 (No. 2) 407

INDIA.

I. (Finance and Revenue Accounts.) Finance and Revenue Accounts of the Government of India, for the year 1901–1902.

II. (Estimate.) Estimate of Revenue and Expenditure of the Government of India, for the year 1902–1903, compared with the results of 1901–1902.

III. (Home Accounts.) Home Accounts of the Government of India.

Laid before the House [pursuant to Act], and ordered to lie on the Table 407

NEW PEER.—The Lord Willoughby de Broke sat first in Parliament after the death of his father 407

NEW BILL.

Divorce Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to amend the law relating to Divorce. Was presented by the Earl Russell; read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a on Tuesday the 23rd of June next. (No. 65.) 408

THE LICENSING ACT, 1902.

Viscount Cross 408

House adjourned at half-past Four o'clock, to Thursday next, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: TUESDAY, 12TH MAY, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz:—

Frinton-on-Sea Sea Defences Bill [Lords]; Wellington (Salop) Gas Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time 408

Commercial Gas Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 408

London United Tramways Bill; New Hunstanton Improvement Bill.—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 409

May 12.]

Page

Castleblaney, Keady, and Armagh Railway (Extension of Time) Bill [BY ORDER].—Second Reading deferred until Monday, 25th May (Evening Sitting)	409
--	-----

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill ; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (Housing of Working Classes) Bill.—Read a second time, and committed	409
---	-----

DUNDEE ROYAL LUNATIC ASYLUM ORDER CONFIRMATION. —Bill to confirm a Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to the Dundee Royal Lunatic Asylum, ordered to be brought in by The Lord Advocate and Mr. Solicitor-General for Scotland	409
--	-----

Dundee Royal Lunatic Asylum Order Confirmation Bill. —“To confirm a Provisional Order under The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to the Dundee Royal Lunatic Asylum,” presented accordingly; and ordered to be considered upon Thursday	409
---	-----

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 12). —Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Blackpool, Conway, and Spalding, and the Darenth Valley Main Sewerage District, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Grant Lawson and Mr. Walter Long	409
--	-----

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 13). —Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Dover and Yeovil, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Grant Lawson and Mr. Walter Long	409
--	-----

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (POOR LAW). —Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the city of Oxford, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Grant Lawson and Mr. Walter Long	409
--	-----

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 12) Bill. —“To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Blackpool, Conway, and Spalding, and the Darenth Valley Main Sewerage District,” presented, and read the first time: to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. (Bill 193.)	410
--	-----

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13) Bill. —“To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Dover and Yeovil,” presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. (Bill 194.)	410
--	-----

Local Government Provisional Orders (Poor Law) Bill. —“To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the city of Oxford,” presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. (Bill 195.)	410
--	-----

Metropolitan District Railway (Various Powers) Bill. —Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed	410
--	-----

Gas Light and Coke Company Bill. —Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table	410
---	-----

Gas Light and Coke Company's Acts Amendment Bill. —Reported (Parties do not proceed); Report to lie upon the Table	410
--	-----

May 12.]

Wellingborough and District Tramroads Bill. —Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed	410
---	-----

STANDING ORDERS. —Resolution reported from the Select Committee “That, in the case of the Strabane and Letterkenny Railway Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with. That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill, provided that all reference to the Great Northern Railway Company (Ireland) be struck out of Clause 21 of the Bill. That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with.”	
Resolution agreed to	410

East Ham Improvement Bill. —Reported from the Police and Sanitary Committee, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed	411
---	-----

Midland Great Western Railway of Ireland Bill. —Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed	411
--	-----

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS. —That they have passed a Bill, intituled, “An Act for re-arranging the boundaries of the Dioceses of Bristol and Gloucester and Bath and Wells.” (Bishopric of Bristol Bill [Lords].)	411
---	-----

PETITIONS.

BURGH POLICE (SCOTLAND) BILL. —Petition from Glasgow, for alteration; to lie upon the Table	411
---	-----

COUNTY COURTS JURISDICTION EXTENSION BILL. —Petitions in favour: from Crewe; and Lincoln; to lie upon the Table	411
---	-----

CROFTERS’ HOLDINGS (SCOTLAND) BILL. —Petition from Sutherland, in favour; to lie upon the Table	411
---	-----

COAL MINES REGULATION BILL. —Petitions in favour: from Renishaw Park; Maesteg District; Tygwynbach; Coynant; Caedefaid; Cynon; Bryn; Caerau; Bryncoch; Treshencyn; Ewrt-y-Bettws; Crynant; International; Garw Ocean; Aber; Tynewydd; Havannah and Southport Pits, Parr; Little Lever; Glynea; Great Mountain; Glan Garnant; Burry Port; Llancaiach; Hartshead Llangynwyd; Cefn Brithdir; Bedford; Park; Leigh; Westleigh; Breton; and Abram Collieries; to lie upon the Table	411
--	-----

DETENTION OF POOR PERSONS (SCOTLAND) BILL. —Petition from Balinagie, in favour; to lie upon the Table	411
---	-----

LICENSING LAW (COMPENSATION FOR NON-RENEWAL) BILL. —Petition from Raunds, against; to lie upon the Table	412
--	-----

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL. —Petitions for alteration: from Perth; Ross; Greenock; and Paisley; to lie upon the Table	412
---	-----

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) BILL. —Petition from Perth, for alteration; to lie upon the Table	412
---	-----

POOR LAW OFFICERS’ SUPERANNUATION (SCOTLAND) BILL. —Petition from Perth, in favour; to lie upon the Table	412
---	-----

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL. —Petitions in favour: from Heckmond-wike; Linthwaite; Marsden; Whitfield; Sandbach; Crewe; Gomersal; Ecclesall; Batley; Hazel Grove; Hollingworth; Hyde; Scarborough; Pendleton; West London; Ravensthorpe; Wingate; Haworth; Skinninggrove; Mashbrough; Galashiels; Earby; Barnoldswick; Salterforth; Coalville;	
---	--

Paisley ; Tunstead ; Water Lumb ; Duntocher ; York ; Manchester ; Leicester ; Cymmer ; Aylesbury ; Coventry ; Broughton Astley ; Bristol ; Clifton ; Lumb in Rossendale ; Dunfermline ; Bedlington ; Desborough ; Rushden ; Hebden Bridge ; Wood Green ; Mytholmroyd ; Llanelly ; Finedon ; and Reading ; to lie upon the Table	...	...	...	...	412
PUBLIC HOUSES (HOURS OF CLOSING) (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Glasgow, in favour ; to lie upon the Table	...	...	...	...	412
PUBLIC LIBRARIES.—Petitions for alteration of Law : from Saint Austell ; and Brighton ; to lie upon the Table	...	...	...	...	412
TRADE DISPUTES BILL.—Petitions in favour : From Renishaw Park ; Maesteg District ; Tygwynbach ; Coynant ; Caedefaid ; Cynon ; Bryn ; Caerau ; Bryncoch ; Treshencyn ; Ewrt-y-Bettws ; Crynant ; International ; Garw Ocean ; Aber ; Tynewydd ; Havannah and Southport Pits, Parr ; Little Lever ; Glynea ; Great Mountain ; Glan Garnant ; Burry Port ; Llancaiaich ; Hartshead ; Llangynwyd ; Morlais ; and Abercrave Collieries ; to lie upon the Table	...	...	...	...	412
<i>RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.</i>					
EAST INDIA (ESTIMATE).—Copy presented, of Estimate of Revenue and Expenditure of the Government of India for 1902-3, compared with the results of 1901-2 [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 156.)	...	...	...	...	413
EAST INDIA (FINANCE AND REVENUE ACCOUNTS).—Copy presented, of Finance and Revenue Accounts of the Government of India for 1901-2 [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table	...	...	...	...	413
EAST INDIA (HOME ACCOUNTS).—Copy presented, of Home Accounts of the Government of India [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 157.)	...	...	...	...	413
DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1894 AND 1896.—Copy presented, of the Foreign Animals (Amendment) Order of 1903 (No. 2) [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table	...	...	...	...	413
RAILWAY AND CANAL TRAFFIC ACTS, 1854 TO 1894.—Copy presented, of Fourteenth Annual Report of the Railway and Canal Commission, with Appendix [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table	...	...	...	...	413
MINES AND QUARRIES.—Copy presented, of Reports of His Majesty's Inspectors of Mines for the year 1902 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table...	...	...	...	...	413
RAILWAYS (CERTIFICATES) YORKSHIRE DALES RAILWAY COMPANY.—Copy presented, of Draft Certificate of the Board of Trade authorising the Yorkshire Dales Railway Company to raise additional capital [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table	...	...	...	...	413
POST OFFICE (PARCEL POST BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND THE NETHERLANDS).—Copy presented, of Parcel Post Agreement, with detailed Regulations, between Great Britain and the Netherlands [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table	...	...	...	...	413
NATIONAL DEBT ACT, 1883 (TERMINABLE ANNUITIES).—Copy presented, of Treasury Warrant, dated 1st April, 1903, regulating the Terminable Annuity held on behalf of the Supreme Court of Judicature [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 158.)	...	...	...	...	414

May 12.]

TAXES AND IMPOSTS.—Return ordered, “showing (1) the Rates of Duties, Taxes, or Imposts collected by Imperial Officers ; (2) the Quantities or Amounts taxed ; (3) the Gross Receipts derived from each Duty ; (4) the Net Receipts and Appropriations thereof in the year ending the 31st day of March, 1903 ; and (1) the aggregate Gross Receipts derived from all such Duties, Taxes, or Imposts under the principal heads of Revenue ; (2) the aggregate Net Receipts ; (3) the charges of Collection ; and (4) the Produce, after deducting these charges on each of the ten years ending the 31st day of March, 1903.”

“And, Notes to show any changes in the Taxes, Duties, and Imposts consequent upon the acceptance of the Budget Proposals of 1903 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 313, of Session 1902).”—(*Mr. Goddard.*) 414

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

EDUCATION ACT, 1902.—CHURCH TRAINING COLLEGES.—Question, Mr. Morrell (Oxfordshire, Woodstock) ; Answer, Sir William Anson ... 414

COLLECTION OF DEATH DUTIES IN SCOTLAND.—Question, Sir John Leng (Dundee) ; Answer, Mr. Arthur Elliot ... 415

MILITARY AND NAVAL WORKS ACTS, ETC., FINANCES.—Question, Mr. Herbert Samuel (Yorkshire, Cleveland) ; Answer, Mr. Ritchie ... 415

BELFAST GENERAL VALUATION.—Question, Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.) ; Answer, Mr. Atkinson ... 416

INDIAN ARMY—PRECEDENCE OF REGIMENTS.—Question, Major Evans Gordon (Tower Hamlets, Stepney) ; Answer, Lord George Hamilton ... 416

VIVISECTION AT THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.—Question, Sir Frederick Banbury (Camberwell, Peckham) ; Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas ... 416

DETAILS OF REVENUE (POST OFFICE) ESTIMATES.—Question, Mr. Bignold (Wick Burghs) ; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain ... 417

SOMALILAND OPERATIONS—PASSAGE HOME FOR WOUNDED OFFICERS.—Question, Colonel Legge (St. George's, Hanover Square) ; Answer, Mr. Brodrick ... 417

DUKE OF YORK'S MILITARY SCHOOL—REASONS OF REMOVAL FROM CHELSEA.—Question, Mr. Whitmore (Chelsea) ; Answer, Mr. Brodrick ... 417

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

LOAN OF WAR OFFICE EXHIBITS.—Questions, Captain Norton (Newington, W.) ; Answers, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 418

DISPOSAL OF USELESS GUNS.—Question, Mr. Charles Hobhouse (Bristol, E.) ; Answer, Mr. Brodrick ... 419

NORTHERN NIGERIA—ADDITIONS TO THE PROTECTORATE.—Question, Mr. John Ellis (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe) ; Answer, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.) ... 419

SOUTH AFRICAN ADMINISTRATION—NATURALISATION OF ALIENS.—Questions, Mr. John Ellis ; Answers, Mr. J. Chamberlain ... 420

SIERRA LEONE REBELLION.—Question, Mr. Lawrence (Liverpool, Abercromby) ; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain ... 421

<i>May 12.]</i>	<i>Page</i>
BRITISH TRADE IN THE CONGO BASIN.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) ; Answer, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Lord Cranborne, Rochester)	421
BRITISH RAILWAY ENTERPRISE IN SOUTH WEST PERSIA. — Questions, Mr. Reginald Lucas (Portsmouth) and Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis) ; Answers, Lord Cranborne	421
LONDON EDUCATION AUTHORITY. — Question, Mr. Lough (Islington, W.) ; Answer, The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education (Sir William Anson, Oxford University)	422
IRISH TEACHERS' PENSION FUND.—Question, Mr. Samuel Young (Cavan, E.) ; Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Arthur Elliot, Durham)	423
IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOLS — DAMAGE BY STORMS. — Question, Mr. Roche (Galway, E.) ; Answer, The Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.)	423
LISTOWEL UNION ACCOUNTS.—Questions, Mr. Flavin (Kerry, N.) ; Answer, Mr. Atkinson	424
IRISH CONSTABULARY VOTE.—Question, Sir John Colomb (Great Yarmouth) ; Answer, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)	424
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.—Question, Mr. Schwann (Manchester, N.) ; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour	425
PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE—HOUR OF MEETING.—Questions, Mr. John Ellis, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs), and Mr. John Redmond (Waterford) ; Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour	425
SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES.)	
Mr. HALSEY reported from the Committee of Selection ; That they had discharged the following Members from the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure : Mr. Walter Long (added in respect of the Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill), and Sir Charles Dilke ; and had appointed in substitution : Mr. Guest (in respect of the the Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill) and Mr. Charles Seely.	
Mr. HALSEY further reported from the Committee of Selection ; That they had added to the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, the following fifteen Members in respect of the Prevention of Corruption Bill [Lords] : Mr. Attorney-General, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Channing, Mr. Cohen, Sir Frederick Dixon-Hartland, Sir William Dunn, Mr. Edmund Faber, Sir John Gorst, Sir William Holland, Mr. Kearley, Mr. Lough, Sir Albert Rolit, Sir Walter Thorburn, Mr. Lawson Walton, and Mr. Whittaker.	
Mr. HALSEY reported from the Committee of Selection ; That they had added to the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, the following fifteen Members in respect of the Burgh Police (Scotland) Bill : Sir William Arrol, Mr. Asher, Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Caldwell, Colonel Denny, Mr. Charles Douglas, Mr. James M'Killop, Mr. John Morley, Mr. Nicol, Mr. Pirie, Sir Charles Renshaw, Sir John Stirling-Maxwell, Mr. Solicitor-General for Scotland, Mr. Cathcart Wason, and Mr. Wylie.	
Reports to lie upon the Table	427

WAYS AND MEANS.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

CONTINUANCE OF ADDITIONAL CUSTOMS DUTIES ON TOBACCO, BEER, AND SPIRITS.

<i>Mr. James Lowther (Kent, Thanet)</i>	428
<i>The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Ritchie, Croydon)</i>	429
<i>Sir John Gorst (Cambridge University)</i>	430
<i>Sir Henry Fowler (Wolverhampton, E.)</i>	430
<i>Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis)</i>	431
<i>Mr. Blake (Longford, S.)</i>	431
<i>Mr. Ritchie</i>	432
<i>Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs)</i>	432
<i>Mr. Lough (Islington, W.)</i>	433
<i>Mr. Ritchie</i>	435
<i>Sir Henry Fowler</i>	435
<i>Mr. Ritchie</i>	437
<i>Sir John Gorst</i>	438
<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton (Tower Hamlets, Poplar)</i>	438
<i>Mr. Gibson Bowles</i>	439
<i>Mr. Groves (Salford, S.)</i>	441
<i>Mr. Lough</i>	441
<i>Mr. David MacIver (Liverpool, Kirkdale)</i>	443
<i>Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.)</i>	444
<i>Sir Cuthbert Quilter (Suffolk, Sudbury)</i>	446
<i>Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick)</i>	446
<i>Mr. Courtenay Warner (Staffordshire, Lichfield)</i>	446
<i>Mr. Ritchie</i>	447
<i>Mr. Lambert (Devonshire, South Molton)</i>	449

1. Resolved, That the Additional Customs Duties on tobacco, beer, and spirits imposed by sections two, three, four, and five of the Finance Act, 1900 (including any increased Duties imposed by section five of that Act), shall continue to be charged until the first day of August, nineteen hundred and four.—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

CONTINUANCE OF ADDITIONAL EXCISE DUTY ON BEER AND SPIRITS.

2. Resolved, That the Additional Excise Duties on beer and spirits imposed by sections six and seven of the Finance Act, 1900, shall continue to be charged until the first day of August, nineteen hundred and four. — (*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

INCOME TAX.

3. Resolved, That Income Tax shall be charged for the year beginning the sixth day of April, nineteen hundred and three, at the rate of eleven pence.—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

AMOUNT OF PERMANENT ANNUAL CHARGE.

<i>Mr. Gibson Bowles</i>	450
<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i>	451
<i>Mr. Cohen (Islington, E.)</i>	452
<i>Mr. Buchanan (Perthshire, E.)</i>	453
<i>Sir John Gorst</i>	454
<i>Mr. Edmund Robertson (Dundee)</i>	455
<i>Mr. McKenna (Monmouthshire, N.)</i>	456
<i>Sir Robert Reid (Dumfries Burghs)</i>	459
<i>Mr. Ritchie</i>	460

4. Resolved, That the amount of the permanent annual charge for the National Debt, under Section 1 of the Sinking Fund Act, 1875, shall be £27,000,000.—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

AMENDMENT OF LAW.

5. Resolved, That it is expedient to amend the law relating to the National Debt, Customs, and Inland Revenue.—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

Resolutions to be reported To-morrow; Committee to sit again To-morrow.

SUPPLY [21ST APRIL, AFTERNOON SITTING] REPORT.

Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question (6th May), 'That this House doth agree with the Committee in the Second Resolution, 'That a sum, not exceeding £51,400, be granted to His Majesty to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the Royal Parks and Pleasure Gardens.'"

Question again proposed.

Debate resumed.

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolutions—

3. "That a sum, not exceeding £27,700, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the Houses of Parliament Buildings."

4. "That a sum, not exceeding £36,120, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for Expenditure in respect of Miscellaneous Legal Buildings."

5. "That a sum, not exceeding £30,150, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for Expenditure in respect of Art and Science Buildings, Great Britain."

6. "That a sum, not exceeding £37,500, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for Expenditure in respect of Diplomatic and Consular Buildings, and for the maintenance of certain Cemeteries Abroad."

7. "That a sum, not exceeding £339,000, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the Customs, Inland Revenue, Post Office, and Post Office Telegraph Buildings in Great Britain, and certain Post Offices abroad, including Furniture, Fuel, and sundry Miscellaneous Services."

8. "That a sum, not exceeding £222,000, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, in respect of sundry public buildings in Great Britain, not provided for on other Votes."

9. "That a sum, not exceeding £119,019, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the Survey of the United Kingdom, and for minor services connected therewith."

May 12.]

10. "That a sum, not exceeding £14,204, be granted to His Majesty to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for maintaining certain Harbours under the Board of Trade, and for grants in aid of Harbours."

11. "That a sum, not exceeding £17,980, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for constructing a new Harbour of Refuge at Peterhead."

Agreed to.

<i>Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.)</i>	466
<i>Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes (Huntingdonshire, Ramsey)</i>	467

Further consideration of 12th Resolution deferred till To-morrow.

SUPPLY [21ST APRIL, EVENING SITTING].

Resolutions reported.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1903-4.— CLASS II.

1. "That a sum, not exceeding £381,333, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for stationery, printing, paper, binding, and printed books for the public service; to pay the salaries and expenses of the Stationery Office; and for sundry miscellaneous services, including Reports of Parliamentary Debates."

2. "That a sum, not exceeding £52,264, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the salaries and other expenses in the Department of His Majesty's Treasury and Subordinate Departments, including expenses in respect of advances under the Light Railways Act, 1896."

Resolutions agreed to 467

Education (Borrowing) Bill—[SECOND READING].

The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.) 468

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

<i>Mr. Alfred Hutton (Yorkshire, W.R., Morley)</i>	468
<i>Mr. Walter Long</i>	469
<i>Mr. Henry Hobhouse (Somersetshire, E.)</i>	470
<i>Mr. Brigg (Yorkshire, W.R., Keighley)</i>	471
<i>Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.)</i>	471
<i>Mr. Lambert (Devonshire, South Molton)</i>	472
<i>Sir John Gorst (Cambridge University)</i>	473
<i>Mr. George White (Norfolk, N.W.)</i>	474

Bill read a second time and committed for to-morrow.

Railways (Electrical Power) Bill—[SECOND READING].

<i>The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central)</i>	474
<i>Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.)</i>	476

<i>Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid)</i>	477
<i>Sir Charles Renshaw (Renfrewshire, W.)</i>	478
<i>Mr. Herbert Roberts (Denbighshire, W.)</i>	479
<i>Mr. Channing (Northamptonshire, E.)</i>	480
<i>Mr. Herbert Samuel (Yorkshire, Cleveland)</i>	481
<i>Mr. Brigg</i>	482

Bill read a second time and committed for to-morrow.

SUPPLY [11TH MAY].

Resolution reported.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1903-4.— REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

“That a sum, not exceeding £6,267,500, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the Salaries and Expenses of Post Office Services, the Expenses of Post Office Savings Banks, and Government Annuities and Insurances, and the Collection of the Post Office Revenue.”

Resolution read a second time.

<i>Mr. Soares (Devonshire, Barnstaple)</i>	482
---	-----

Amendment proposed—

“To leave out ‘£6,267,500,’ and insert ‘£6,267,400.’”—(*Mr. Soares.*)

Question proposed, “That ‘£6,267,500’ stand part of the Resolution.”

<i>The Postmaster-General (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.)</i> ...	485
--	-----

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Resolution agreed to.

Public Offices (Dublin) Bill.—Read a second time, and committed to a Select Committee of five members, three to be nominated by the House, and two by the Committee of Selection.

Ordered, That all Petitions against the Bill presented five clear days before the meeting of the Committee be referred to the Committee; that the petitioners praying to be heard by themselves, their counsel, or agents be heard against the Bill, and counsel heard in support of the Bill.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Ordered, That three be the quorum.—(<i>Mr. Arthur Elliot.</i>)	488
---	-----

Post Office Sites Bill—[SECOND READING].

<i>Mr. Austen Chamberlain</i>	488
<i>Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid.)</i>	490

Bill read a second time, and committed to a Select Committee of five Members, three to be nominated by the House, and two by the Committee of Selection.

Ordered, That all Petitions against the Bill presented five clear days before the meeting of the Committee be referred to the Committee; that

May 12.]

the petitioners praying to be heard by themselves, their counsel, or agents be heard against the Bill, and counsel heard in support of the Bill.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Ordered, That three be the quorum.—(*Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*)

Marine Insurance Bill—[SECOND READING].—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid) 491

Motion made, and Question, "That the debate be now adjourned."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed this evening.

NEW WRIT.—New Writ for the county of Kildare (South Kildare Division), in the room of Matthew Joseph Minch, esquire (Manor of Northstead).—(*Capt. Donelan.*)

And there being no further business set down for the afternoon sitting, Mr. Speaker left the Chair till this evening's sitting 491

— EVENING SITTING.

Marine Insurance Bill [LORDS].—SECOND READING.—Order read, for resuming adjourned debate on question, 12th May, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Question again proposed.

Debate resumed.

Mr. Caldwell 492
Sir Albert Rollit (Islington, S.) 496
Mr. Charles McArthur (Liverpool, Exchange) 498
The Attorney-General (Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs) 499

Bill read a second time.

Mr. Caldwell 501
Sir Robert Finlay 502

Bill committed to the Standing Committee on Trade, etc.

Church Discipline (No. 2) Bill—[SECOND READING].—Order for Second Reading read.

Mr. Cripps (Lancashire, Stretford) 502

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Mr. Charles McArthur (Liverpool, Exchange) 503
Mr. Channing (Northamptonshire, E.) 506

Amendment proposed—

“To leave out from the word ‘That,’ to the end of the Question, and add the words, ‘This House, while recognising the need for further legislation to secure conformity on the part of the clergy of the Established Church to the directions of the Prayer-book and the decisions of the Ecclesiastical Courts, declines to sanction a measure which would ignore the rights of the laity, impair the Royal supremacy, and substitute an arbitrary Episcopal discretion for the law of Church and Realm.’”—(*Mr. Charles McArthur.*)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question.”

<i>Mr. Stuart Wortley (Sheffield, Hallam)</i>	509
<i>Mr. Robson (South Shields)</i>	510
<i>The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)</i>	514

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 78 ; Noes, 58. (Division List No. 82.)

Main Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 80 ; Noes, 56. (Division List No. 83.)

Bill read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, “That the Bill be committed to a Select Committee.”—(*Mr. Cripps.*)

<i>Sir Walter Foster (Derbyshire, Ilkeston)</i>	519
<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	521
<i>Mr. Channing</i>	521
<i>Mr. Caldwell</i>	523

And, it being Midnight, the Debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed this day.

Adjourned at one minute after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 13TH MAY, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Cleveland and Durham County Electric Power Bill [LORDS] ; Mersey Docks and Harbour Board Bill [Lords].—Read a second time and committed 525

NAVAL WORKS PROVISIONAL ORDER.—Bill to confirm a Provisional Order of the Admiralty under the Naval Works Act, 1895 ; ordered to be brought in by Mr. Pretyma and Mr. Arnold-Forster.

Naval Works Provisional Order Bill.—“To confirm a Provisional Order of the Admiralty under the Naval Works Act, 1895” ; presented accordingly, and read the first time ; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. (Bill 196.) 525

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

li
Page

May 13.]

Strabane and Letterkenny Railway Bill. —Report (12th May) from the Select Committee on Standing Orders read ; Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.—(<i>Mr. Caldwell.</i>)	525
London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill. —Reported with Amendments : Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed	525

PETITIONS.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE BILL. —Petition from London, against ; to lie upon the Table	525
CHURCH DISCIPLINE (No. 2) BILL. —Petition from London, against ; to lie upon the Table	525
COAL MINES REGULATION BILL. —Petitions in favour : from Ystradowen ; Rockingham (No. 1) ; Butterworth Hall ; West Bromwich ; Abercrave ; Clydach Merthyr ; Dunvant ; Pontardulais ; Hendreforgan ; Noyadd ; Birch Rock ; and Dowlais Collieries ; to lie upon the Table	525
COUNTY COURTS JURISDICTION EXTENSION BILL. —Petition from Derby, in favour ; to lie upon the Table	526
DETENTION OF POOR PERSONS (SCOTLAND) BILL. —Petition from Lintrathen, in favour ; to lie upon the Table	526
EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN BILL. —Petition from London, in favour ; to lie upon the Table	526
LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL. —Petitions for alteration : from Cumnock ; Thornhill ; Saint Mungo ; Ladyloan ; and Forfar ; to lie upon the Table	526
LONDON EDUCATION BILL. —Petition from London, in favour ; to lie upon the Table	526
MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL. —Petition from London, against ; to lie upon the Table	526
PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL. —Petitions in favour : from Castleford ; Tunbridge Wells ; Dalton-in-Furness ; Waterloo ; Blackley ; Rochester ; Maidstone ; Leith ; Stepney ; Haughton ; Teignmouth ; Birtley ; West Pelton ; Stocksbridge ; Stalybridge ; Clapton Park ; Rochdale ; Middlesbrough ; Manchester ; Farnworth ; Woolford ; Bury ; Longridge ; Great and Little Bolton ; Pickering ; Darwen ; Galston ; Edmonton ; New Mills ; Glossop Dale ; Uppertown ; and Seaton Delaval ; to lie upon the Table	526
PUBLIC LIBRARIES. —Petition from Leeds, for alteration of Law ; to lie upon the Table	526
TRADE DISPUTES BILL. —Petitions in favour : from Ystradowen ; West Bromwich ; Clydach Merthyr ; Dunvant ; Hendreforgan ; Noyadd ; Birch Rock ; and Dowlais Collieries ; to lie upon the Table	526

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ARMY (SPECIAL PENSIONS). —Copy presented, of Return for the year ended 31st March, 1903, of Pensions specially granted under Articles 730, 1173A, and 1207 of the Army Pay Warrant [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table	527
--	-----

May 13.]

Page

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).—Copy presented, of Report of the Committee of Council on Education in Scotland, with Appendix, 1902–3 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table	527
EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) (GENERAL REPORTS).—Copy presented, of General Report by the Chief Inspector of the Western Division of Scotland for the year 1902 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table	527
TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2971 to 2975 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table	527
TRADE REPORTS (MISCELLANEOUS SERIES).—Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Miscellaneous Series, No. 589 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table	527
RAILWAYS (ELECTRICAL POWER) [EXPENSES].—Committee to consider of authorising the payment, out of moneys provided by Parliament, of the remuneration of any persons appointed by the Board of Trade for the purposes of any Act of the present Session to facilitate the introduction and use of Electric Power on Railways, and any other expenses incurred by the Board of Trade in carrying such Act into effect (King's recommendation signified), to-morrow.—(<i>Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.</i>)	527
PUBLIC OFFICES (DUBLIN) [ADVANCES].—Committee to consider of authorising the issue, out of the Consolidated Fund, of such sums as may be required for the purposes of any Act of the present Session for the acquisition of certain land in Dublin, and for the erection and equipment of a Royal College of Science and other buildings for the public service, and of authorising the Treasury to borrow money by means of terminable annuities, such annuities to be paid out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, and if those moneys are insufficient out of the Consolidated Fund (King's recommendation signified), to-morrow.—(<i>Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.</i>)	527
POST OFFICE SITES [EXPENSES].—Committee to consider of authorising the payment, out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, of all sums payable by the Postmaster-General, under any Act of the present Session, to enable His Majesty's Postmaster-General to acquire lands in London and Bristol for the public service, and of all expenses incurred in carrying into effect the provisions of such Act (King's recommendation signified), to-morrow.—(<i>Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.</i>)	528
<i>QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.</i>	
OVERCROWDING IN THE PETERBOROUGH RURAL DISTRICT.—Question, Mr Mansfield (Lincolnshire, Spalding); Answer, Mr. Walter Long	528
CORNWALL COUNTY COUNCIL ALLOTMENTS.—Question, Mr. Mansfield; Answer, Mr. Walter Long	529
UNDERGROUND BAKEHOUSES.—Question, Mr. Shipman (Northampton); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas	529
SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—REWARDS FOR MILITIA OFFICERS.—Question, Mr. Seely (Lincoln); Answer, Mr. Brodrick	530
CENSUS OF OCCUPATIONS—EXTENSION TO SCOTLAND AND IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil); Answer, Mr. Walter Long	530

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

lii
Page

May 13.]

WAGES OF SUB-POSTMASTERS.—Question, Mr. Keir Hardie ; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain	531
VENTILATION OF HOUSE OF COMMONS TELEGRAPH ROOM.—Question, Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.) ; Answer, Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes	531
OPENING OF THE NEW ROAD FROM THE MALL TO CHARING CROSS.—Question, Sir Henry Fowler (Wolverhampton, E.) ; Answer, Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes	532
ACTIONS REMITTED FROM HIGH COURTS TO COUNTY COURTS—AMENDMENT OF PROCEDURE.—Question, Sir Thomas Dewar (Tower Hamlets, St. George's) ; Answer, Sir Robert Finlay	532
COST OF RENT FIXING BRANCH OF IRISH LAND COMMISSION.—Question, Sir John Colomb (Great Yarmouth) ; Answer, Mr. Wyndham	532
IRELAND—EVENING NATIONAL SCHOOLS—PAYMENT OF GRANTS.—Question, Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.) ; Answer, Mr. Wyndham	533
COUNTY MAYO—APPLICATION BY MR. JAMES STUART FOR A BULL.—Question, Mr. William McKillop (Sligo, N.) ; Answer, Mr. Wyndham	534
CANTEEN COMMITTEE REPORT.—Question, Mr. Nolan (Louth, S.) ; Answer, Mr. Brodrick	534
SCOTCH LICENSING BILL.—DATE OF CONSIDERATION BY STANDING COMMITTEE.—Question, Sir Charles Renshaw (Renfrewshire, W.) ; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour	534
<i>QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.</i>	
GOVERNMENT LOANS TO EXHIBITIONS.—Questions, Captain Norton (Newington, W.) ; Answers, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.)	534
WASTEFUL EXPENDITURE OF AMMUNITION IN THE NAVY.—Question, Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis) ; Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster... ..	535
ADMINISTRATION OF THE CONGO STATE.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) ; Answer, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Lord Cranborne, Rochester)	536
COUNTY COURT JUDGES AND THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke ; Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Akers Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's)	537
IRELAND AND THE ST. LOUIS EXHIBITION.—Question, Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.) ; Answer, The Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry)	537
REPORTS OF IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOL INSPECTORS.—Questions, Mr. O'Shaughnessy (Limerick, W.) ; Answers, Mr. Atkinson	537
IRISH CONGESTED DISTRICTS.—Question, Mr. C. O'Kelly (Mayo, N.) ; Answer, Mr. Atkinson	538
IRISH SCHOOL EQUIPMENTS.—Question, Mr. O'Dowd (Sligo, S.) ; Answer, Mr. Atkinson	538
LOANS TO IRISH FARMERS.—Questions, Mr. Ffrench (Wexford, S.), and Captain Donelan (Cork, E.) ; Answers, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Arthur Elliot, Durham)	539
WAR OFFICE TENDERS FOR OATS IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Flavin (Kerry, N.) ; Answer, Mr. Elliot	540

SHAKESPERIAN RELICS.—Question, Mr. Yoxall (Nottinghamshire, W.); Answer, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)	540
--	-----

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Questions, Mr. John Redmond (Waterford), and Sir Albert Rollit (Islington, S.); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour	541
---	-----

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE.—Fourth Report brought up and read, to lie upon the Table, and to be printed	541
---	-----

NEW BILL.

Marriages Legalisation Bill. —"To render valid Marriages heretofore solemnised at the Ellerker Chapel of Ease, Brantingham, and at the Churches of Saint Mark, Marske-in-Cleveland, All Saints, Brightwaltham (otherwise Brightwalton), and St. Mary, Great Ilford, and at the Old Baptist Union Chapel, Grays Thurrock," presented by Mr. Cochrane; to be read a second time To-morrow, and to be printed. (Bill 197.)	541
--	-----

Port of London Bill—[SECOND READING].—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

<i>Sir F. Dixon-Hartland</i> (Middlesex, Uxbridge)	542
<i>Mr. David Morgan</i> (Essex, Walthamstow)	547

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Sir F. Dixon-Hartland*.)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i> (Tower Hamlets, Poplar)	556
<i>Sir Albert Rollit</i> (Islington, S.)	565
<i>Mr. John Ellis</i> (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe)	573
<i>Mr. Vicary Gibbs</i> (Hertfordshire, St. Albans)	577
<i>Mr. Lyttelton</i> (Warwick and Leamington)	580
<i>Mr. Bryce</i> (Aberdeen, S.)	584
<i>The President of the Board of Trade</i> (<i>Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central</i>)	590
<i>Mr. Peel</i> (Manchester, S.)	600
<i>Mr. Renwick</i> (Newcastle-on-Tyne)	608
<i>Sir Joseph Dimsdale</i> (London)	611
<i>Sir John Leng</i> (Dundee)	613
<i>Mr. Cumming Macdonald</i> (Southwark, Rotherhithe)	614
<i>Colonel Ropner</i> (Stockton)	615

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

<i>Mr. Gerald Balfour</i>	616
<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i>	616

Resolved: That it is expedient that the Bill be committed to a Joint Committee of Lords and Commons.—(*Mr. Gerald Balfour*.)

Message to the Lords to communicate this Resolution and to desire their concurrence.

May 13.]

WAYS AND MEANS [12TH MAY.]

Resolutions reported.

CONTINUANCE OF ADDITIONAL CUSTOMS DUTIES ON TOBACCO, BEER, AND SPIRITS.

1. "That the additional Customs Duties on tobacco, beer, and spirits, imposed by Sections two, three, four, and five of The Finance Act, 1900 (including any increased Duties imposed by Section five of that Act), shall continue to be charged until the first day of August, nineteen hundred and four."

CONTINUANCE OF ADDITIONAL EXCISE DUTY ON BEER AND SPIRITS.

2. "That the additional Excise Duties on beer and spirits, imposed by Sections six and seven of the Finance Act, 1900, shall continue to be charged until the first day of August, nineteen hundred and four."

INCOME TAX.

3. "That Income Tax shall be charged for the year beginning the sixth day of April, nineteen hundred and three, at the rate of eleven pence."

AMOUNT OF PERMANENT ANNUAL CHARGE.

4. "That the amount of the permanent annual charge for the National Debt, under Section one of The Sinking Fund Act, 1875, shall be twenty-seven million pounds."

AMENDMENT OF LAW.

5. "That it is expedient to amend the Law relating to the National Debt, Customs, and Inland Revenue."

<i>Mr. Ashton (Bedfordshire, Luton)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	617
<i>The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Ritchie, Croydon)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	617
<i>Mr. Channing (Northamptonshire, E.)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	618

Resolutions agreed to.

Ordered, that it be an Instruction to the gentlemen appointed to bring in a Bill upon the Resolution reported from the Committee of Ways and Means on the 27th April last, and then agreed to by the House, that they do make provision therein pursuant to the said Resolutions.—
(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

Finance Bill.—"To grant certain Duties of Customs and Inland Revenue, to alter other Duties, and to amend the Law relating to Customs and Inland Revenue and the National Debt, and to make other provisions for the financial arrangements of the year."—Presented and read the first time: to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. (Bill 198.)

Education (Borrowing) Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

On Clause 1:—

<i>Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	619
<i>The President of the Local Government (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	619

Committee report Progress; to sit again on Monday next.

And there being no further Business set down for the Afternoon Sitting,
Mr. Speaker left the Chair till this Evening's Sitting.

—
EVENING SITTING.

THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

<i>Mr. William Jones (Carnarvonshire, Arfon)</i>	...	...	...	...	620
<i>Mr. Fenwick (Northumberland, Wansbeck)</i>	...	...	...	...	623

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House calls upon the Government forthwith to undertake the amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act."—(*Mr. William Jones.*)

<i>Mr. John Wilson (Falkirk Burghs)</i>	...	...	...	...	627
<i>Mr. Levy (Leicestershire, Loughborough)</i>	...	...	...	...	628
<i>Mr. Butcher (York)</i>	...	...	...	...	633
<i>Mr. Joseph Walton (Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley)</i>	...	...	...	...	635
<i>Mr. Stuart Wortley (Sheffield, Hallam)</i>	...	...	...	...	636
<i>Mr. Lawson Walton (Leeds, S.)</i>	...	...	...	...	639
<i>Colonel Ropner (Stockton)</i>	...	...	...	...	641
<i>Mr. Tennant (Berwickshire)</i>	...	...	...	...	642
<i>Mr. Bell (Derby)</i>	...	...	...	...	643
<i>The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Akers Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's)</i>	...	...	...	...	645
<i>Mr. Asquith (Fifeshire, E.)</i>	...	...	...	...	650

Resolved, That this House calls upon the Government forthwith to undertake the Amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act.—*Mr. William Jones.*

Prevention of Cruelty to Wild Animals Bill.

<i>Mr. Corrie Grant (Warwickshire, Rugby)</i>	...	...	...	...	651
<i>Sir Frederick Banbury (Camberwell, Peckham)</i>	...	...	...	...	652

And, it being midnight, the debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed this day.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES (RURAL DISTRICTS).—Bill to amend the Housing of the Working Classes Acts, 1890 and 1900, and the Local Government Act, 1894, so as to facilitate the provision of cottages by Rural District Councils, ordered to be brought in by Sir Walter Foster, Mr. Broadhurst, Mr. Channing, Mr. Price, Mr. Herbert Samuel, Mr. Soames, Mr. Stevenson, and Mr. Frederick Wilson.

Housing of the Working Classes (Rural Districts) Bill.—"To amend the Housing of the Working Classes Acts, 1890 and 1900, and the Local Government Act, 1894, so as to facilitate the provision of cottages by Rural District Councils," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 26th May, and to be printed. (Bill 199.) 652

Coal Mines (Certificates) Bill.—Considered in Committee, and reported without Amendment; read the third time, and passed 652

Adjourned at five minutes after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: THURSDAY, 14th MAY, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have not been complied with:—

Kip's Patents—(Petition for Bill).

The same was ordered to lie on the Table 653

Kip's Patents—(Petition for Bill).—Examiner's Certificate of non-compliance with the Standing Orders referred to the Standing Orders Committee on Tuesday next 653

Gosport, Fareham, and Cosham Tramways Bill [H.L.].—The Order made on Monday last appointing certain Lords the Select Committee to consider the Bill, discharged 653

Mid Yorkshire Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the five Lords appointed a Select Committee on the Midland Railway Bill and other Bills, do form the Select Committee for the consideration of the Mid Yorkshire Tramways Bill [H.L.] 653

Aston Manor Improvement Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Select Committee, that the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition thereto having been withdrawn; read, and ordered to lie on the Table; the Orders made on the 9th of March last and the 4th of May discharged; and Bill committed... .. 653

Scunthorpe Urban District Water Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 653

East Ardsley Gas Bill; Chard Corporation Gas and Electricity Bill [H.L.]; Belfast Water Bill [H.L.].—Reported, with Amendments 653

Maidstone Gas Bill.—Reported, without Amendment 654

South Staffordshire Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Select Committee, that the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition thereto having been withdrawn. Read, and ordered to lie on the Table; the Orders made on 23rd March and 28th April last discharged; and Bill committed 654

Great Eastern Railway Bill.—Read 2^a, and committed 654

Great Northern Railway Bill.—Read 2^a, and committed, the Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 654

Birmingham Corporation Bill [H.L.].—Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons 654

Hove, Worthing, and District Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 654

Midland Railway Bill; London, Brighton and South Coast Railway Bill [H.L.]; Bradford Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Willesden Urban District Council Bill [H.L.]; Mid Yorkshire Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Leave given to the Select Committee not to sit again till Monday next, at twelve o'clock ... 654

May 14.]

Wakefield and District Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee: That it is not expedient to proceed further with the Bill; read, and ordered to lie on the Table ... 654

Coal Mines (Certificates) Bill.—Brought from the Commons ... 654

Commercial Gas Bill.—Brought from the Commons; read 1^a, and referred to the Examiners ... 654

Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London) Bill [H.L.]; Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (East Ham, etc.) Bill [H.L.]; Pier and Harbour Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [H.L.].—Read 2^a [according to Order] ... 654

PETITIONS.

OUT-DOOR RELIEF (FRIENDLY SOCIETIES) BILL.—Petition against: of the Guardians of the Poor of the parish of Paddington; read, and ordered to lie on the Table ... 655

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).—Report of the Committee of Council on Education in Scotland; with Appendix, 1902–1903.

General Report, by the Chief Inspector of the Western Division of Scotland for the year 1902 ... 655

TRADE REPORTS—ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 2971. Bavaria (Nuremberg).
No. 2972. United States (New York).
No. 2973. Spain (Corunna).
No. 2974. Netherlands (Java).
No. 2975. China (Chinkiang).
No. 2976. France (Calais).
No. 2978. Germany (Pomerania).
No. 2979. France (Nantes). ... 655

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.—No. 589. Mining Industries and Forestry in Turkey ... 655

ARMY (SPECIAL PENSIONS).—Return for the year ended 31st March, 1903, of pensions specially granted to warrant officers and soldiers under Articles 730, 1173A, and 1207 of the Pay Warrant ... 655

EXPLOSIVES (EXPLOSION AT THE LOWWOOD GUNPOWDER COMPANY'S FACTORY AT LOWWOOD, NEAR ULVERSTON).—Report to the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Home Department, by Major A. Cooper-Key, His Majesty's Inspector of Explosives, on the circumstances attending an explosion which occurred in a press-house of the factory of the Lowwood Gunpowder Company at Lowwood, near Ulverston, Lancashire, on the 12th March, 1903. Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie upon the Table ... 655

NATIONAL DEBT ACT, 1883 (TERMINABLE ANNUITIES).—Treasury Warrant, dated 1st April, 1903, regulating the terminable annuity held on behalf of the Supreme Court of Judicature ... 656

RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION FACILITIES ACT, 1864.—Certificate of the Board of Trade authorising the construction of a railway across the Western Shore Road, Southampton, to form a connection between a siding of the London

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

May 14.]

lix
Page

and South-Western Railway and the Electric Generating Station belonging to the Corporation of Southampton.

Laid before the House [pursuant to Act], and ordered to lie on the Table 656

PORT OF LONDON BILL.—Message from the Commons, That they have come to the following resolution, to which they desire the concurrence of this House, viz : That it is expedient that the said Bill should be committed to a Joint Committee of both Houses : The said Message to be taken into consideration on Monday next 656

Justices of the Peace Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to amend the law relating to justices of the peace with respect to residence and the removal of ex officio justices was presented by the Lord Chancellor ; read 1^a ; and to be printed. (No. 68.) 656

Coal Mines (Certificates) Bill.—Read 1^a ; and to be printed. (No. 69). ... 656

Out-Door Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill.

The Earl of Northbrook 656

THE TRANSPORT SERVICE MEDAL.

Lord Muskerry 656

The First Lord of the Admiralty (The Earl of Selborne)... .. 662

Motion, by leave of the House, withdrawn

House adjourned at Five o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS : THURSDAY, 14TH MAY, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz :—

Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas) Bill.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time to-morrow 664

PRIVATE BILL PETITIONS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the Petition for the following Bill, originating in the Lords, the Standing Orders have not been complied with, viz :—

Kip's Patents Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders 664

Cork Harbour Bill (KING'S CONSENT SIGNIFIED).—Read the third time, and passed 665

May 14.]

Page

Coventry Electric Tramways Bill; Gorleston and Southtown Gas Bill; Hyde Corporation Bill; Nelson Corporation Bill; Seaforth and Sefton Junction Railway Bill.—Read the third time, and passed ... 655

Watford and Edgware Railway Bill.—As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time ... 655

Dundee Royal Lunatic Asylum Order Confirmation Bill.—Considered; to be read the third time upon Monday next ... 665

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 14).—Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Colne and Swansea and the South Staffordshire Joint Smallpox Hospital District, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Grant Lawson and Mr. Walter Long.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 14) Bill.—"To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Colne and Swansea and the South Staffordshire Joint Smallpox Hospital District," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 200.] ... 665

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 15).—Bill to confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board relating to Liverpool, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Grant Lawson and Mr. Walter Long.

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 15) Bill.—"To confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board relating to Liverpool," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 201.] ... 665

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill.—Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table. Bill to be read the third time To-morrow ... 665

Woolwich Borough Council Bill; South Yorkshire Joint Railways Bill; Baker Street and Waterloo Railway (Transfer) Bill; West Cumberland Electric Tramways Bill; Great Northern, Piccadilly, and Brompton Railway (Various Powers) Bill; Plymouth and Stonehouse Gas Bill [Lords].—Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed ... 666

RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP NO. 7).—Mr. SEALE-HAYNE reported from the Committee on Group No. 7 of Railway Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned until Tuesday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table ... 666

Thames River Steamboat Service Bill.—Reported [Preamble not proved]; Report to lie upon the Table ... 666

Thames Steamboat Trust Bill.—Reported [Preamble not proved]; Report to lie upon the Table ... 666

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to consolidate the existing loans of the Southampton Harbour Board and to empower them to raise further money; and to authorise contributions by and agreements with the London and South Western Railway Company and the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the borough of Southampton; and for other purposes." (Southampton Harbour Bill [Lords].) ... 666

May 14.]

Southampton Harbour Bill [LORDS].—Read the first time ; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills...	666
--	-----

PETITIONS.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE BILL .—Petition from Truro, against ; to lie upon the Table	666
---	-----

COAL MINES REGULATION BILL .—Petitions in favour : from Onllwyn ; Merthyr Lantwit ; Aberpergwm ; Garswood ; Gelly Ceidrim ; Emlyn ; Cwmteg ; Trimsaran ; Cawdor ; Wyndham ; Abram ; and Hephthorne Lane Collieries ; to lie upon the Table	666
--	-----

DETENTION OF POOR PERSONS (SCOTLAND) BILL .—Petition from Rafford, in favour ; to lie upon the Table	667
--	-----

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES (REPAYMENT OF LOANS) BILL .—Petition from Kensington, in favour ; to lie upon the Table	667
--	-----

LICENCES RENEWAL AND TRANSFER BILL .—Petitions against : from North Wales ; and London ; to lie upon the Table	667
--	-----

LICENSING LAW (COMPENSATION FOR NON-RENEWAL) BILL .—Petitions against : from Coupar Angus ; and Finsbury ; to lie upon the Table	667
--	-----

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL .—Petition from Hamilton, for alteration ; to lie upon the Table	667
---	-----

LONDON EDUCATION BILL .—Petition from Kensington, in favour ; to lie upon the Table	667
---	-----

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL .—Petitions in favour : from West Wylam ; Radcliffe and Pilkington ; Ashton-under-Lyne ; Leeds ; Holloway ; Doncaster ; Burnbank ; Willington Quay ; New Basford ; Walker ; Shrewsbury ; Tiverton ; Glasgow ; Chorley ; Withnell ; Failsworth ; Oldham ; Clay Cross ; Rhodes ; Cannock ; Hayfield ; Royton ; Brandon and Byshottles ; Tudhoe ; Mirfield ; Willington ; Pleasley ; North Shields ; Oxford ; Irthlingborough ; Kettering ; Townhill ; and Ashford ; to lie upon the Table... ..	667
--	-----

PUBLIC HOUSES (HOURS OF CLOSING) (SCOTLAND) BILL .—Petition from Greenock, in favour ; to lie upon the Table	667
--	-----

PUBLIC LIBRARIES .—Petition from Birmingham, for alteration of Law ; to lie upon the Table	667
--	-----

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SATURDAYS (IRELAND) BILL .—Petition from South Shields, in favour ; to lie upon the Table	668
---	-----

SHOPS (EARLY CLOSING) BILL .—Petition from St. Pancras, against ; to lie upon the Table	668
---	-----

TRADE DISPUTES BILL .—Petitions in favour : from Onllwyn ; Merthyr Lantwit ; Aberpergwm ; Garswood ; Gelly Ceidrim ; Emlyn ; Cawdor ; Cwmteg ; Pontardulais ; Rockingham No. 1 ; and Abram Collieries ; to lie upon the Table	668
---	-----

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EXPLOSIONS (LOWWOOD GUNPOWDER FACTORY, NEAR ULVERSTON) .—Copy of Report by Major A. Cooper-Key, His Majesty's Inspector of Explosives, to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, on the circumstances

attending an explosion which occurred in a press house of the Lowwood Gunpowder Company at Lowwood, near Ulverston, Lancashire, on the 12th March, 1903 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table	...	...	668
LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN SCOTLAND (TECHNICAL EDUCATION).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 8th July, 1902; <i>The Lord Advocate</i>]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 159.)			
...	...	...	668
GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS SECURITIES.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 1st April; <i>Mr. Hayes Fisher</i>]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 160.)			
...	...	...	668
RAILWAY (CERTIFICATES) (LONDON AND SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY).—Copy presented, of draft certificate of the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of a railway across the Western Shore Road, Southampton, to form a connection between a siding of the London and South Western Railway and the electric generating station belonging to the Corporation of Southampton [by Act]; to lie upon the Table			
...	...	...	668
INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND).—Copy presented, of Rules and Programme of Examinations for 1904 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 161.)			
...	...	...	669
TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2976 to 2978 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table			
..	...	...	669
<i>QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.</i>			
PRACTICE AMMUNITION FOR THE NAVY.—Question, Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster			
...	...	...	669
NATIVE LABOUR IN TRANSVAAL COAL MINES.—Question, Mr. Bryn Roberts (Carnarvonshire, Eifion); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain			
...	...	...	669
REPAIRS TO BOILERS OF H.M.S. "OCEAN."—Question, Mr. Harmsworth (Caithness-shire); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster			
..	...	...	670
NAVAL SHOOTING RETURNS—DEFECTIVE SIGHTS.—Question, Mr. Harmsworth; Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster			
...	...	...	671
"COUNTY" CLASS OF CRUISERS—SPEED TESTS.—Question, Mr. Harmsworth; Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster			
...	...	...	671
LICENSING PROSECUTIONS FOR OPENING DURING PROHIBITED HOURS.—Question, Sir Wilfrid Lawson (Cornwall, Cranborne); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas			
...	...	...	671
DESTRUCTION BY POLICE OF ANIMALS MORTALLY INJURED IN STREET ACCIDENTS.—Question, Sir Barrington Simeon (Southampton); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas			
...	...	...	672
"BLACK LIST"—CONSENT OF PERSONS PLACED THEREON.—Question, Mr. Brooké Robinson (Dudley); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas			
...	...	...	673
EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN BILL—DATE OF NEXT STAGE.—Question, Mr. Talbot (Oxford University); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas			
...	...	...	673
WAIMA INCIDENT—PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION.—Question, Mr. Brynmor Jones (Swansea District); Answer, Lord Cranborne			
...	...	...	674

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

lxiii
Page

May 14.]

SEA POLICE DUTIES OF H.M.S. "SEAMEW," "SPEEDWELL," AND "COCKCHAFFER." —Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster	674
SIR BHASHYAM AYYANGER.—Question, Mr. H. C. Richards (Finsbury, E.); Answer, Lord George Hamilton	675
ELECTIONS DECLARED VOID —ELIGIBILITY OF CANDIDATES FOR RE-ELECTION.— Question, Sir Christopher Furness (Hartlepool); Answer, Sir Robert Finlay	675
POSTAL FACILITIES AT BALLAHACOMANE, NEAR KILLARNEY.—Question, Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain	676
CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DUTIES ON BEER, SPIRITS AND TOBACCO.—Question, Sir Henry Fowler (Wolverhampton, E.); Answer, Mr. Ritchie	676
PENSIONS OF ABSTRACTOR CLERKS.—Question, Mr. Claude Hay (Shoreditch, Hoxton); Answer, Mr. Arthur Elliot	677
TRANSFER OF VOLUNTARY SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. Ellis Griffith (Anglesey); Answer, Sir William Anson	677
NEWPORT COUNTY COUNCIL'S EDUCATION SCHEME.—Question, Mr. D. A. Thomas (Merthyr Tydvil); Answer, Sir William Anson	677
SLIGO POLICE BARRACKS.—Question, Mr. H. C. Richards; Answer, Mr. Atkinson	678
POOR LAW SUPERANNUATION (IRELAND) BILL.—Question, Mr. O'Malley (Galway, Connemara); Answer, Mr. Atkinson	679
VALUATION OF LICENSED PREMISES IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answer, Mr. Atkinson	679
PAY OF VOLUNTEER AND MILITIA MEDICAL OFFICERS.—Question, Major Rasch (Essex, Chelmsford); Answer, Mr. Brodrick	680

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

21ST LANCERS—ALLEGED ILL-TREATMENT.—Questions, Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.); Answers, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford)	680
IRISH GARRISON—SUPPLY OF BRUSHES.—Question, Mr. Nannetti (Dublin, College Green); Answer, Mr. Brodrick	681
BELFAST BARRACKS CANTEEN ARRANGEMENTS.—Questions, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.), and Sir James Haslett (Belfast, N.); Answers, Mr. Brodrick	681
GUILD OF THE HOLY STANDARD.—Question, Mr. Sloan; Answer, Mr. Brodrick	682
THE MULLAH—TREATMENT OF A SPY.—Question, Mr. Bryn Roberts (Carnarvonshire, Eifion); Answer, Mr. Brodrick	682
GUNNERY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN FLEET.—Question, Mr. Harmsworth (Caithness-shire); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.)	683
CRETAN OPERATIONS.—Question, Mr. Harmsworth; Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster	683

<i>May 14.]</i>	<i>Page</i>
PRACTICE AMMUNITION FOR THE NAVY.—Questions, Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis); Answers, Mr. Arnold-Forster	684
GUNNERY EFFICIENCY IN THE NAVY.—Question, Mr. Gibson Bowles; Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster	685
COAL STORAGE.—Question, Mr. D. A. Thomas (Merthyr Tydvil); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster	686
BRITISH INDIAN SUBJECTS IN THE TRANSVAAL.—Question, Mr. Schwann (Manchester, N.); Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.)	686
COOLIES IN TRINIDAD GAOLS.—Question, Mr. Schwann; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain	687
RUSSIAN IMPORT DUTIES ON SCOTTISH CURED HERRINGS. — Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Lord Cranborne, Rochester)	687
MONASTIR MASSACRES.—Questions, Mr. William Redmond; Answers, Lord Cranborne	688
LIVERPOOL SMALLPOX OUTBREAK—ESCAPE OF PATIENT FROM FAZAKERLEY HOSPITAL.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.)	689
LIVERPOOL EMIGRANT LODGING HOUSES.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Walter Long	689
LOCAL RATE COLLECTIONS.—Question, Mr. Mansfield (Lincolnshire, Spalding); Answer, Mr. Walter Long	690
SCOTTISH INDUSTRIES AND THE ST. LOUIS EXHIBITION.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, The Solicitor-General for Scotland (Mr. Scott Dickson, Glasgow, Bridgton)	691
LOANS TO SCOTTISH FISHERMEN.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Scott Dickson	691
CIVIL CODE FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM.—Question, Sir John Leng (Dundee); Answer, The Attorney-General (Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs)	691
HOLYROOD PALACE.—Questions, Mr. Weir; Answers, Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes (Huntingdonshire, Ramsey)	692
ROTTEN ROW.—Questions, Mr. Gibson Bowles; Answers, Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes	692
EDUCATION BILL—HYDE PARK DEMONSTRATION.—Question, Sir George Bartley (Islington, N.); Answer, Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes	693
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT—RESIGNATION OF MR. SADLER.—Question, Mr. Emmott (Oldham); Answer, The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education (Sir William Anson, Oxford University)... ..	694
WEST HORSLEY NATIONAL SCHOOL.—Question, Mr. Mansfield; Answer, Sir William Anson	694
PUBLIC OFFICES (DUBLIN) BILL.—Questions, Mr. Mooney (Dublin County, S.); Answers, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Arthur Elliot, Durham)	695

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

lxv
Page

May 14]

CORK MODEL SCHOOLS.—Questions, Mr. Flynn (Cork Co., N.), Mr. John Redmond (Waterford), and Capt. Donelan (Cork Co., E.); Answers, The Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.)	695
DROMORE LABOURERS' COTTAGES.—Question, Mr. William McKillop (Sligo, N.); Answer, Mr. Atkinson	698
CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE (IRELAND) ACT —CONVICTED JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.—Questions, Mr. Mansfield and Mr. Delany (Queen's Co., Ossory); Answers, Mr. Atkinson	698
IRISH ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.—Question, Mr. O'Kelly (Mayo, N.); Answer, Mr. Atkinson	699
COMMISSION ON TRADE DISPUTES.—Questions, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean), Mr. Bell (Derby), Sir John Rolleston (Leicester), and Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.); Answers, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)	699
WHITSUNTIDE HOLIDAYS.—Question, Dr. Farquharson (Aberdeenshire, N.); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour	702
SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).	

Mr. HALSEY reported from the Committee of Selection that they had discharged the following Members from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures :—Mr. Solicitor-General for Scotland, Sir Frederick Wills, Colonel Long, Sir William Tomlinson, Sir William Mather, Mr. Burt, and Mr. Dillon; and had appointed in substitution: Sir Frederick Dixon-Hartland, Sir William Walrond, Colonel Denny, Mr. Cameron Corbett, Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Mr. Charles Douglas, and Mr. Black.

Mr. HALSEY further reported from the Committee: That they had added to the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures, the following fifteen Members in respect of the Licensing (Scotland) Acts Amendments and the Licensing Acts Consolidation (Scotland) Bills:—The Lord Advocate, Mr. Asher, Sir Andrew Agnew, Mr. Hunter Craig, Sir John Leng, Sir John Stirling-Maxwell, Mr. Munro Ferguson, Mr. Nicol, Sir Robert Reid, Mr. Parker Smith, Mr. Shaw Stewart, Mr. Solicitor-General for Scotland, Sir John Tuke, Mr. Ure, and Mr. Wallace.

Reports to lie upon the Table 702

SUPPLY [9TH ALLOTTED DAY.]

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

NAVY ESTIMATES, 1903-4.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £2,991,800, be granted to His Majesty to defray the expenses of the *personnel* for ship-building, repairs, maintenance, etc., including the cost of establishments of dockyards and naval yards at Home and Abroad which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904."

May 14.]

Page

<i>Mr. Edmund Robertson (Dundee)</i>	703
<i>Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean)</i>	711
<i>The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.)</i> ...	716
<i>Sir Robert Reid (Dumfries Burghs)</i>	722
<i>Sir John Colomb (Great Yarmouth)</i>	724
<i>Mr. Runciman (Dewsbury)</i>	725
<i>Mr. Winston Churchill (Oldham)</i>	727
<i>Mr. Lough (Islington, W.)</i>	730
<i>Sir Fortescue Flannery (Yorkshire, Shipley)</i>	735
<i>Sir William Allan (Gateshead)</i>	738
<i>Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis)</i>	739
<i>Mr. Munro Ferguson (Leith Burghs)</i>	741
<i>Mr. Arnold-Forster</i>	742
<i>Mr. Edmund Robertson</i>	745
<i>Mr. Kearley (Devonport)</i>	745
<i>Mr. Reginald Lucas (Portsmouth)</i>	746
<i>Mr. Crean (Cork, S.E.)</i>	748
<i>Mr. Flavin (Kerry, N.)</i>	749
<i>Mr. Kearley</i>	749
<i>The Civil Lord of the Admiralty (Mr. Pretyma, Suffolk, Woodbridge)</i> ...	750
<i>Mr. Kearley</i>	750
<i>Sir John Gorst (Cambridge University)</i>	752
<i>Mr. Reginald Lucas</i>	754
<i>Mr. Crean</i>	755

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item B be reduced by £200, in respect of Wages of Men."—(*Mr. Crean.*)

<i>Mr. Arnold-Forster</i>	755
<i>Capt. Donelan (Cork, E.)</i>	755
<i>Mr. Gilhooly (Cork Co., W.)</i>	756

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

<i>Mr. Pretyma</i>	756
---------------------------	-----

Original Question put, and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £4,786,700, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Expense of the *matériel* for Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, &c., including the cost of Establishments of Dockyards and Naval Yards at Home and Abroad, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904."

<i>Sir William Allan</i>	758
<i>Mr. Arnold-Forster</i>	763

And it being half-past seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolution to be reported to-morrow, Committee also report Progress; to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

Ulster and Connaught Light Railways Bill (BY ORDER)—[SECOND READING].—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

May 14.]

Debate arising.

<i>Mr. O'Dowd (Sligo, S.)</i>	764
<i>Mr. Carvill (Newry)</i>	764
<i>The Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.)</i> ...	764
<i>Mr. John Redmond (Waterford)</i>	764
<i>Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.)</i>	765
<i>Mr. O'Dowd</i>	765
<i>Mr. Carvill</i>	765
<i>Mr. Patrick O'Brien (Kilkenny)</i>	765

Motion made, and Question, "That the Debate be now adjourned."—(*Mr. Patrick O'Brien.*)

Put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed upon Thursday next (Evening Sitting).

SUPPLY [9th ALLOTTED DAY.]

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith), in the Chair.]

NAVY ESTIMATES, 1903-4.

£4,786,700, Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, etc.—*Matériel.*

<i>Mr. Arnold-Forster</i>	766
<i>Sir William Allan...</i>	771
<i>Sir John Colomb</i>	774
<i>Mr. Markham (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield)</i>	775
<i>Mr. Reginald Lucas</i>	775
<i>Mr. Kearley</i>	776
<i>Mr. Groves (Salford, S.)</i>	778
<i>Mr. Goddard (Ipswich)</i>	779
<i>Mr. Runciman</i>	780
<i>Mr. Duke (Plymouth)</i>	781
<i>Mr. Arnold-Forster</i>	782
<i>Mr. Gibson Bowles...</i>	787
<i>Sir William Allan...</i>	788
<i>Mr. Arnold-Forster</i>	789
<i>Mr. Crean</i>	789
<i>Sir Fortescue Flannery</i>	791
<i>Capt. Donelan</i>	792
<i>Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.)</i>	793
<i>Mr. Arnold-Forster</i>	796

Resolution to be reported upon Monday next ; Committee to sit again to-morrow.

ADJOURNMENT.—Motion made, and Question, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Sir Alexander Acland-Hood.*)

Put and agreed to.

Adjourned at ten minutes before Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: FRIDAY, 15TH MAY, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Jewish Colonisation Association Bill [H.L.].—Report from His Majesty's Attorney-General received, and ordered to lie on the Table...	797
South-Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments ...	797
Dudley, Stourbridge, and District Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments ...	797
Worthing Corporation Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments ...	797
Derby Gas Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition thereto having been withdrawn; read, and ordered to lie on the Table; The orders made on 23rd March last and 28th April last discharged; and Bill committed ...	797
Great Central Railway Bill .—Read 2 ^a , and committed; The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection ...	797
Sittingbourne District Gas Bill .—Read 2 ^a , and committed ...	797
Great Northern and City Railway Bill .—Read 3 ^a , and passed ...	797
Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill .—Brought from the Commons ...	797
Cork Harbour Bill ; Coventry Electric Tramways Bill; Gorleston and Southtown Gas Bill; Hyde Corporation Bill; Nelson Corporation Bill; Seaforth and Sefton Junction Railway Bill.—Brought from the Commons; read 1 ^a , and referred to the Examiners ...	797
Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill .—Read 1 ^a ; to be printed; and referred to the Examiners. (No. 73.)... ..	797

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON ACT, 1898.—Amendment of Section 113 of the Statutes of the University of London. Laid before the House [pursuant to Act], and to be printed. (No. 70)...	798
INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND).—Rules and programme of examinations for 1904.—Laid before the House [pursuant to Act], and ordered to lie on the Table...	798

NEW BILLS.

Ecclesiastical Commissioners Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to provide for the appointment of an additional Church Estates Commissioner—was presented by the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury; read 1 ^a ; to be printed; and to be read 2 ^a on Monday next. (No. 71.) ...	798
Union of Benefices Act, 1860, Amendment Bill [H.L.].—A Bill for extending the operation of and amending the Union of Benefices Act, 1860, and for the disposal of unnecessary chapels of ease—was presented by the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury; read 1 ^a ; to be printed; and to be read 2 ^a on Tuesday next. (No. 72.) ...	798

May 15.]

EDUCATION ACT, 1902.

<i>Lord Heneage</i>	798
<i>The President of the Board of Education (The Marquess of Londonderry)</i>	800

House adjourned at twenty minutes before Five o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: FRIDAY, 15TH MAY, 1903.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

London United Tramways Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 801

Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply Bill (KING'S CONSENT SIGNIFIED).
—Bill read the third time, and passed 801

New Hunstanton Improvement Bill (KING'S CONSENT SIGNIFIED).—Bill read the third time, and passed 801

Crystal Palace District Gas Bill; Ebbw Vale Water and Improvement Bill; Leigh Corporation Bill.—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 801

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 801

Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill.—Read a second time, and committed ... 801

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 16).—Bill to confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board relating to the counties of London and Surrey. Ordered to be brought in by Mr. Grant Lawson and Mr. Walter Long.

Local Government Provisional Order (No 16) Bill.—"To confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board relating to the counties of London and Surrey," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. (Bill 202.) 801

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have passed a Bill intituled, "An Act to empower the Corporation of Birmingham to work tramways and to construct an additional tramway; and to confer further powers on them in regard to streets, buildings, and sewers, and the health, local government, and improvement of the city; and for other purposes." (Birmingham Corporation Bill [Lords].) 802

Birmingham Corporation Bill [LORDS].—Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 802

RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP NO. 4).—MR. KEARLEY reported from the Committee on Group No. 4 of Railway Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, they had adjourned until Friday next, at Eleven of the clock.
Report to lie upon the Table 802

PETITIONS.

BURGH POLICE (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Borrowstounness, in favour ; to lie upon the Table	802
COAL MINES REGULATION BILL.—Petition from the Mining Association of Great Britain, against ; to lie upon the Table	802
COAL MINES REGULATION BILL.—Petitions in favour : from Bridgwater ; Bispham Hall ; George ; Nantmelyn ; British Rhonda ; Sutton Heath ; Dullas ; Aberdare ; Merthyr ; Hetty Shenkin ; Fforchaman ; Ammanford (No. 1) ; Scuborwen ; Cwmaman ; Padell y Bulch ; Bwlfa ; Darran ; Blaenant ; Treaman ; Blaengwawr ; Tunnel ; Aberaman ; Penlan ; Cwmneol ; Werfa ; New Watnall ; Rutherglen ; Underwood ; and Primrose Collieries ; to lie upon the Table	802
LICENSING LAW (COMPENSATION FOR NON-RENEWAL) BILL.—Petition from Southport, against ; to lie upon the Table	803
LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.—Petition from Kirkwall, for alteration ; to lie upon the Table	803
LONDON EDUCATION BILL.—Petition from Westminster, for alteration ; to lie upon the Table	803
MARRIAGE LAWS.—Petition from Rochester, for inquiry by a Royal Commission ; to lie upon the Table	803
PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL.—Petitions in favour : from Leadgate ; Sutton Mill ; Larkhall ; Eccles ; Reigate ; Normanton ; Windhill ; Slough ; Strathaven ; Epsom ; Cwmbran ; Stacksteads ; Hebden Bridge ; Chepstow ; Grantham ; St. Helens ; Bridgwater ; Ringley Kearsley ; Treecynon ; Stainland ; Brighouse ; Perth ; Grange Moor ; Ryhope ; Todmorden ; Oswaldtwistle ; Bury St. Edmunds ; Whitefield ; Lepton ; Brentwood ; Cwmnurla ; London ; Seaham Harbour ; Churchtown ; Haswell ; Compstall ; Great Rocks ; and Ellesmere ; to lie upon the Table	803
SALE OF ADULTERATED BUTTER BILL.—Petition from Kensington, for alteration ; to lie upon the Table	803
SHEEP SCAB BILL.—Petition from Cupar, in favour ; to lie upon the Table ...	803
SOLICITORS (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Haddington, in favour ; to lie upon the Table	803
TRADE DISPUTES BILL.—Petitions in favour : from Bridgwater ; Sutton Heath ; Ammanford (No. 1) ; and Penlan Collieries ; to lie upon the Table	804

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES).—Return presented, relative thereto (ordered 17th December, 1902— <i>Mr. Bryce</i>) ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 162.)	804
PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS WARNED.—Return presented, relative thereto (ordered 29th April— <i>Sir Francis Powell</i>) ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 163.)	804
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON ACT, 1898.—Copy presented, of Amendment of Section 113 of the Statutes of the University of London [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 164.)	804

May 15.]

ILLICIT DISTILLATION. —Return presented, relative thereto (ordered 31st March — <i>Mr. O'Mara</i>); to lie upon the Table	804
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE OBSERVATORY. —Copy presented, of Report of the Astronomer to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty for the year 1902 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table... ..	804
FLEETS (GREAT BRITAIN AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES). — Return presented, relative thereto (ordered 26th March— <i>Sir Charles Dilke</i>); to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 165.)	804
UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1909 (ORDINANCE). —Copy presented, of University Court Ordinance No. VIII. (Glasgow No. 3) (Foundation of Professorship of Geology, and for other purposes) [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 166.)	804
Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House :—	
BALGHCLERE (HANTS) CHARITY. —Return relative thereto (ordered 28th April — <i>Mr. Channing</i>).	805
EAST INDIA (LIABILITY FOR INCREASE IN BRITISH SOLDIERS' PAY).—Address for “Return of the correspondence between the Secretary of State for India, the Government of India and the War Office, with reference to the increase of pay of the British soldier; and the arbitration of the Lord Chief Justice as to the proportion of the cost of it that should fall upon India.”—(<i>Sir Charles Dilke</i>).	805

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

TRADE AND NAVIGATION ACCOUNTS, APRIL, 1903—EXPLANATION OF ITEMS.— Question, Col. Denny (Kilmarnock Burghs); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour	805
CALCUTTA CUSTOMS SERVICE — OVERTIME ALLOWANCES. — Question, Mr. Seymour King (Hull, Central); Answer, Lord George Hamilton	805
INSUFFICIENT ADDRESSES OF POSTAL PACKETS. — Question, Mr. M'Kenna (Monmouthshire, N.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain	806
IRELAND—REGISTRATION OF TITLES—SEARCHES. —Questions, Mr. O'Shaughnessy (Limerick, W.); Answers, Mr. Atkinson	807
Coal Mines Regulation Bill—[SECOND READING].— Order for Second Reading read.	

<i>Sir Charles Dilke</i> (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean)	808
• <i>Mr. William Abraham</i> (Glamorganshire, Rhondda)	818

Motion made, and Question proposed, “That the Bill be now read a second time.”

<i>Col. Pilkington</i> (Lancashire, Newton)	825
<i>Sir Thomas Wrightson</i> (St. Pancras, E.)	836

Amendment proposed—

“To leave out the word ‘now,’ and at the end of the Question to add the words ‘upon this day six months.’”—(*Colonel Pilkington*.)

Question proposed, “That the word ‘now’ stand part of the Question.”

<i>May 18.]</i>		<i>Page</i>
<i>Mr. Bayley (Derbyshire, Chesterfield)</i>	... ..	838
<i>Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil)</i>	... ..	839
<i>Col. Blundell (Lancashire, Ince)</i>	... ..	842
<i>Mr. John Wilson (Durham, Mid)</i>	... ..	843
<i>Sir Walter Foster (Derbyshire, Ilkeston)</i>	... ..	848
<i>The Under Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Cochrane, Ayrshire)</i>	... ..	852
Question put.		
The House divided :—Ayes, 144 ; Noes, 183. (Division List No. 84.)		
Words added.		
Main Question, as amended, put, and agreed to.		
* Second Reading put off for six months.		
Hall-Marking of Foreign Plate (No. 2) Bill —[SECOND READING].		
Objected to.		
Second Reading deferred till Monday next.		
British and Irish Meat Protection Bill —[SECOND READING].		
Objected to.		
Second Reading deferred till Monday next.		
Adjourned at twenty minutes before Six o'clock till Monday next.		
HOUSE OF LORDS: MONDAY, 18TH MAY, 1903.		
MILITARY MANŒUVRES ACT, 1897.—His Majesty's Answer to the Address of Monday last delivered by the Lord Steward (<i>E. Pembroke and Montgomery</i>), and read as follows : “ I have received your humble Address praying me to make the Order in Council under the Military Manœuvres Act, 1897. I will comply with your request.”	... ..	865
PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.		
The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with :—		
Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) [H.L.] ; Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2) [H.L.] ; Water Orders Confirmation [H.L.]		
And the Certificates that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with :—		
Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 1) ; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) ; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) ; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 4) ; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) ; Scarborough Gas ; Market Drayton Gas ; Commercial Gas.		
And the Certificate that no further Standing Orders are applicable to the following Bill :—		
Land Drainage Provisional Order.		
The same were ordered to lie on the Table	... ..	865
Manchester Corporation Bill [H.L.]—(Petition for additional Provision)	... ..	865
Gosport, Fareham, and Cosham Tramways Bill [H.L.]—(Petition for additional Provision)	... ..	865
Examiner's Certificates of non-compliance with the Standing Orders referred to the Standing Orders Committee on Tuesday the 26th instant...	... ..	865

May 18.]

Page

Bangor Corporation Bill [H.L.].—(Petition for additional Provision.) The order of Tuesday last referring the Examiner's Certificate of non-compliance with the Standing Orders to the Standing Orders Committee to-morrow discharged, and said Certificate referred to the Standing Orders Committee on Tuesday the 26th instant	866
London County Council (General Powers) Bill .—Read 2 ^a and committed; the Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection	866
Shepshed Urban District Gas Bill [H.L.].—Read 3 ^a ; Amendments made; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons	866
Belfast Water Bill [H.L.].—Read 3 ^a , and passed, and sent to the Commons	866
Stoke Newington Borough Council Bill .—Read 3 ^a , with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons	866
London United Tramways Bill ; Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply Bill; New Hunstanton Improvement Bill.—Brought from the Commons; read 1 ^a ; and referred to the Examiners	866
Hastings Tramways (Extension) Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments	866
Pontypridd Urban District Council Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments	866
Land Drainage Provisional Order Bill .—Read 2 ^a (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House to-morrow	866
<i>RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.</i>	
BOARD OF EDUCATION .—Papers relating to the resignation of the Director of Special Inquiries and Reports	866
CAPE COLONY (OBSERVATORY) .—Report of His Majesty's Astronomer at the Cape of Good Hope to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, for the year 1902	866
ARMY .—General Annual Return of the British Army for 1902. Return showing peace establishment and effective strength of the Troops at present in the United Kingdom belonging to the First, Second, Third, and Fourth Army Corps	867
TRADE REPORTS.	
• I. Annual Series—No. 2979. Russia (Batoum); No. 2980. Turkey (Trebizond); No. 2981. Turkey (Tripoli); No. 2982. Germany (Baden).	
II. Miscellaneous Series—No. 590. Persia (Trade and General Condition of the City and Province of Kermanshah)	867
SOUTH AFRICA .—Statement of the Estimated Financial Position of the Transvaal and Orange River Colony	867
MINES AND QUARRIES (GENERAL REPORT AND STATISTICS FOR 1902: PART I. DISTRICT STATISTICS) .—Statistics of the persons employed, output, and accidents at mines and quarries in the United Kingdom, arranged according to the inspection districts.	
Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table	867

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1889.

University Court Ordinance, No. VIII. (Glasgow, No. 3). Foundation of professorship of geology; and for other purposes. Laid before the House [pursuant to Act], and to be printed. (No. 74.) ... 867

UNIVERSITIES OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ACT, 1877.

Statutes made by the Governing Body of King's College, Cambridge, amending the statutes of the College.

Statutes made by the Governing Body of Trinity College, Cambridge, on 31st May, 1902, amending the statutes of the College.

Statutes made by the Governing Body of Wadham College, Oxford, on 6th February, 1903, amending Clause I. of Statute VI. of the College statutes.

Statutes made by the Governing Body of Exeter College, Oxford, on 12th December, 1902, amending Statutes III. and XV. of the statutes of the college.

Laid before the House [pursuant to Act], and to be printed. (No. 75.) 867

POLLING DISTRICTS.

(County of Lancaster.) Order made by the County Council of the County of Lancaster altering certain polling districts in the Lancaster and Newton Parliamentary Divisions.

(West Riding of the County of York.) Order made by the County Council of the West Riding of the county of York altering certain polling districts in the Elland and Shipley Parliamentary Divisions.

Laid before the House [pursuant to Act], and ordered to lie on the Table ... 868

NEW BILLS.

Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, Amendment Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to amend the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894—was presented by the Lord Muskerry; read 1^a; and to be printed. (No. 76.) ... 868

Polling Districts (County Councils) Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to make further provision with respect to the arrangement of Polling Districts for the election of County Councillors—was presented by the Lord Ribblesdale; read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a to-morrow. (No. 77.) ... 868

Betting Bill [H.L.].—[SECOND READING].—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Lord Davey ... 868

Moved, that the Bill be now read 2^a.—(*Lord Davey*.)

The Earl of Durham ... 883

The Earl of Harewood ... 892

Amendment moved,

“To leave out ‘now’ and add at the end of the Motion ‘this day six months.’”—(*The Earl of Durham*.)

May 18.]

Page

<i>The Lord Bishop of Hereford</i>	895
<i>Lord Newton</i>	900
<i>Lord Tweedmouth</i>	903
<i>The Earl of Derby</i>	905
<i>The Lord Chancellor (The Earl of Halsbury)</i>	905
<i>Earl Spencer</i>	906
<i>The Earl of Feversham</i>	908

On question, whether the word ("now") shall stand part of the Motion,

Their Lordships divided :—Contents, 39 ; Not-Contents, 48.

PROPOSED FISHERY BOARD.

<i>Lord Heneage</i>	909
<i>Earl Howe</i>	909

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Eight o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS : MONDAY, 18TH MAY, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz. :—

Baker Street and Waterloo Railway (Extension of Time) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time 909

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill ; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill ; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill ; Naval Works Provisional Order Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time to-morrow 909

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (NO STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz. :—

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill ; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11) Bill ; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill ; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time to-morrow 910

Watford and Edgware Railway Bill.—Read the third time, and passed ... 910

Gas Light and Coke Company Bill; Hampton Court Gas Bill; Lancashire and Yorkshire and London and North-Western Railways (Steam Vessels) Bill; Metropolitan District Railway (Various Powers) Bill; Midland and Belfast and Northern Counties Railways Bill; Stroud District and Cheltenham Tramways Bill. —As amended, considered; to be read the third time ... 910

Frinton-on-Sea Sea Defences Bill [LORDS]; Harrogate Water Bill [Lords]; Harrow and Stanmore Gas Bill [Lords]; Knott End Railway (Extension of Time) Bill [Lords]; Milford Docks Bill [Lords]; Pelican and British Empire Life Office Bill [Lords]; South Wales Mineral Railway Bill [Lords]; Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Bill [Lords]; Strabane and Letterkenny Railway Bill; Wellington (Salop) Gas Bill [Lords]; Wirral Railway Bill [Lords].—Read a second time, and committed ... 910

Dundee Royal Lunatic Asylum Order Confirmation Bill.—Read the third time, and passed ... 911

Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill.—Ordered, That William Harpur do attend the Committee on the Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill to-morrow, at half-past eleven of the clock ... 911

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP B).

Leave given to the Committee to make a Special Report.—(*Mr. Tennant.*)

Special Report brought up, and read.

Plymouth Corporation Bill.—Reported with Amendments.

Report and Special Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 174.) ... 911

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to—Great Northern and City Railway Bill, without Amendment ... 911

PETITIONS.

COAL MINES REGULATION BILL.—Petitions in favour: from Dillwyn; Pentremawr; Ibstock; Desford; Yniseedwyn; Ystradfawr; and Gurnos Collieries; to lie upon the Table ... 911

COUNTY COURTS JURISDICTION EXTENSION BILL.—Petitions in favour: from Wells; and Wigan; to lie upon the Table ... 911

GROCCERS' LICENCES (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Govan, in favour; to lie upon the Table ... 911

LICENCES RENEWAL AND TRANSFER BILL.—Petitions against: from Pocklington (two); Hammersmith; and Carlisle; to lie upon the Table ... 912

LICENSING LAW (COMPENSATION FOR NON-RENEWAL) BILL.—Petitions against: from Bainbridge; Hammersmith; Oldham; Pocklington (two); Kettering; and Carlisle; to lie upon the Table ... 912

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.—Petition from Peterhead; for alteration; to lie upon the Table ... 912

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.—Petition from Aberdeen, in favour; to lie upon the Table ... 912

OUTDOOR RELIEF (FRIENDLY SOCIETIES) BILL.—Petition from Govan, for extension of provisions to Scotland; to lie upon the Table	912
OUTDOOR RELIEF (PENSIONERS) BILL.—Petition from Govan, for extension of provisions to Scotland; to lie upon the Table	912
PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL.—Petitions in favour; from Langwith; Godalming; Buttershaw; Haywards Heath; Colechester; Paddock; Ipswich; Cleator Moor; Edenfield; Blackburn; Kirkby-in-Furness; Lower Holker; Newington Green; Keighley; Cross Roads; Dartford; Star Carn; St. Ives; Todmorden; Bridge End; Milnrow; Cambridge; Alcester; Stapleford; Ilkeston; Alston; Ramsgate; Beebles; Nuneaton; Chelmsford; Rochdale; Lincoln; Cramlington; Throckley; Perth; Barnsley; Bridlington; Cleckheaton; Birkenshaw; Fleetwood; and Fylde; to lie upon the Table	912
PUBLIC LIBRARIES.—Petitions for alteration of law: from Fenton; Wigan; Kettering; and Middleton; to lie upon the Table	912
RATING OF MACHINERY BILL.—Petitions against: from Darton; and Monk Bretton; to lie upon the Table	913
SALE OF ADULTERATED BUTTER BILL.—Petitions against; from Kington; and Leominster; to lie upon the Table	913
SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.—Petition from Ilford, in favour; to lie upon the Table.	913
TRADE DISPUTES BILL.—Petitions in favour: from Dillwyn; Ibstock; Pentremawr; Gurnos; and Yniscedwyn Collieries; to lie upon the Table	913

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ILLICIT DISTILLATION.—Return [presented 15th May] to be printed. (No. 167.)	913
BURGHCLERE (HANTS) CHARITY.—Return [presented 15th May] to be printed. (No. 168.)	913
ARMY.—Copy presented, of General Annual Return of the British Army for 1902 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table	913
ARMY.—Copy presented, of Return showing peace establishment and effective strength of the troops at present in the United Kingdom belonging to the First, Second, Third, and Fourth Army Corps [by Command]; to lie upon the Table	913
MINES AND QUARRIES.—Copy presented, of General Report and Statistics for the year 1902, Part I. (District Statistics) Statistics of the persons employed, output, and accidents at mines and quarries in the United Kingdom, arranged according to the inspection districts [by Command]; to lie upon the Table	913
POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY OF LANCASTER).—Copy presented, of Order made by the County Council of the County of Lancaster altering certain polling districts in the Lancaster and Newton Parliamentary Divisions [by Act]; to lie upon the Table	913
POLLING DISTRICTS (WEST RIDING OF THE COUNTY OF YORK).—Copy presented, of Order made by the County Council of the West Riding of the County of York altering certain polling districts in the Elland and Shipley Parliamentary Divisions [by Act]; to lie upon the Table	914

May 18.]

Page

BOARD OF EDUCATION.—Copy presented, of Papers relating to the resignation of the Director of Special Inquiries and Reports [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table 914

UNIVERSITIES OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ACT, 1877 (OXFORD).—Copy presented, of Statute made by the governing body of Wadham College, Oxford, on 6th February, 1903, amending Clause 1 of Statute VI. of the Statutes of the College [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 169.) 914

UNIVERSITIES OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ACT, 1877 (OXFORD).—Copy presented, of Statute made by the governing body of Exeter College, Oxford, on 12th December, 1902, amending Statutes III. and XV. of the Statutes of the College [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 170.) 914

UNIVERSITIES OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ACT, 1877 (CAMBRIDGE).—Copy presented, of Statutes made by the governing body of King's College, Cambridge, on 19th December, 1902, amending the College Statutes [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 171.) 914

UNIVERSITIES OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ACT, 1877 (CAMBRIDGE).—Copy presented, of Statutes made by the governing body of Trinity College, Cambridge, on 31st May, 1902, amending the Statutes of the College [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 172.) 914

SOUTH AFRICA.—Copy presented, of Statement of the Estimated Financial Position of the Transvaal and Orange River Colony [by Command]; to lie upon the Table... .. 915

EVICTED FARMS (IRELAND).—Return ordered, “showing how farms from which tenants were evicted on certain specified estates since the first day of May, 1879, were occupied (1) at the time of the Inquiry of Evicted Tenants Commission; and (2) on the 1st day of May, 1903.”—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)
Return presented accordingly ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 173) 915

ARRESTS FOR DRUNKENNESS (IRELAND).—Return ordered, “giving the number of arrests for drunkenness within the Metropolitan Police District of Dublin, and the cities of Belfast, Cork, Limerick, and Waterford, on Sundays between the 1st day of May, 1902, and the 30th day of April, 1903, both days inclusive, the arrests being given from 8 a.m. on Sundays till 8 a.m. on Mondays.

“And, similar Returns for the rest of Ireland from the 1st day of May, 1902, to the 30th day of April, 1903 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 233, of Session 1902”).—(*Mr. Sloan.*) 915

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

COST OF PUBLIC VACCINATION.—Question, Sir Thomas Roe (Derby) ; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 915

ABOLITION OF OFFICES—COMPENSATION.—Question, Sir Thomas Roe; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 916

ADULTERATED WHISKY.—Question, Sir Edward Strachey (Somersetshire, E.) ; Answer, Mr. Ritchie 916

APPLICATIONS FOR GUARANTEED TRANSVAAL LOAN.—Question, Mr. Cohen (Islington, E.) ; Answer, Mr. Ritchie 916

May 18.]

MONEY ORDER SYSTEM WITH THE COLONIES AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES.— Question, Mr. Henniker Heaton (Canterbury) ; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain	917
GREEK CURRANT MONOPOLY.—Question, Mr. Charles McArthur (Liverpool, Exchange) ; Answer, Lord Cranborne	917
TYPHOID AND OYSTERS SUGGESTED BOARD OF TRADE INSPECTION.—Question, Mr. Seymour Ormsby-Gore (Lincolnshire, Gainsborough) ; Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour	918
BOARD OF EDUCATION AND LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITIES.—Question, Mr. D. A. Thomas (Merthyr Tydvil) ; Answer, Sir William Anson	918
IRELAND—TRANSFER OF SERGEANT MALONEY.—Question, Mr. William Red- mond (Clare, E.) ; Answer, Mr. Wyndham	919
SOUTH AFRICA—TRANSPORT OF TROOPS.—Question, Mr. Flower (Bradford, W.) ; Answer, Mr. Brodrick	919
SURVEY OF SOMALILAND.—Question, Col. Sadler (Middlesborough) ; Answer, Mr. Brodrick	919
MILITARY MANŒUVRING GROUND—OLD DEAN COMMON.—Question, Col. Wyndham-Quin (Glamorganshire, Mid) ; Answer, Mr. Brodrick... ..	920
HORSES FOR 125TH, 126TH, AND 127TH FIELD BATTERIES.—Question, Mr. Arthur Lee (Hampshire, Fareham) ; Answer, Mr. Brodrick	920
SCARLET FEVER AT THE DUKE OF YORK'S SCHOOL.—Question, Mr. Whitley Thomson (Yorkshire, W. R., Skipton) ; Answer, Mr. Brodrick	921

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

SOMALILAND OPERATIONS.—Questions, Mr. Bryn Roberts (Carnarvonshire, Eifion), Mr. Fuller (Wiltshire, Westbury), Mr. Arthur Lee (Hampshire, Fareham), and Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.) ; Answers, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford)... ..	921
LOANS TO NAVAL AND MILITARY EXHIBITIONS.—Questions, Capt. Norton (Newington, W.) ; Answers, Mr. Brodrick	924
NAVAL GUNNERY.—Question, Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis) ; Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.)	925
FINANCES OF BURMAH.—Question, Mr. Schwann (Manchester, N.) ; Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Lord George Hamilton, Middlesex, Ealing)	925
SINKING FUND AND TRANSVAAL LOAN.—Question, Mr. Claude Hay (Shoreditch, Hoxton) ; Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Ritchie, Croydon)	926
REGISTRATION OF CLUBS.—Question, Mr. Herbert Roberts (Denbighshire, W.) ; Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Akers Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's)	926
MR. WHITAKER WRIGHT.—Question, Mr. Lambert (Devonshire, South Molton) ; Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas	926
LICENCES RETURN.—Question, Mr. J. H. Lewis (Flint Boroughs) ; Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Arthur Elliot, Durham)... ..	927

May 18.]

Page

LIGHT RAILWAYS IN ENGLAND.—Question, Mr. Seymour Ormsby-Gore (Lincolnshire, Gainsborough) ; Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central)	927
BOARD OF TRADE APPOINTMENTS.—Question, Mr. William Redmond ; Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour	927
MANCHESTER LICENSING COMMITTEE.—Questions, Mr. Whittaker (Yorkshire, W.R., Spen Valley) ; Answers, The Attorney-General (Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs)	928
EDUCATION COMMITTEES AND THE PRESS.—Questions, Mr. Trevelyan (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland) ; Answers, The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education (Sir William Anson, Oxford University)	929
RATES FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. J. H. Lewis ; Answer, Sir William Anson	930
VOLUNTARY SCHOOLS AID GRANT.—Questions, Mr. Lambert ; Answers, Sir William Anson	930
TRINITY COLLEGE LEASES.—Questions, Mr. Lonsdale (Armagh, Mid) ; Answers, The Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.) ...	931
CASTLEBLANEY LICENCE TRANSFER.—Question, Mr. Clancy (Dublin County, N.) ; Answer, Mr. Ritchie	932
IRELAND'S EQUIVALENT GRANT.—Question, Mr. William Redmond ; Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover)	933
AMERICAN BUTTER SOLD AS IRISH.—Questions, Mr. Joyce (Limerick) and Mr. Flavin (Kerry, N.) ; Answers, Mr. Wyndham	933
IRISH BETTING OFFICES.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.) ; Answer, Mr. Wyndham	934
CORK MODEL SCHOOLS.—Questions, Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien (Cork), Mr. Flynn (Cork Co., N.), and Mr. Sloan ; Answers, Mr. Wyndham	934
BALLYDUFF MAILS.—Questions, Mr. Flavin ; Answers, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.)	935
CHURCH DISCIPLINE BILL.—Questions, Mr. Austin Taylor (Liverpool, East Toxteth) ; Answers, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)	936
COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL EXPENDITURE.—Questions, Mr. Winston Churchill (Oldham) ; Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour	936
"PASSIVE RESISTANCE" TO THE EDUCATION RATE.—Question, Mr. Trevelyan (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland) ; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour	937
PRESERVATION OF HISTORICAL BUILDINGS.—Questions, Mr. Yoxall (Nottingham, W.) ; Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour	937
SHIPPING COMBINE AGREEMENT.—Questions, Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis) ; Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour	938
THE SHIPBUILDING VOTE.—Questions, Mr. Lough (Islington, W.) ; Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour	939

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

lxxx

May 18.]

Page

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.—Question, Mr. Schwann ; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour	940
---	-----

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Questions, Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.), Mr. Gibson Bowles, Sir Henry Fowler (Wolverhampton, E.), and Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) ; Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour	940
--	-----

NEW MEMBER SWORN.—JOHN KERR, Esquire, for the Borough of Preston ...	941
--	-----

London Education Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton (Tower Hamlets, Poplar)</i>	942
---	-----

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Clause 1 be postponed."—
(*Mr. Sydney Buxton.*)

<i>Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.)</i>	944
<i>Mr. Lloyd-George (Carnarvon Boroughs)</i>	947
<i>The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education (Sir William Anson, Oxford University)</i>	947
<i>Mr. Lloyd-George</i>	948
<i>Mr. Flower (Bradford, W.)</i>	949
<i>Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.)</i>	950
<i>The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.)</i>	951
<i>Mr. McKenna (Monmouthshire, N.)</i>	952
<i>Sir George Bartley (Islington, N.)</i>	953
<i>Mr. Whitley (Halifax)</i>	954
<i>Mr. Yoxall (Nottingham, W.)</i>	955

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 87 ; Noes, 194. Division List No. 85.)

Clause 1 :—

<i>Mr. McKenna</i>	960
---------------------------	-----

Amendment proposed—

"In Clause 1, page 1, line 5, at beginning insert, 'Parts I., II., and IV. of.'"—(*Mr. McKenna.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

• <i>Sir William Anson</i>	962
<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i>	963
<i>Mr. Alfred Hutton (Yorkshire, W.R., Morley)</i>	964
<i>Dr. Macnamara</i>	965
<i>Mr. Claude Lowther (Cumberland, Eskdale)</i>	968
<i>Mr. Samuel Evans (Glamorganshire, Mid)</i>	969
<i>Mr. Trevelyan (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland)</i>	970
<i>Mr. Wallace (Perth)</i>	972
<i>Mr. Lough (Islington, W.)</i>	973
<i>Mr. Bryce</i>	974
<i>Mr. Yoxall</i>	975
<i>Mr. George White (Norfolk, N.W.)</i>	976
<i>Mr. Courtenay Warner (Staffordshire, Lichfield)</i>	977
<i>Mr. Tritton (Lambeth, Norwood)</i>	978

May 18.]

Page

Question put :—

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 100 ; Noes, 239. (Division List No. 86.)

<i>Mr. Lough</i>	981
---------------------------	-----

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 5, after the word ‘The,’ to insert the words ‘School Board and County Council for London may pass resolutions asking that the.’”—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

<i>Sir William Anson</i>	983
<i>Mr. McKenna</i>	984
<i>Captain Jessel (St. Pancras, S.)</i>	986
<i>Mr. George White</i>	987
<i>Mr. Brynmor Jones (Swansea District)</i>	988
<i>Mr. Burdett-Coutts (Westminster)</i>	989
<i>Mr. Whitley</i>	990
<i>Mr. Cremer (Shoreditch, Haggerston)</i>	991
<i>Mr. Corrie Grant (Warwickshire, Rugby)</i>	993

Question put.

Committee divided :—Ayes, 109 ; Noes, 242. (Division List No. 87.)

<i>Dr. Macnamara</i>	997
-------------------------------	-----

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 6, after the word ‘shall,’ to insert the words ‘except as to the constitution of the local education authority for the administrative county of London.’”—(*Dr. Macnamara.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

<i>Sir William Anson</i>	1003
<i>Mr. George Whiteley (Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey)</i>	1005

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress.

To sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

London Education Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 1 :—

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 6, after the word ‘shall,’ to insert the words ‘except as to the constitution of the local education authority for the administrative county of London.’”—(*Dr. Macnamara.*)

May 19.]

Question again proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

<i>Mr. George Whiteley</i>	1006
<i>Mr. Harry Samuel (Tower Hamlets, Limehouse)</i>	1008
<i>Sir Walter Foster (Derbyshire, Ilkeston)</i>	1010
<i>Mr. Kimber (Wandsworth)</i>	1012
<i>Mr. Crooks (Woolwich)</i>	1016
<i>Mr. Middlemore (Birmingham, N.)</i>	1017
<i>Mr. Yoxall</i>	1019
<i>Sir John Gorst (Cambridge University)</i>	1021
<i>Mr. McKenna</i>	1023
<i>Mr. Cripps (Lancashire, Stretford)</i>	1024
<i>Mr. Bryce</i>	1027
<i>Mr. Walter Long</i>	1029
<i>Mr. George White (Norfolk, N.W.)</i>	1035
<i>Mr. T. P. O'Connor (Liverpool, Scotland)</i>	1037
<i>Mr. Lough (Islington, W.)</i>	1039

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report progress; and ask leave to sit again."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

<i>Mr. Walter Long</i>	1041
-------------------------------	------

Motion by leave, withdrawn.

Question again proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 105; Noes, 201. (Division List No. 88.)

And, it being after Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again to-morrow.

Addenbrook's Hospital Bill. —Read a second time, and committed for this day	1043
---	------

MILITARY MANŒUVRES (ORDER IN COUNCIL).—Resolved, That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty, praying His Majesty to make the Order in Council under the Military Manœuvres Act, 1897, a draft of which was presented to this House on the 17th day of February last.—(*Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*)

To be presented by Privy Councillors and Members of His Majesty's Household	1043
--	------

Adjourned at thirteen minutes after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: TUESDAY, 19TH MAY, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with :—

Hyde Corporation; Nelson Corporation; Cork Harbour.

And also the Certificate that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have not been complied with:—

Coventry Electric Tramways.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table 1045

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.—Report from, That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Petition for a Bill by Frederick Ellsworth Kip ought to be dispensed with, and leave given to introduce the Bill; read and agreed to 1045

Coventry Electric Tramways Bill.—Examiner's Certificate of non-compliance with the Standing Orders referred to the Standing Orders Committee on Tuesday next 1045

Dewsbury, Batley, and Birstall Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 1045

Bournemouth Corporation Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Jewish Colonisation Association Bill [H.L.]—Reported, with Amendments 1045

South Lancashire Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 1045

Scunthorpe Urban District Water Bill [H.L.]; Hove, Worthing, and District Tramways Bill [H.L.]—Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons 1045

Maidstone Gas Bill.—Read 3^a, and passed 1046

Somerset and District Electric Power Bill [H.L.].—The consent of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales signified; Bill read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons 1046

Dudley, Stourbridge, and District Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Read 3^a, and passed, sent to the Commons 1046

East Ardsley Gas Bill.—Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons 1046

Watford and Edgware Railway Bill.—Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; and referred to the Examiners 1046

Midland Railway Bill.—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 1046

St. Luke's Church and Parish Quoad Sacra Edinburgh Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to confirm a Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to St. Luke's Church and Parish Quoad Sacra, Edinburgh—was presented by the Lord Balfour; read 1^a; to be printed; and (pursuant to the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, Section 7), deemed to have been read 2^a; and reported from the Committee. (No. 79.) 1046

Dundee Royal Lunatic Asylum Order Confirmation Bill.—Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; to be printed, and (pursuant to the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899), deemed to have been read 2^a—(*The Lord Balfour*), and reported from the Committee. (No. 80.) ... 1046

PETITIONS.

MARRIAGE LAWS.—Petition for appointment of Royal Commission on; of the Diocesan Conference of Rochester; read, and ordered to lie on the Table... 1046

May 19.]

SHOPS (EARLY CLOSING) BILL [H.L.].—Petition in favour of; of the Ruridecanal Conference of North Meols; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 1047

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

NAVY (HYDROGRAPHER'S REPORT).—Report on Admiralty Surveys, for the year 1902, by the Hydrographer 1047

AUSTRALIA.—Correspondence respecting the Constitutional Relations of the Australian Commonwealth and States in regard to external affairs... .. 1047

COLONIAL CONFERENCE, 1902.—Memorandum on Sea Power, and the Principles involved in it 1047

AFRICA, No. 4 (1903).—Report from His Majesty's Commissioner for British Central Africa respecting the Anglo-Congolese Frontier in the neighbourhood of Lake Mweru, and the circumstances attending the arrest of the late M. Rabinek.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 1047

NEW BILL.

Polling Arrangements (Parliamentary Boroughs) Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to amend the law relating to the arrangement of polling districts in Parliamentary boroughs—was presented by the Lord Ribblesdale; read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a on Friday next. (No. 78.) 1047

Electric Lighting (London) Bill [H.L.].—The CHAIRMAN of COMMITTEES informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The order made on the 26th of March last discharged, and Bill committed for Thursday next 1047

Land Drainage Provisional Order Bill.—House in Committee (according to Order). Bill reported without Amendment. Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3^a on Friday next 1047

Prevention of Cruelty to Children (Amendment) Bill [H.L.].—Order of the day read for the House going into Committee.

Lord Alverstone 1048

House in Committee (according to Order).

Amendments proposed by the Select Committee made and Bill recommitted to the Standing Committee.

Musical Copyright Bill [H.L.].—[SECOND READING].—Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

The Earl of Lytton 1048

Moved, That the Bill be now read 2^a.—(*The Earl of Lytton.*)

The Lord Chancellor (The Earl of Halsbury) 1051

On Question, Bill read 2^a (according to Order) and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

Union of Benefices Act, 1860, Amendment Bill [H.L.] — [SECOND READING].—Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

<i>The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury</i>	1052
---	------

Bill read 2^a (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Friday next.

Ecclesiastical Commissioners Bill [H.L.]—[SECOND READING].—Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

<i>The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury</i>	1052
---	------

Bill read 2^a (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Friday next.

THE REGULATION OF MOTOR CAR TRAFFIC.

<i>The Earl of Wemyss</i>	1054
<i>The Marquess of Granby</i>	1057
<i>The Secretary for Scotland (Lord Balfour of Burleigh)</i>	1059
<i>The Earl of Camperdown</i>	1061
<i>Lord Balfour of Burleigh</i>	1062

FOREIGN WARSHIPS IN BRITISH HARBOURS.

<i>The Earl of Crewe</i>	1063
---------------------------------	------

Moved, "That there be laid before the House Papers relating to the regulations and restrictions under which the ships of war of Foreign Powers are admitted to British and Colonial Harbours and coaling stations; and the conditions under which British ships of war are admitted to the harbours and coaling stations of Foreign Powers."—*(The Earl of Crewe.)*

<i>The First Lord of the Admiralty (The Earl of Selborne)</i>	1069
--	------

Motion, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Port of London Bill.—Commons message considered (according to Order).

Moved, "That this House do concur in the following Resolution communicated by the Commons, viz., 'That it is expedient that the Port of London Bill be committed to a Joint Committee of both Houses.'"—*(The Duke of Devonshire.)*

<i>Lord Tweedmouth</i>	1074
<i>The Chairman of Committees (The Earl of Morley)</i>	1075

On Question, Motion agreed to.

And a Message ordered to be sent to the Commons to acquaint them therewith.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Seven o'clock, to Friday next, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: TUESDAY, 19TH MAY, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

London Education Bill.—Petition of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of London, in Common Council assembled, presented by the Sheriffs at the Bar, for alteration of the Bill; to lie upon the Table 1078

May 19.

Page

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz. :—

Rickmansworth Gas Bill [Lords]; Sutton Coldfield Corporation Bill [Lords]; Birmingham Corporation Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time 1078

Crystal Palace District Gas Bill; Ebbw Vale Water and Improvement Bill; Leigh Corporation Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 1078

Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Bill [BY ORDER].—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 1079

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11) Bill; Naval Works Provisional Order Bill.—Read a second time, and committed 1079

BROUGHTY FERRY GAS PROVISIONAL ORDER.—Bill to confirm a Provisional Order, under The Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892, relating to Broughty Ferry Gas Supply, ordered to be brought in by the Lord Advocate and Mr. Solicitor-General for Scotland 1079

Broughty Ferry Gas Provisional Order Bill.—"To confirm a Provisional Order, under The Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892, relating to Broughty Ferry Gas Supply," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. (Bill 203.) 1079

Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway Bill; Mullingar, Kells, and Drogheda Railway Bill.—Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1079

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).—Mr. HALSEY reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures: Mr. Wallace (added in respect of the Licensing (Scotland) Acts Amendment and the Licensing Acts Consolidation (Scotland) Bills); and had appointed in substitution: Mr. George Brown.
Report to lie upon the Table 1079

Beckenham Urban District Council Bill.—Reported, from the Police and Sanitary Committee, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1079

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to—Stoke Newington Borough Council Bill, with Amendments.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to provide for the transfer of the undertaking of the Shepshed Gas and Coke Company, Limited, to the Shepshed Urban District Council; and to confer further

powers on the said Council with respect to the supply of gas ; and for other purposes." (Shepshed Urban District Gas Bill [Lords].)

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confer further powers on the Belfast City and District Water Commissioners." (Belfast Water Bill [Lords].) 1080

Shepshed Urban District Gas Bill [LORDS] ; Belfast Water Bill [Lords].—
Read the first time ; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 1080

PETITIONS.

BANKRUPTCY LAW AMENDMENT BILL.—Petition from Walsall, in favour ; to lie upon the Table... .. 1080

CHURCH DISCIPLINE BILL.—Petitions against : from Brighton ; and Tamworth ; to lie upon the Table 1080

COAL MINES REGULATION BILL.—Petitions in favour : from Ebbw Vale ; New Tredegar ; Cwm Avon ; Turton Moor ; and Llanelly ; to lie upon the Table 1080

COUNTY COURTS BILL.—Petition from Walsall, in favour ; to lie upon the Table 1080

COUNTY COURTS JURISDICTION EXTENSION BILL.—Petition from Stoke-upon-Trent, in favour ; to lie upon the Table 1080

DETENTION OF POOR PERSONS (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Lochbroom, in favour ; to lie upon the Table 1080

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN BILL.—Petition from Walsall, in favour ; to lie upon the Table 1081

LICENCES RENEWAL AND TRANSFER BILL.—Petition from Battersea, against ; to lie upon the Table 1081

LICENSING LAW (COMPENSATION FOR NON-RENEWAL) BILL.—Petition from Battersea, against ; to lie upon the Table 1081

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.—Petitions for alteration : from Lybster ; Kirkwall ; Camelon ; and Keith ; to lie upon the Table 1081

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL VETO (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Govan, in favour ; to lie upon the Table 1081

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FRANCHISE AND REPRESENTATION (EXTENSION TO COMPANIES) BILL.—Petition from Walsall, in favour ; to lie upon the Table 1081

LONDON EDUCATION BILL.—Petition from Bermondsey, in favour ; to lie upon the Table 1081

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.—Petitions against : from Elham ; Marston ; Brighton ; and Tamworth ; to lie upon the Table ... 1081

PORT OF LONDON BILL.—Petition from Battersea, for alteration ; to lie upon the Table 1081

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL.—Petitions in favour : from Birkenhead ; Arbroath (three) ; Parkstone ; Port Sunlight ; Grahamstown and Bainsford ; Hamilton ; Apperley Bridge ; Rathby ; Overtown ; Cambuslang ; Rhodes ; Airedale ; Bath, Runcorn ; Winsford ; Worksop ; Darwen ;

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

lxxxix

May 19.]

Page

Glespin; Oxford; Bristol; Kinning Park; Howick; Woolwich; Backbarrow; Walsall; Brandsby; Leavenseat; Stockton; Sowerby Bridge; and Paisley (two); to lie upon the Table ... 1081

PUBLIC LIBRARIES.—Petitions for alteration of Law: from Runcorn; Bodmin; and Stoke-upon-Trent; to lie upon the Table ... 1082

RAILWAYS (PRIVATE SIDINGS) BILL.—Petition from Walsall, in favour; to lie upon the Table ... 1082

RATING OF MACHINERY BILL.—Petition from Walsall, in favour; to lie upon the Table ... 1082

REGISTRATION OF FIRMS BILL.—Petition from Walsall, in favour; to lie upon the Table ... 1082

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.—Petition from Camberwell, in favour; to lie upon the Table ... 1082

TRADE DISPUTES BILL.—Petitions in favour: from Cwm Avon; New Tredegar; Turton Moor; and Llanelly; to lie upon the Table ... 1082

TRADE UNIONS AND TRADE DISPUTES BILL.—Petition from Battersea, in favour; to lie upon the Table ... 1082

WAGES BOARDS BILL.—Petition from Walsall, in favour; to lie upon the Table ... 1082

WOMEN'S DISABILITIES (REMOVAL) BILL.—Petition from Battersea, in favour; to lie upon the Table ... 1082

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

AFRICA (No. 4, 1903).—Copy presented, of Report from His Majesty's Commissioner for British Central Africa respecting the Anglo-Congolese Frontier, in the neighbourhood of Lake Mweru, and the circumstances attending the arrest of the late M. Rabinek [by Command]; to lie upon the Table ... 1082

TRADE REPORTS (MISCELLANEOUS SERIES).—Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Miscellaneous Series, No. 590 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table ... 1082

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2979 to 2982 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table ... 1083

AUSTRALIA.—Copy presented, of Correspondence respecting the Constitutional Relations of the Australian Commonwealth and States in regard to external affairs [by Command]; to lie upon the Table ... 1083

COLONIAL CONFERENCE, 1902.—Copy presented, of Memorandum on Sea Power and the Principles involved in it [by Command]; to lie upon the Table ... 1083

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 7) BILL.—Copy ordered, "of Memorandum stating the nature of the proposals contained in the Provisional Orders included in the Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill."—(*Mr. Bonar Law.*) ... 1083

May 19.]

Page

LAND REGISTRY.—Return ordered, “showing the work done in the Land Registry under the various Acts hereinafter mentioned, namely :—

“1. Under the Land Transfer Acts, 1875 and 1897 :—(a) The number, value, and acreage (where known) of estates the titles to which were registered, on first registration, from the first day of January, 1902, to the 31st day of December, 1902, showing the numbers of estates registered with absolute, qualified, and possessory title, and leaseholds ; and also the number of estates registered under The Small Holdings Act, 1892 ; (b) The total number of separate titles on the register on the 31st day of December, 1902 (i.) by first registration, (ii.) by sub-division of estates already registered, and (iii.) by transfer from the 1862 register ; (c) The total number of separate titles which have been removed from the register on the 31st day of December, 1902.

“2. Under the Land Registry Act, 1862 :—(a) The total number, value, and acreage (where known) of estates the titles to which were registered on first registration ; (b) The total number of separate titles on the register on the 31st day of December, 1902 (i.) by first registration, and (ii.) by sub-division of estates already registered ; (c) The total number of separate titles which had been removed from the register on the 31st day of December, 1902, otherwise than by transfer to the 1875 register.

“3. Under both the Acts of 1875 and 1862 :—(a) The total number of separate titles on the register on the 31st day of December, 1902 ; (b) The total number of transactions registered from the 1st day of January, 1902, to the 31st day of December, 1902, showing the numbers of (i.) first registrations under the Acts of 1875 and 1897, (ii.) conveyances, transfers, and transmissions of land, (iii.) mortgages, charges, further charges, and transfers of mortgages and charges, (iv.) reconveyances of mortgages and cessation of charges, (v.) leases and surrenders of leases, (vi.) miscellaneous.

“4. Under the Mortgage Debenture Acts, 1865 and 1870, and the Improvement of Land Act, 1864 : A statement so far as may be practicable of the nature and amount of the work done under these Acts from the 1st day of January, 1902, to the 31st day of December, 1902.

“5. Under The Land Charges Registration and Searches Act, 1888, and The Land Charges Act, 1900 :—The number of registrations, official searches, and ordinary searches made from the 1st day of January, 1902, to the 31st day of December, 1902.

“6. Under the Middlesex Registry Act, 1708, and The Land Registry (Middlesex Deeds) Act, 1891 :—The number of registrations and searches made from the 1st day of January, 1902, to the 31st day of December, 1902.

“And showing the amount of fees received and the amount of salaries and expenses in the Land Registry from the 1st day of April, 1902, to the 31st day of March, 1903, distinguishing, for the purposes of Section 22 of The Land Transfer Act, 1897, the fees received and salaries and expenses paid under the Land Transfer Acts and the other Acts above referred to (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 304, of Session 1902).”—(*Mr. Henry David Greene.*) 1083

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

STATUE OF JAMES II. AT GWYDYR HOUSE.—Question, Mr. Bayley (Derbyshire, Chesterfield) ; Answer, Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes 1085

VACCINATION IN SCOTLAND—SUPPLY OF LYMPH.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty) ; Answer, Mr. A. Graham Murray 1085

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

<i>May 19.]</i>	xcí
	<i>Page</i>
OVERCROWDING IN THE ROYAL EDINBURGH ASYLUM.—Question, Mr. Weir ; Answer, Mr. A. Graham Murray	1085
CORN DUTY—REBATE.—Question, Mr. Goddard (Ipswich) ; Answer, Mr. Ritchie	1086
“CENTRAL AFRICAN TIMES.”—Question, Sir Brampton Gardon (Norfolk, N.) ; Answer, Lord Cranborne	1086
TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION BETWEEN LISTOWEL AND TRALEE.—Question, Mr. Flavin (Kerry, N.) ; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain	1087
IRISH EQUIVALENT GRANT.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry, W.) ; Answer, Mr. Wyndham	1087
IRISH NATIONAL TEACHERS' PENSION FUND.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell ; Answer, Mr. Arthur Elliot	1088
TREATMENT OF TWO ENGLISH GIRLS BY POLICE AT CAPE TOWN.—Question, Mr. Norman (Wolverhampton, S.) ; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain	1088

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

SOMALILAND.—Questions, Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.) ; Answers, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford)	1088
IMPERIAL YEOMANRY.—Question, Mr. Mansfield (Lincolnshire, Spalding) ; Answer, Mr. Brodrick	1090
SCOTS FUSILIERS—OFFICERS' UNIFORMS.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney and Shetland) ; Answer, Mr. Brodrick	1091
GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS—MR. LODGE'S CASE.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason ; Answer, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamber- lain, Birmingham, W.)	1091
ADMINISTRATION OF THE GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason ; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain	1092
GOVERNMENT SHIPMENTS TO SOUTH AFRICA.—Question, Mr. Dalziel (Kirkcaldy Burghs) ; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain	1092
MASSACRE OF JEWS AT KISCHINEFF.—Question, Mr. Stuart Samuel (Tower Hamlets, Whitechapel) ; Answer, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Lord Cranborne, Rochester)	1093
PREFERENTIAL RAILWAY RATES.—Question, Sir John Leng (Dundee) ; Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central)	1093
KINGSTON MOTOR ACCIDENT.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason ; Answer, The Secretary to the Local Government Board (Mr. Grant Lawson, Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk)	1094
CASTLEBALDWIN POSTAL FACILITIES.—Question, Mr. O'Dowd (Sligo, S.) ; Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.)	1094
DONAGHADEE POST OFFICE.—Question, Mr. T. L. Corbett (Down, N.) ; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain	1095

May 19.]

Page

WHITSUNTIDE RECESS.—Questions, Dr. Farquharson (Aberdeenshire, W.), and Sir Joseph Leese (Lancashire, Accrington); Answers, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) ... 1095

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Questions, Mr. Bryce (Aberdeenshire, S.) and Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour... 1095

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS—PORT OF LONDON BILL.—That they concur with the Commons in their Resolution, “That it is expedient that the Port of London Bill be committed to a Joint Committee of both Houses” ... 1096

NEW BILLS.

Cottage Homes Bill.—“To authorise the provision of Cottage Homes for the Aged Deserving Poor,” presented by Mr. John Hutton; supported by Mr. Wharton, Mr. Brigg, Sir Walter Foster, Mr. Goulding, Mr. Paulton, Mr. T. W. Russell, and Mr. Wilson-Todd; to be read a second time upon Friday, and to be printed. (Bill 204.) ... 1096

Bankers' (Ireland) Act Repeal Bill.—“To repeal an Act passed in Ireland in 1759 relating to Bankers,” presented by Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. (Bill 205.) ... 1096

Marine Store Dealers (Ireland) Bill.—“For regulating the Business of Marine Store Dealers and Dealers in second-hand goods in Ireland,” presented by Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. (Bill 206.)... 1096

IRISH VALUATION ACTS COMMITTEE.—Ordered, That Mr. Hozier be discharged, and that Mr. William Maxwell be added to the Committee.—(*Sir Alexander Acland-Hood.*) ... 1096

London Education Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 1.

Sir John Gorst (Cambridge University) ... 1097

Amendment proposed—

“In Clause 1, page 1, line 6, leave out from ‘shall’ to ‘apply’ in line 7, and insert ‘subject to the provisions of this Act.’”

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question.”

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education (Sir William Anson, Oxford University) ... 1097

Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.) ... 1098

Question put and agreed to.

Mr. Trevelyan (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland) ... 1098

May 19.]

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, lines 6 and 7, to leave out the words ‘and subject to modifications made by this Act,’ and insert the words ‘except as regards non-provided schools.’”—(*Mr. Trevelyan.*)

Question proposed, “That the words ‘and subject to’ stand part of the Clause.”

<i>Sir William Anson</i>	1101
<i>Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.)</i>	1102
<i>Sir Francis Powell (Wigan)</i>	1105
<i>Mr. Nussey (Pontefract)</i>	1107
<i>Mr. Austin Taylor (Liverpool, East Toxteth)</i>	1107
<i>Mr. Runciman (Dewsbury)</i>	1109
<i>Mr. C. R. Devlin (Galway)</i>	1111
<i>Mr. Lough (Islington, W.)</i>	1113
<i>Mr. Barran (Leeds, N.)</i>	1115
<i>Mr. Charles Allen (Gloucestershire, Stroud)</i>	1118
<i>Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.)</i>	1119
<i>The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, W.)</i>	1120
<i>Sir Michael Foster (London University)</i>	1122
<i>Mr. Corrie Grant (Warwickshire, Rugby)</i>	1122

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 235 ; Noes, 117. (Division List No. 89.)

Question proposed, “That Clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

<i>Dr. Macnamara</i>	1129
<i>Mr. Yozall</i>	1133
<i>Mr. Tritton (Lambeth, Norwood)</i>	1135
<i>Mr. Alfred Hutton (Yorkshire, W.R., Morley)</i>	1137
<i>Captain Jessel (St. Pancras, S.)</i>	1139
<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton (Tower Hamlets, Poplar)</i>	1141
<i>Sir J. Blundell Maple (Camberwell, Dulwich)</i>	1143
<i>Mr. Osmond Williams (Merionethshire)</i>	1144
<i>Sir William Anson</i>	1145
<i>Mr. McKenna (Monmouthshire, N.)</i>	1146
<i>Mr. Hugh Smith (Northumberland, Tyneside)</i>	1147
<i>Mr. George Whiteley (Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey)</i>	1148
<i>Mr. Trevelyan</i>	1150
<i>Mr. Whitley (Halifax)</i>	1151
<i>Mr. Brigg (Yorkshire, W.R., Keighley)</i>	1154

Mr. LONG rose in his place, and claimed to move, “That the Question be now put.”

Question put, “That the Question be now put.”

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 230 ; Noes, 112. (Division List No. 90.)

Question put accordingly, “That Clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 242 ; Noes, 114. (Division List No. 91.)

And, it being after half-past Seven of the Clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress ; to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

London Education Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 2 :—

<i>Mr. Yocall</i> (<i>Nottingham, W.</i>)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1161
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

Motion made, and Question proposed "That Clause 2 be postponed."—(*Mr. Yocall.*)

<i>The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education</i> (<i>Sir William Anson, Oxford University</i>)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1164
<i>Mr. Corrie Grant</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1165
<i>Mr. Levy</i> (<i>Leicestershire, Loughborough</i>)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1165

Question put.

The Committee divided ; Ayes, 68 ; Noes, 133. (Division List No. 92.)

<i>Sir William Anson</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1169
--------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 8, at beginning, to insert the words 'as ordinarily constituted.'"—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1173
<i>Mr. W. F. D. Smith</i> (<i>Strand, Westminster</i>)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1177
<i>Sir John Gorst</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1178
<i>Dr. Macnamara</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1179
<i>Sir George Fardell</i> (<i>Paddington, S.</i>)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1181
<i>Sir Brampton Gurdon</i> (<i>Norfolk, N.</i>)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1183
<i>Sir George Bartley</i> (<i>Islington, N.</i>)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1183
<i>The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury</i> (<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.</i>)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1184
<i>Mr. Bryce</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1189
<i>Mr. Whitmore</i> (<i>Chelsea</i>)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1192
<i>Mr. Haldane</i> (<i>Haddingtonshire</i>)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1193
<i>Mr. Lough</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1195

And, it being midnight, the Chairman proceeded to interrupt the business.

Whereupon Mr. GALLOWAY rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put ;" but the Chairman withheld his assent, and declined then to put that Question.

And the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress ; to sit again this day.

Addenbrook's Hospital Bill.—Considered in Committee, and reported ; as amended, to be considered upon Friday, 26th June.

Adjourned at seven minutes after Twelve o'clock.

May 20.]

HOUSE OF COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 20TH MAY, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Cheshire Lines Committee Bill. —As amended, considered ; Amendments made. Bill to be read the third time	...	...	...	...	...	1197
East Ham Improvement Bill ; London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill ; London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway Bill ; Wellington and District Tramroads Bill ; West Cumberland Electric Tramways Bill.—As amended, considered ; to be read the third time						
	...					1197
Great Western Railway Bill. —Reported, with Amendments ; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed	...	...	...	...	...	1197

PETITIONS.

COAL MINES REGULATION BILL.—Petition from Wardley, in favour; to lie upon the Table	1197
LICENCES RENEWAL AND TRANSFER BILL.—Petitions against: from Harrogate; St. Helens; and Hebden Bridge; to lie upon the Table	1197
LICENSING LAW (COMPENSATION FOR NON-RENEWAL) BILL.—Petitions against: from Neath Abbey; Eccles; Weston-super-Mare; Galashiels; Hebden Bridge; St. Helens; and Harrogate; to lie upon the Table	1197
LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.—Petitions for alteration: from Keiss; Renton; Stirling; Dornoch; West Galashiels; Ochiltree; and Govan; to lie upon the Table	1197
LONDON EDUCATION BILL.—Petition of the Disestablishment Council for Scotland, against; to lie upon the Table	1197
POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Govan, against; to lie upon the Table	1198
PORT OF LONDON BILL.—Petitions against (praying to be heard by Counsel): from Free Watermen and Lightermen, Barge Owners, and Ratepayers; and Short Sea Traders' Association; to lie upon the Table	1198
PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL.—Petitions in favour: from Mossley; Woodley; Roe Green; Crosshouse; New Hampton; Rutherglen; Lancaster and Skerton; Birkenhead; Penge; Calstock; Tow Law; Little Lever; Eaglay; Toxteth; Innerleithen; Ripon; Cinderhill; Mauchline; Gilbertfield; Carleton; Stonefield; Norwood; West Calder; Winewall; Barrowford; Hucknall Torkard; Stapleford; Workington; and Brixton; to lie upon the Table	1198
PUBLIC LIBRARIES.—Petition from Aberdeen, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table	1198
RATING OF MACHINERY BILL.—Petition from Northallerton, against; to lie upon the Table	1198
SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.—Petition from Lee, in favour; to lie upon the Table	1198

	<i>Page</i>
<i>May 20.]</i>	
SUNDAY TRADING (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Edinburgh, in favour ; to lie upon the Table	1198
TRADE DISPUTES BILL.—Petitions in favour : from Nantmelyn ; Werfa ; British Rhondda ; and George Collieries ; to lie upon the Table	1198
<i>RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.</i>	
FEE FUND (HOUSE OF LORDS).—Account presented, of the Fee Fund of the House of Lords from 1st April, 1902, to 31st March, 1903 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table	1198
PUBLIC ACCOUNT AND CHARGES ACT, 1891.—Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 19th May, 1903, directing the appropriation of Colonial Contributions towards the expenses of the Pacific Cable, in aid of moneys provided by Parliament for the service of Telegraph Subsidies and Pacific Cable [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table	1199
NAVY (HYDROGRAPHER'S REPORT).—Copy presented, of Report on Admiralty Surveys for the year 1902 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table	1199
ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 7) BILL.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 19th May ; <i>Mr. Bonar Law</i>] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 175.]	1199
ALIENS (NATURALISATION) (TRANSVAAL AND ORANGE RIVER COLONY).—Address for "Copy of Ordinances containing Rules and Regulations respecting the Naturalisation of Aliens in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony."—(<i>Mr. John Ellis.</i>)	1199
<i>QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.</i>	
PAYMENT OF RATES THROUGH LANDLORD.—LIABILITY OF TENANTS.—Question, Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil) ; Answer, Mr. Walter Long	1199
VIVISECTION AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.—Question, Sir Frederick Banbury (Camberwell, Peckham) ; Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas	1200
RELIGIOUS MINISTRATION AT SOUTH SHIELDS UNION.—Question, Mr. Talbot (Oxford University) ; Answer, Mr. Walter Long	1200
REGULATION OF MOTOR CAR TRAFFIC.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney and Shetland) ; Answer, Mr. Walter Long	1201
HOLYROOD PALACE.—Question, Sir Andrew Agnew (Edinburgh, S.) ; Answer, Mr. Victor Cavendish	1201
PAVING OF CONSTITUTION HILL.—Question, Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.) ; Answer, Mr. Victor Cavendish	1202
NON-RENEWAL OF PUBLICANS' LICENCES.—Question, Mr. Cohen (Islington, E.) ; Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas	1202
LICENSING ACT, 1902.—INTERNAL COMMUNICATION.—Question, Mr. David Morgan (Essex, Walthamstow) ; Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas	1203
ELECTRIC LIGHTING IN CAMBERWELL.—Question, Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.) ; Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour	1203
CROWN LAW OFFICERS' FEES.—Question, Mr. Whitley (Halifax) ; Answer, Mr. Arthur Elliot	1204
NATIONAL GALLERY REPORT—NEW PICTURES. — Question, Sir Brampton Gurdon (Norfolk, N.) ; Answer, Mr. Arthur Elliot	1204

May 20.]

CIVIL SERVICE—PROMOTION OF PERSONS APPOINTED FOR SPECIAL DUTIES TO POSITIONS ON THE GENERAL STAFF.—Question, Sir George Bartley (Islington, N.) ; Answer, Mr. Arthur Elliot	1204
LAND REVENUE IN BENGAL.—Question, Mr. Herbert Roberts (Denbighshire, W.) ; Answer, Lord George Hamilton	1205
MANAGEMENT OF REMOUNT FARM AT CLARK'S SIDING, SOUTH AFRICA.—Question, Col. Welby (Taunton) ; Answer, Mr. Brodrick	1206
ISOLATION OF LEPERS IN CEYLON.—Question, Mr. Schwann (Manchester, N.) ; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain	1206
CIVIL ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRANSVAAL—ARREST OF DUTCH MINISTER AT RUSTENBERG.—Question, Sir Wilfrid Lawson (Cornwall, Camborne) ; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain	1207
NATAL—CHURCH PROPERTIES BILL.—Question, Mr. Markham (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield) ; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain	1207
KAFFIR LABOUR IN SOUTH AFRICAN MINES.—Question, Mr. Bryn Roberts (Carnarvonshire, Eifion) ; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain	1208
EDUCATION ACT—PAYMENT OF GOVERNMENT GRANTS IN ADVANCE.—Question, Mr. Brigg (Yorkshire, W.R., Keighley) ; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour ...	1208

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

THE "UNITED SERVICE GAZETTE."—Questions, Captain Norton (Newington, W.) ; Answers, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton)	1209
H.M.S. "FURIOUS."—Question, Sir William Allan (Gateshead) ; Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.)	1210
WATER-TUBE BOILER EXPLOSION AT BIRMINGHAM.—Questions, Sir William Allan ; Answers, The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade (Mr. Bonar Law, Glasgow, Blackfriars)	1210
BLOEMFONTEIN CONFERENCE.—Question, Mr. Buchanan (Perthshire, E.) ; Answer, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.)	1211
THE COLONIES AND RETALIATORY DUTIES.—Question, Mr. Black (Banffshire) ; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain	1211
NATIVES IN THE TRANSVAAL MINES.—Question, Mr. Trevelyan (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland) ; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain	1211
LEPROSY IN BURMAH.—Question, Mr. Schwann (Manchester, N.) ; Answer, The Under Secretary of State for India (Earl Percy, Kensington, S.) ...	1212
GERMAN DUTIES ON CANADIAN PRODUCTS.—Questions, Mr. Black ; Answers, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Lord Cranborne, Rochester)	1212
CONGO STATE—CASE OF HERR RABINEK.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) ; Answer, Lord Cranborne	1212

May 20]

Page

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY FOR LIGHT VESSELS.—Question, Mr. Doughty (Great Grimsby); Answer, Mr. Bonar Law	1213
INTOXICATING LIQUORS (SALES TO CHILDREN) ACT.—Question, Mr. Crombie (Kincardineshire); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Akers Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's)	1213
CONWAY INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.—Question, Mr. Herbert Roberts (Denbighshire, W.); Answer, The Secretary to the Local Government Board (Mr. Grant Lawson, Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk)	1214
LINDSEY (LINCOLNSHIRE) EDUCATION COMMITTEE.—Questions, Mr. Mansfield (Lincolnshire, Spalding); Answers, The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education (Sir William Anson, Oxford University)	1214
CONDITION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDINGS.—Question, Mr. Mansfield; Answer, Sir William Anson	1215
HOLLAND (LINCOLNSHIRE) EDUCATION COMMITTEE.—Question, Mr. Mansfield; Answer, Sir William Anson	1215
AID GRANT AND THE REPAIRS OF SCHOOL HOUSES.—Question, Mr. Lambert (Devonshire, South Molton); Answer, Sir William Anson	1216
SCOTTISH LICENSING APPEALS.—Questions, Mr. Black; Answers, The Lord Advocate (Mr. A. Graham Murray, Buteshire)	1217
SCOTTISH AID GRANT.—Question, Mr. Buchanan; Answer, Mr. A. Graham Murray	1217
PUBLIC OFFICES (DUBLIN) BILL.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Arthur Elliot, Durham) ...	1217
IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOLS—INSPECTORS' REPORTS.—Questions, Mr. O'Shaughnessy (Limerick, W.); Answers, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover)	1218
LAND COMMISSIONER MURROUGH O'BRIEN.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham	1218
SALE OF TREES IN COUNTY LONGFORD.—Questions, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answers, Mr. Wyndham	1219
LONGFORD DRAINAGE BOARDS.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Wyndham	1219
ROYAL HIBERNIAN ACADEMY.—Question, Mr. Boland; Answer, Mr. Wyndham	1220
CORK MODEL SCHOOLS.—Questions, Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien (Cork), Mr. John Redmond (Waterford), and Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.); Answers, Mr. Wyndham	1220
POLICE IN GALWAY.—Question, Capt. Donelan (Cork, E.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham	1222
THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE WAR—REPORT.—Questions, Mr. Charles Hobhouse (Bristol, E.); Answers, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)	1222

May 20.]

BRUSSELS SUGAR CONVENTION.—Questions, Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis) and Mr. Lough (Islington, W.) ; Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour ... 1223

TRADE DISPUTES.—Question, Mr. John Redmond ; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1223

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Questions, Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.), Mr. Lough, and Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.) ; Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour ... 1224

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).—Mr. HALSEY reported from the Committee of Selection, That they had discharged the following Members from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping and Manufactures: Mr. Channing and Mr. Garfit ; and had appointed in substitution : Lord Dalkeith and Mr. Eugene Wason.

Report to lie upon the Table ... 1225

NEW BILL.

Workmen's Compensation Act (1897) Amendment Bill.—"To amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897," presented by Mr. Joseph Walton; supported by Mr. Burt, Mr. Pickard, Sir Walter Foster, Mr. John Burns, Mr. Tennant, Mr. Shackleton, Mr. John Wilson, Mr. Fenwick, Mr. William Jones, Mr. Emmott, and Mr. Thomas Bayley ; to be read a second time upon Wednesday next, and to be printed. (Bill 207.) ... 1227

COMMITTEES (ASCENSION DAY).

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Committees do not sit to-morrow, being Ascension Day, until Two of the Clock."—
(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 108 ; Noes, 103. (Division List No. 93.) ... 1226

London Education Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[*Mr. J. W. LOWTHER* (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 2 :—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 8, at beginning, to insert the words, 'as ordinarily constituted.'"—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Question again proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

<i>Mr. Lough</i> (Islington, W.)	...	...	...	...	...	1228
<i>Mr. Peel</i> (Manchester, S.)	...	...	...	...	...	1231
<i>Mr. Harry Samuel</i> (Tower Hamlets, Limehouse)	...	...	...	...	...	1236
<i>Mr. Asquith</i> (Fifeshire, E.)	...	...	...	...	...	1239
<i>Mr. Flower</i> (Bradford, W.)	...	...	...	...	...	1242
<i>Mr. Kimber</i> (Wandsworth)	...	...	...	...	...	1247
<i>Mr. Yoxall</i> (Nottingham, W.)	...	...	...	...	...	1250
<i>Mr. Bond</i> (Nottingham, E.)	...	...	...	...	...	1251
<i>Sir J. Dickson-Poynder</i> (Wiltshire, Chippenham)	...	...	...	...	...	1254
<i>Sir Joseph Dimsdale</i> (London)	...	...	...	...	...	1257
<i>The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education</i> (<i>Sir William Anson</i> , Oxford University)	...	...	...	...	...	1259

<i>Mr. Samuel Evans (Glamorganshire, Mid)</i>	1259
<i>Captain Jessel (St. Pancras, S.)</i>	1260
<i>Sir Michael Foster (London University)</i>	1263
<i>Mr. Henry Hobhouse (Somersetshire, E.)</i>	1264
<i>Sir Edward Grey (Northumberland, Berwick)</i>	1267
<i>Sir William Anson</i>	1269
<i>Mr. Claude Hay (Shoreditch, Hoxton)</i>	1270
<i>Mr. Causton (Southwark, W.)</i>	1271
<i>General Laurie (Pembroke and Haverfordwest)</i>	1271
<i>Mr. Lloyd-George (Carnarvon Boroughs)</i>	1272
<i>Mr. Burdett-Coutts (Westminster)</i>	1273
<i>The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)</i>	1274
<i>Mr. Bryce</i>	1277
<i>Sir J. Fergusson (Manchester, N.E.)</i>	1277

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 9, to leave out from the word ‘shall,’ to the end of the Clause, and insert the words, ‘consist of seventy-nine members, of whom forty-two shall be persons who are members of the local education authority appointed by that authority, and twelve shall be persons who are members of councils of metropolitan boroughs appointed in manner provided in the First Schedule to this Act, and twenty-five shall be appointed by the local education authority in accordance with a scheme under this Act made by that authority and approved by the Board of Education.’”

(2) “The local education authority may, if they think fit, appoint not more than five persons from among the members of the London School Board to be supernumerary members of the first Education Committee; but those supernumerary members shall cease to hold office on the expiration of a period of five years from the date of the constitution of the first Education Committee, and any vacancy in their number occurring by death, resignation, or otherwise shall not be filled up.”—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Question, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause,” put, and negatived.

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

<i>Mr. Whitley (Halifax)</i>	1278
<i>Sir John Gorst (Cambridge University)</i>	1278

Proposed Amendment amended.

“By leaving out the words, ‘seventy-nine members,’ and inserting the words ‘such number of members as the local education authority shall determine,’ and by leaving out the words ‘forty-two,’ and inserting the words, ‘a majority.’”—(*Sir John Gorst.*)

<i>Mr. George Whiteley (Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey)</i>	1280
---	------

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, as amended—

“To leave out the words ‘and twelve shall be persons who are members of councils of metropolitan boroughs appointed in manner provided in the First Schedule to this Act.’”—(*Mr. George Whiteley.*)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment, as amended.”

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

May 20.]

	ci
	Page
<i>Sir John Gorst</i>	1281
<i>Mr. Lough...</i>	1281
<i>Sir William Anson</i>	1282
<i>Mr. Crooks (Woolwich)</i>	1284

Question put.

The Committee divided : Ayes, 195 ; Noes, 154. (Division List No. 94.)

Question again proposed, "That those words, as amended, be there inserted."

And, it being after half-past Seven of the Clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress ; to sit again upon Monday next.

EVENING SITTING.

CONGO FREE STATE.

<i>Mr. Herbert Samuel (Yorkshire, Cleveland)</i>	1289
<i>Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean)</i>	1300

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Government of the Congo Free State having, at its inception, guaranteed to the Powers that its native subjects should be governed with humanity, and that no trading monopoly or privilege should be permitted within its dominions, and both these guarantees having been constantly violated, this House requests His Majesty's Government to confer with the other Powers, signatories of the Berlin General Act, by virtue of which the Congo Free State exists, in order that measures may be adopted to abate the evils prevalent in that State."—(*Mr. Herbert Samuel.*)

<i>Sir John Gorst (Cambridge University)</i>	1307
<i>Mr. Emmott (Oldham)</i>	1310
<i>The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Lord Cranborne, Rochester)</i>	1316
<i>Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice (Wiltshire, Cricklade)</i>	1325
<i>The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)</i>	1330

Motion amended—

"By leaving out the words 'and both these guarantees having been constantly violated.'"

Main Question, as amended, put, and agreed to.

Resolved, "That the Government of the Congo Free State having, at its inception, guaranteed to the Powers that its Native subjects should be governed with humanity, and that no trading monopoly or privilege should be permitted within its dominions, this House requests His Majesty's Government to confer with the other Powers, signatories of the Berlin General Act, by virtue of which the Congo Free State exists, in order that measures may be adopted to abate the evils prevalent in that State."

CLARE RAILWAYS.

<i>Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.)</i>	1332
---	------

May 21.]

POST-OFFICE SITES (EXPENSES).

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Resolved, "That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, of all sums payable by the Postmaster-General under any Act of the present session to enable His Majesty's Postmaster-General to acquire lands in London and Bristol for the public service, and of all expenses incurred in carrying into effect the provisions of such Act."—(*Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*)

Resolution to be reported this day 1332

Adjourned at three minutes after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: THURSDAY, 21ST MAY, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS.—The Clerk at the Table informed the House of the unavoidable absence of the Chairman of Ways and Means 1333

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).—MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz. :—

Southampton Harbour Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time 1333

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).—MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill ; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13) Bill ; Local Government Provisional Order (No. 15) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time to-morrow 1333

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (NO STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE).—MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz. :—

Local Government Provisional Orders (Poor Law) Bill ; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 12) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time to-morrow 1333

Gas Light and Coke Company Bill ; Hampton Court Gas Bill ; Lancashire and Yorkshire and London and North Western Railways (Steam Vessels) Bill ; Midland and Belfast and Northern Counties Railways Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 1334

May 21.]

Plymouth and Stonehouse Gas Bill [LORDS].—As amended, considered ; to be read the third time	1334
Highland and Invergarry and Fort Augustus Railway Companies Bill. —Reported, with Amendments ; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed	1334
Llandrindod Wells Improvement Bill. —Reported from the Police and Sanitary Committee (Preamble not proved) ; Report to lie upon the Table	1334

PETITIONS.

BURGH POLICE (SCOTLAND) BILL. —Petition from Glasgow, for alteration ; to lie upon the Table	1334
COAL MINES REGULATION BILL. —Petitions in favour : from Clay Cross ; Grassmoor ; Gwaun cae Gurwen ; and Gilwen Collieries ; to lie upon the Table	1334
LICENCES RENEWAL AND TRANSFER BILL. —Petitions from Chesterfield, against ; to lie upon the Table	1334
LICENSING LAW (COMPENSATION FOR NON-RENEWAL) BILL. —Petition from Chesterfield, against ; to lie upon the Table... ..	1334
LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL. —Petitions for alteration : from Ellon ; and Dornoch ; to lie upon the Table	1334
PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL. —Petitions in favour : from Ramsbottom ; Tottington ; Turn ; Radstock ; Chesterfield ; Killamarsh ; Low Moorsley ; Cramlington ; Toxteth ; Sittingbourne ; Greenstreet ; Faversham ; Kirkby-in-Ashfield ; Johnstone ; Leicester ; Wooldale ; Handsworth Woodhouse ; Staines and Egham ; Croydon ; Daventry ; St. Helens ; and Lochgelly ; to lie upon the Table	1334
RATING OF MACHINERY BILL. —Petition from Dadworth, against ; to lie upon the Table	1335
ROMAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY IN IRELAND. —Petitions against establishment : from Annan ; and Dumfries ; to lie upon the Table... ..	1335
TRADE DISPUTES BILL. —Petitions in favour : from Varteg ; Gwaun cae Gurwen ; and Gilwen Collieries ; to lie upon the Table	1335

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

MEDICAL COUNCILS. —Accounts presented, for 1902, of the General Medical Council and Branch Councils, and of the Dental Registration Fund [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table	1335
LIGHTHOUSES, ETC. (LOCAL INSPECTIONS). —Copies presented, of Reports to the Board of Trade by the Trinity House of Deptford Strond, the Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses, and the Commissioners of Irish Lights of their Inspection of Local Lighthouses, Buoys, and Beacons (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 227, of session 1902) [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 176.)	1335
DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1894 AND 1896. —Copies presented, of Twenty Orders relating to the Landing of Foreign Animals in Great Britain [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table	1335

May 21.]

Page

ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACTS, 1882 AND 1888.—Copy presented, of Special Report by the Board of Trade under Section (1) of The Electric Lighting Act, 1888, respecting: (1) Kilmalcolm Electric Lighting Order, 1903; (2) Sandwich, Deal, Walmer, and District Electric Lighting Order, 1903; (3) Strood and Dartford (Rural Districts) Electric Lighting Order, 1903; (4) Wilmslow Electric Lighting Order, 1903 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table	1335
--	------

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

HOUSE TAX IN BENGAL.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Lord George Hamilton...	1336
ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSION—COURT OF BENEFICES.—Question, Mr. Rigg (Westmoreland, Appleby); Answer, Mr. Lees Knowles	1336
PUBLICANS' LICENCES — REFUSALS TO RENEW DURING 1901 AND 1902.—Question, Sir William Houldsworth (Manchester, N.W.); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas	1337
REPORT OF CHIEF INSPECTOR OF FACTORIES.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas	1338
EXPORTS OF MILLING OFFALS.—Question, Mr. Wingfield-Digby (Dorsetshire, N.); Answer, Mr. Arthur Elliot	1338
EDUCATION—GRANTS TO NON-PROVIDED EVENING SCHOOLS.—Question, Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.); Answer, Sir William Anson	1338
PROMOTION AT EDINBURGH POST OFFICE.—Question, Sir Lewis M'Iver (Edinburgh, W.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain	1339
EDINBURGH POST OFFICE—RETIREMENT OF STAFF AT SIXTY-FIVE.—Question, Sir Lewis M'Iver; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain	1339
APPOINTMENT OF MAGISTRATES IN COUNTY LONGFORD.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham	1340
DISCHARGES FROM THE ARMY—CASE OF PETER HARVEY.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. BRODRICK	1340
5TH LANCERS—SECOND IN COMMAND.—Question, Mr. Winston Churchill (Oldham); Answer, Mr. Brodrick	1341
TENDERS FOR MEAT CONTRACTS FOR LIMERICK GARRISON.—Question, Mr. Joyce (Limerick); Answer, Mr. Brodrick	1341
ARMY PROMOTIONS RETURN.—Question, Major Evans Gordon (Tower Hamlets, Stepney); Answer, Mr. Brodrick	1342
ROYAL PATRIOTIC COMMISSION.—Question, Mr. Kearley (Devonport); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour	1342
PENSIONS FOR WIDOWS OF SEAMEN AND MARINES KILLED ON DUTY.—Question, Mr. Kearley; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour	1343

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE MILITIA AND VOLUNTEER FORCES.—Questions, Sir Howard Vincent (Sheffield, Central); Answers, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford)	1343
---	------

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

cv

Page

May 21.]

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY IN SOMALILAND.—Questions, Mr. John Campbell (Armagh, S.), and Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis); Answers, Mr. Brodrick...	1344
BRITISH GARRISON IN SOUTH AFRICA.—Questions, Mr. Black (Banffshire); Answers, Mr. Brodrick	1345
ALLEGED RAGGING IN THE 21ST LANCERS.—Questions, Mr. Winston Churchill (Oldham), Sir Albert Rollit (Islington, S.), and Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answers, Mr. Brodrick	1345
VOLUNTEER FIELD ARTILLERY.—Question, Mr. Samuel Roberts (Sheffield, Ecclesall); Answer, Mr. Brodrick	1346
SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—REPORT ON DISEASE IN THE ARMY.—Question, Dr. Farquharson (Aberdeenshire, W.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick	1347
BRITISH-INDIAN SUBJECTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.—Question, Mr. Herbert Roberts (Denbighshire, W.); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.)	1347
POLES IN SCOTTISH COAL PITS.—Questions, Sir Howard Vincent and Mr. D. A. Thomas (Merthyr Tydvil); Answers, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Akers Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's)	1347
MOTOR-CAR REGULATIONS—RACE FROM SCOTLAND TO LONDON.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney and Shetland); Answer, The Attorney-General (Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs)	1349
MR. GALLOWAY WEIR'S ESCAPE.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas	1349
CORN AND FLOUR MILLS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.—Question, Mr. J. A. Pease (Essex, Saffron Walden); Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central)	1349
THE PORT OF WORKINGTON.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour	1350
WOMEN CLERKS IN THE GENERAL POST OFFICE.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.); Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.)	1350
SCOTTISH CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD—NEW HOLDINGS IN HIGHLAND CROFTING COUNTIES.—Questions, Mr. Weir; Answers, The Lord Advocate (Mr. A. Graham Murray, Buteshire)	1351
MIGRATION OF COTTARS FROM CONGESTED DISTRICTS—SUGGESTED LEGISLATION.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. A. Graham Murray	1351
ISLAND OF LEWIS—MAJOR MATHESON AND HIS TENANTS.—Questions, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. A. Graham Murray	1352
IRISH BOARD OF NATIONAL EDUCATION—BUILDING GRANTS.—Question, Mr. M'Kean (Monaghan, S.); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Arthur Elliot, Durham)	1352
POLICE AND RATHCLINE EVICTED TENANTS.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover)	1353

	<i>Page</i>
<i>May 21.]</i>	
ELLEN FARRELLY'S HOLDING AT DRUMARD.—Questions, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answers, Mr. Wyndham	1353
GUN LICENCES IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham	1354
BELFAST PRIMARY SCHOOLS.—Questions, Mr. Sloan; Answers, Mr. Wyndham	1354
LLOYD APJOHN ESTATE, COUNTY LIMERICK.—Question, Mr. London (Limerick, E.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham	1355
ROYAL COMMISSION ON TRADE DISPUTES.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke; Answer, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)	1355
EARLY CLOSING SATURDAY (IRELAND) BILL.—Questions, Mr. Sloan; Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour	1356
COMPANY LAW—WHITAKER-WRIGHT CASE.—Question, Mr. John Campbell (Armagh, S.); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour	1356
MILITARY WORKS (LOANS) BILL.—Question, Mr. Winston Churchill; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour	1357
RELIEF OF THE “DISCOVERY.”—Question, Colonel Royds (Rochdale); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour	1357
ABSENCE OF MINISTERS.—Questions, Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.), Mr. John Ellis (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe), and Mr. John Redmond (Waterford); Answers, Mr. Speaker and Mr. A. J. Balfour	1357
THE WHITSUNTIDE HOLIDAYS.—Question, Sir Joseph Leese (Lancashire, Accrington); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour	1359
THE FINANCE BILL.—Questions, Mr. Winston Churchill; Mr. Chaplin (Lincolnshire, Sleaford), Mr. Bryce, and Mr. James Lowther (Kent, Thanet); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour	1359
THE NEW MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.—MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.—Sir EDWARD STRACHEY (Somerset, S.) rose in his place, and asked leave to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., “the appointment of a person not being a Member of this House to the office of President of the Board of Agriculture, leaving no official of that important Department as its representative in this House;” but the pleasure of the House not having been signified, Mr. Speaker called on those Members who supported the Motion to rise in their places, and not less than forty Members having accordingly risen,	

The Motion stood over, under Standing Order No. 10, until the Evening Sitting, this day.

SUPPLY [10TH ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

May 21.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1903-4.—CLASS III.

<i>Mr. Whitley (Halifax)</i>	1361
Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report Progress; and ask leave to sit again."—(<i>Mr. Whitley.</i>)	
<i>The Attorney-General (Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs)</i>	1361
<i>Sir Robert Reid (Dumfries Burghs)</i>	1362
<i>Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.)</i>	1362
<i>The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)</i>	1363
<i>Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis)</i>	1364
<i>Mr. Buchanan (Perthshire, E.)</i>	1365
<i>The Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury (Sir A. Acland-Hood, Somersetshire, Wellington)</i>	1365
<i>Sir Joseph Leese (Lancashire, Accrington)</i>	1366

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £180,118, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for such of the salaries and expenses of the Supreme Court of Judicature as are not charged on the Consolidated Fund."

<i>Mr. Buchanan</i>	1367
<i>Mr. Gibson Bowles</i>	1367
<i>Mr. Whitley</i>	1368
<i>Sir Robert Reid</i>	1369
<i>Sir Robert Finlay</i>	1370
<i>Mr. Brynmor Jones (Swansea District)</i>	1372
<i>Sir James Woodhouse (Huddersfield)</i>	1373
<i>Mr. Gibson Bowles</i>	1374
<i>The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Arthur Elliot, Durham)</i> ..	1376
<i>Mr. Gibson Bowles</i>	1376
<i>Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid)</i>	1377
<i>The Solicitor-General (Sir Edward Carson, Dublin University)</i>	1378
<i>Mr. Buchanan</i>	1378
<i>Sir Robert Finlay</i>	1378

Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum not exceeding £180,018, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Buchanan.*)

<i>Sir John Gorst (Cambridge University)</i>	1379
<i>Sir Robert Reid</i>	1380

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 83; Noes, 178. (Division List No. 95.)

Original Question put, and agreed to.

2. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £28,144, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the salaries and expenses of the Office of the Land Registry."

<i>Sir Albert Rollit (Islington, S.)</i>	1382
<i>Mr. Whitley</i>	1385

Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum not exceeding £27,144, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Whitley.*)

May 21.]

Page

<i>Sir Robert Finlay</i>	1389
<i>Sir Henry Fowler</i> (<i>Wolverhampton, E.</i>)	1393
<i>Mr. E. Beckett Faber</i> (<i>Hampshire, Andover</i>)	1396
<i>Sir Robert Reid</i>	1397
<i>Mr. Butcher</i> (<i>York</i>)	1398
<i>Mr. Markham</i> (<i>Nottinghamshire, Mansfield</i>)	1399
<i>Mr. Whitley</i>	1400
<i>Sir Albert Rollit</i>	1400

Question put.

The Committee divided : Ayes, 92 ; Noes, 215. (Division List No. 96.)

Original Question put and agreed to.

3. £25,000, to complete the sum for County Courts.

4. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £26,390, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the salaries of the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioners of the Metropolitan Police, and of the Receiver for the Metropolitan Police District, the pay and expenses of officers of Metropolitan Police employed on special duties, and the salaries and expenses of the Inspectors of Constabulary."

<i>Mr. Schwann</i> (<i>Manchester, N.</i>)	1404
---	------

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £26,290, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Schwann.*)

<i>Mr. Weir</i> (<i>Ross and Cromarty</i>)	1408
<i>Dr. Hutchinson</i> (<i>Sussex, Rye</i>)	1409
<i>Mr. Labouchere</i> (<i>Northampton</i>)	1409
<i>The Secretary of State for the Home Department</i> (<i>Mr. Akers Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's</i>)	1410
<i>Mr. Nussey</i> (<i>Pontefract</i>)	1413
<i>Mr. Gibson Bowles</i>	1413
<i>Mr. Crombie</i> (<i>Kincardineshire</i>)	1414
<i>Mr. Burdett-Coutts</i> (<i>Westminster</i>)	1414
<i>Mr. Dalziel</i> (<i>Kirkcaldy Burghs</i>)	1415
<i>Sir George Bartley</i> (<i>Islington, N.</i>)	1415
<i>Mr. Akers Douglas</i>	1415

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolutions to be reported to-morrow.

Committee to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE—ADJOURNMENT (UNDER STANDING ORDER No. 10).

<i>Sir Edward Strachey</i> (<i>Somersetshire, E.</i>)	1416
<i>Mr. Soares</i> (<i>Devonshire, Barnstaple</i>)	1419

May 21.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

cix
Page

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn."
—(*Sir Edward Strachey*.)

<i>Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice (Wiltshire, Cricklade)</i>	1420
<i>The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)</i>	1423
<i>Mr. Ellis Griffith (Anglesey)</i>	1431
<i>The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.)</i>	1433
<i>Mr. Dalziel (Kirkcaldy Burghs)</i>	1434
<i>Major Jameson (Clare, W.)</i>	1436

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 54 ; Noes, 178. (Division List No. 97.)

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Ulster and Connaught Light Railways Bill (BY ORDER)—[SECOND READING].—Order read, for resuming adjourned debate on Question (14th May), "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Question again proposed.

Debate resumed.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed.

All Saints, Poplar (Rate Abolition), Bill [LORDS] (BY ORDER)—[SECOND READING].—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

<i>Mr. Perks (Lincolnshire, Louth)</i>	1439
<i>Mr. Theodore Taylor (Lancashire, Radcliffe)</i>	1443

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Mr. Perks*.)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

<i>Mr. Stuart Wortley (Sheffield, Hallam)</i>	1444
<i>Mr. Crooks (Woolwich)</i>	1445

Question put, and agreed to.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed.

SUPPLY [10TH ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[*Mr. JEFFREYS* (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1903-4.—CLASS III.

£375,897, to complete the sum for Prisons, England and the Colonies.

<i>May 22.]</i>		<i>Page</i>
<i>Mr. Whitley</i>		1446
<i>Mr. Charles Hobhouse (Bristol, E.)</i> ..		1446
<i>Mr. Lough (Islington, W.)</i>		1446
<i>Mr. John Hutton (Yorkshire, Richmond)</i> ...		1447
<i>The Under Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Cochrane, Ayrshire, N.)</i> ...		1449
<i>Mr. Akers Douglas</i>		1451

And, it being Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolution to be reported upon Tuesday next ; Committee to sit again upon Monday next.

POST OFFICE SITES [EXPENSES].

Resolution reported—

“That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, of all sums payable by the Postmaster-General under any Act of the present session, to enable His Majesty’s Postmaster-General to acquire lands in London and Bristol for the public service, and of all expenses incurred in carrying into effect the provisions of such Act.”

Resolution agreed to 1452

NEW BILL.

TRUSTEE ACT (1893) AMENDMENT (NO. 2).—Bill to amend the Trustee Act, 1893, ordered to be brought in by Sir Alexander Henderson, Mr. Charles Seale-Hayne, Mr. Vicary Gibbs, and Mr. Perks.

Trustee Act (1893) Amendment (No. 2) Bill.—“To amend the Trustee Act, 1893,” presented accordingly, and read the first time ; to be read a second time upon Thursday next, and to be printed. (Bill 208.) 1452

Adjourned at five minutes after Twelve o’clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: FRIDAY, 22ND MAY, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with :—

Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1) [H.L.] ; Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) [H.L.] ; Gas and Water Orders Confirmation [H.L.] .

And the Certificates that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with :—

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) ; Gorleston and Southtown Gas ; London United Tramways ; New Hunstanton Improvement.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table 1453

Kip’s Patents Bill [H.L.].—Presented, read 1^a ; and referred to the Examiners 1453

May 22.]

Pentillie Estate Bill [H.L.].—The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that, in pursuance of Standing Order No. 163A, relating to Private Bills, he had, on the requisition of the Chairman of Committees, appointed the Rev. Ernest Henry Glencross, of Morval, in the County of Cornwall, Clerk in Holy Orders, as guardian or protector of the infants John Tillie Coryton, Edmund George Coryton, Ruth Evelyn Coryton, Mary Louisa Coryton, William Alec Coryton, and Joan Elizabeth Loveday Coryton, named in the Bill, to represent such infants before the Committee on the Bill ...	1453
Maryport Harbour Bill [H.L.].—The King's consent signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments ...	1453
Exeter Corporation Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments ...	1453
London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Bill [H.L.].—The King's consent signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments ...	1453
Bridgwater Gas Bill. —The King's consent signified; and Bill reported, with Amendments ...	1454
Electric Lighting (London) Bill [H.L.].—Reported, with Amendments, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next ...	1454
Cardiff Railway Bill [H.L.]; Aston Manor Improvement Bill [H.L.]; King's College, London, Bill [H.L.]; Sutton District Water Bill ; Tynemouth and District Tramways Bill [H.L.]; British Gas Light Company (Norwich) Bill [H.L.]; Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation Bill [H.L.].—Reported, with Amendments ...	1454
Port Talbot Railway and Docks Bill [H.L.].—Reported, with Amendments ...	1454
St Philip's Chapel (Regent Street) Bill [H.L.].—The King's consent signified; and Bill reported, with Amendments ...	1454
North Middlesex Gas Bill. —Reported, without Amendment... ..	1454
London Hydraulic Power Bill. —Reported, with an Amendment ...	1454
London and North-Western Railway Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments ...	1454
Preston and Horwich Tramways Bill [H.L.]; now Preston, Chorley, and Horwich Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments ...	1454
Pentillie Estate Bill [H.L.].—Read 2 ^a	1454
Walker and Wallsend Union Gas Bill. —Read 2 ^a , and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection ...	1454
Scarborough Gas Bill ; Market Drayton Gas Bill ; Commercial Gas Bill. —Read 2 ^a , and committed	1454
Worthing Corporation Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Read 3 ^a , and passed, and sent to the Commons	1454
Crystal Palace District Gas Bill ; Ebbw Vale Water and Improvement Bill ; Leigh Corporation Bill ; Gas Light and Coke Company Bill ; Hampton Court Gas Bill ; Lancashire and Yorkshire and London and North-Western Railways (Steam Vessels) Bill ; Midland and Belfast and Northern Counties Railways Bill ; Metropolitan District Railway (Various Powers) Bill. —Brought from the Commons; read 1 ^a ; and referred to the Examiners ...	1455

<i>Mar. 22.]</i>	<i>Page</i>
Torquay Corporation Water Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments	1455
Mid Yorkshire Tramways Bill [H.L.].—The Order made on the 14th instant appointing certain Lords the Select Committee to consider the said Bill, discharged	1455
Bury and District Joint Water Board Bill [H.L.]; Brighton Corporation Bill [H.L.].—The Orders made on the 4th instant appointing certain Lords the Select Committee to consider the said Bills, discharged	1455
Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill ; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill.—Read 2 ^a (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next	1455
Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]; Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [H.L.]; Water Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.].—Read 2 ^a (according to Order)	1455
Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London) Bill [H.L.].—Committed; the Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection	1455
Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (East Ham, etc.) Bill [H.L.]; Pier and Harbour Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [H.L.].—Committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next	1455

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LIGHT LOAD LINE. —Report from the Select Committee (with the proceedings of the Committee) made, and to be printed. (No. 81.) Minutes of Evidence, together with an appendix, laid upon the Table, and to be delivered out	1456
TRADE REPORTS—ANNUAL SERIES. —No. 2983. Germany (German Colonies)	1456
LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (IRELAND). —Annual Report for the year ended March, 1902	1456
ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACTS, 1882 AND 1888. —Special Report, by the Board of Trade, under Section 1 of the Electric Lighting Act, 1888	1456
MERCANTILE MARINE. —Report of the Committee appointed by the Board of Trade to inquire into certain questions affecting the Mercantile Marine; with minutes of evidence, appendices, and index.	
Report; Minutes of evidence; Appendices to evidence, analysis of evidence, and subject index.	
Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table	1456
DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1894 AND 1896. —Twenty Orders relating to the landing of foreign animals in Great Britain	1456
NATIONAL SCHOOL TEACHERS (IRELAND) PENSION FUND. —Account of receipts and payments for the year ended 31st December, 1902	1456
GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL (RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE.) —Returns of receipts and expenditure of the General Medical Council and of the Branch Councils, also of receipts and expenditure of the Dental Registration Fund, for the year ended 31st December, 1902	1456

May 22.]

PATENTS, DESIGNS, AND TRADE MARKS.—Twentieth Report of the Comptroller-General of Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks, with appendices, for the year 1902	1457
---	------

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND CHARGES ACT, 1891.—Treasury Minute, dated the 19th May, 1903, directing the appropriation of Colonial contributions towards the expenses of the Pacific cable in aid of moneys provided by Parliament	1457
---	------

LIGHTHOUSES, ETC. (LOCAL INSPECTIONS).—Reports to the Board of Trade by the Trinity House of Deptford Strond, the Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses, and the Commissioners of Irish Lights, of their inspection of local lighthouses, buoys, and beacons (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 227, of Session 1902).

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table	1457
--	------

THE REGULATION OF MOTOR CARS.

<i>The Earl of Camperdown</i>	1457
<i>The Secretary for Scotland (Lord Balfour of Burleigh)</i>	1457

Land Drainage Provisional Order Bill—[THIRD READING].—Order of the Day for the Third Reading read.

<i>Earl Howe</i>	1458
------------------	------

Bill read 3^a (according to Order) and passed.

Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill—[SECOND READING].—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

<i>Lord James of Hereford</i>	1458
-------------------------------	------

Moved, That the Bill be now read 2^a.—(*Lord James of Hereford*.)

<i>The Earl of Northbrook</i>	1464
<i>The Lord President of the Council (The Duke of Devonshire)</i>	1472
<i>Viscount Goschen</i>	1474
<i>The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury</i>	1479
<i>The Secretary for Scotland (Lord Balfour of Burleigh)</i>	1481
<i>The Chairman of Committees (The Earl of Morley)</i>	1486
<i>Earl Spencer</i>	1489
<i>The Duke of Devonshire</i>	1492
<i>Lord Methuen</i>	1493
<i>Lord James of Hereford</i>	1494

On Question, their Lordships divided:—Contents, 50 ; Not-Contents, 57.

<i>The Earl of Northbrook</i>	1495
-------------------------------	------

Justices of the Peace Bill [H.L.]—[SECOND READING].—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

<i>The Lord Chancellor (The Earl of Halsbury)</i>	1496
---	------

Moved, That the Bill be now read 2^a.—(*The Lord Chancellor*.)

<i>Earl Spencer</i>	1497
---------------------	------

On Question, Bill read 2^a (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Tuesday next.

May 22.]

Page

Statute Law Revision (Scotland) Bill [H.L.]—[SECOND READING].—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

The Lord Chancellor 1497

Bill read 2^a (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Tuesday next.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL EXPENDITURE.

The Earl of Wemyss 1498

The Earl of Camperdown 1498

Lord Welby... .. 1499

Earl Spencer 1499

The Lord Chancellor 1500

The Earl of Morley 1500

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1500

Polling Arrangements (Parliamentary Boroughs) Bill [H.L.]—[SECOND READING].—Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

Lord Ribblesdale 1501

Moved, That the Bill be now read 2^a.—(*Lord Ribblesdale*.)

Lord Kenyon 1501

On Question, Bill read 2^a (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

Polling Districts (County Councils) Bill [H.L.]—[SECOND READING].—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Lord Ribblesdale 1501

Bill read 2^a (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

Union of Benefices Act, 1860, Amendment Bill [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to Order): Bill reported without Amendment; and re-committed to the Standing Committee 1502

Ecclesiastical Commissioners Bill [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to Order): Bill reported without Amendment: Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3^a on Monday next 1502

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes past Seven o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: FRIDAY, 22ND MAY, 1903.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 16) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time upon Monday next 1502

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

May 22.]

cxv
Page

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (NO STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz. :— Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 14) Bill.	
Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time upon Monday next ...	1502
Stoke Newington Borough Council Bill. —Lords' Amendments considered and agreed to ...	1503
Metropolitan District Railway (Various Powers) Bill (KING'S CONSENT SIGNIFIED).—Read the third time and passed ...	1503
Stroud and District Tramways Bill. —Read the third time and passed. (New Title.) ...	1503
Midland Great Western Railway of Ireland Bill. —As amended, considered; a clause added; Amendments made. Bill to be read the third time ...	1503
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill ; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 12) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13) Bill; Local Government Provisional Order (No. 15) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (Poor Law) Bill.—Read a second time and committed ...	1503
MILITARY LANDS PROVISIONAL ORDERS.—Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Secretary of State under The Military Lands Act, 1892, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Secretary Brodrick and Lord Stanley.	
Military Lands Provisional Orders Bill. —"To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Secretary of State under The Military Lands Act, 1892," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. (Bill 209.) ...	1503
Blackheath and Greenwich District Electric Light Bill. —Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table ...	1503
Wolverhampton and Cannock Chase Railway (Extension of Time) Bill ; London County Council (Money) Bill; Lanarkshire and Dumbartonshire Railway Bill.—Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed ...	1503
India Rubber, Gutta Percha, and Telegraph Works Company Bill [LORDS].—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table ...	1503
North's Navigation Collieries Bill [LORDS].—Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table. Bill to be read the third time ...	1503
Lima Railways Bill [LORDS].—Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed ...	1504
Faversham Gas Bill [LORDS].—Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. Bill to be read the third time... ..	1504
Life Association of Scotland Bill [LORDS].—Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table. Bill to be read the third time ...	1504
Exeter Railway Bill [LORDS].—Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed ...	1504

May 22.]

Page

Romford and District Tramways Bill.—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed ... 1504

Neath, Pontardawe, and Brynmanan Railway Bill.—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed ... 1504

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to—

Maidstone Gas Bill, without Amendment; East Ardsley Gas Bill, with Amendments.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, “An Act to authorise the Scunthorpe Urban District Council to construct waterworks in lieu of the waterworks authorised by the Scunthorpe Urban District Gas and Water Act, 1899; and for other purposes.” (Scunthorpe Urban District Water Bill [Lords].)

Also, a Bill, intituled, “An Act to authorise the British Electric Traction Company, Limited, to construct new tramways between Worthing and Shoreham, to work such new tramways, and to adapt the existing tramways between Shoreham and Hove for working by electrical or other mechanical power; and for other purposes.” (Hove, Worthing, and District Tramways Bill [Lords].)

Also, a Bill, intituled, “An Act for incorporating and conferring powers on the Somerset and District Electric Power Company.” (Somerset and District Electric Power Bill [Lords].)

And, also, a Bill, intituled, “An Act for empowering the Dudley, Stourbridge, and District Electric Traction Company, Limited, to work their tramways by mechanical or electrical power; and for other purposes.” (Dudley, Stourbridge, and District Tramways Bills [Lords].) ... 1504

Scunthorpe Urban District Water Bill [LORDS]; Hove Worthing, and District Tramways Bill [Lords]; Somerset and District Electric Power Bill [Lords]; Dudley, Stourbridge, and District Tramways Bill [Lords].—Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 1505

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill.—Reported, with Amendments (Provisional Orders confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table. Bill, as amended, to be considered upon Monday next ... 1505

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill.—Reported, without Amendment (Provisional Orders confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table. Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next ... 1505

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill.—Reported, without Amendment (Provisional Orders confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table. Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next ... 1505

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill.—Reported, without Amendment (Provisional Orders confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table. Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next ... 1505

Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas) Bill.—Reported, without Amendment (Provisional Orders confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table. Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next ... 1505

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (Housing of Working Classes) Bill.—Reported, without Amendment (Provisional Orders confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table. Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next ... 1505

Dover Corporation Bill.—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed ... 1505

PETITIONS.

BURGH POLICE (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Dunfermline, in favour ; to lie upon the Table	1506
COAL MINES REGULATION BILL.—Petition from Ebbw Vale, in favour ; to lie upon the Table	1506
DETENTION OF POOR PERSONS (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Dumfries, in favour ; to lie upon the Table	1506
GROCERS' LICENCES (SCOTLAND) BILL. —Petition from Kirkcaldy, in favour ; to lie upon the Table	1506
INNKEEPERS' LIABILITY BILL.—Petition from Dumfries, for extension to Scotland ; to lie upon the Table	1506
LICENCES RENEWAL AND TRANSFER BILL.—Petitions against : from Kettering ; and Penarth ; to lie upon the Table	1506
LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.—Petition from Dingwall, for alteration ; to lie upon the Table	1506
LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.—Petitions in favour ; from Kirkcaldy ; and Ballieston ; to lie upon the Table	1506
PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL.—Petitions in favour : from Frampton Cotterell ; Burntisland ; Gorebridge ; Denaby Main ; Trowbridge ; Boston ; Torquay ; Blackpool ; Luddenden Foot ; Littleborough ; Walsall ; Wrexham ; Boldon ; and Firgrove ; to lie upon the Table	1506
PUBLIC HOUSES (HOURS OF CLOSING) (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Kirkcaldy, in favour ; to lie upon the Table	1506
PUBLIC LIBRARIES.—Petitions for alteration of Law : from Rochester ; and Sunderland ; to lie upon the Table	1506
SHEEP SCAB BILL.—Petition from Dumfries, in favour ; to lie upon the Table	1507

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (IRELAND).—Copy presented, of Annual Report of the Local Government Board for Ireland, for the year ended 31st March, 1902 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table	1507
PATENTS, DESIGNS, AND TRADE MARKS.—Copy presented, of Twentieth Report of the Comptroller-General of Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks, with Appendices for the year 1902 [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 177.]	1507
NATIONAL SCHOOL TEACHERS' (IRELAND) PENSION FUND.—Annual Accounts presented, of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31st December, 1902 [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table	1507
TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, No. 2983 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table	1507
MERCANTILE MARINE (COMMITTEE).—Copy presented, of Report of the Committee appointed by the Board of Trade to inquire into certain questions affecting the Mercantile Marine, with Minutes of Evidence, Appendices, and Index [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table	1507

May 25.]

Page

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF SOMALILAND.—Question, Mr. Charles Hobhouse (Bristol, E.); Answer, Lord George Hamilton ... 1507

DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE—COMPENSATION FOR INJURIES RECEIVED ON DUTY—CASE OF THOMAS HACKETT.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham ... 1508

PRINTING CONTRACT FOR THE BOYLE UNION.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Wyndham ... 1508

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Questions, Mr. Lough (Islington, W.); Answers, Sir A. Acland-Hood (Somersetshire, Wellington) ... 1509

Aged Pensioners Bill—[SECOND READING].—Order for Second Reading read.

Mr. Remnant (Finsbury, Holborn) ... 1509

Motion made, and Question proposed, “That the Bill be now read a second time.”—(*Mr. Remnant.*)

Mr. Channing (Northamptonshire, E.) ... 1516

Mr. Samuel Roberts (Sheffield, Ecclesall) ... 1520

Mr. Lambert (Devonshire, South Molton) ... 1525

Sir John Rolleston (Leicester) ... 1527

Mr. Fenwick (Northumberland, Wansbeck) ... 1530

Mr. Groves (Salford, S.) ... 1533

Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick) ... 1535

Mr. Goulding (Wiltshire, Devizes) ... 1536

Mr. Lloyd-George ... 1541

The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.) ... 1549

Sir Walter Foster (Derbyshire, Ilkeston) ... 1553

Mr. Chaplin (Lincolnshire, Sleaford) ... 1558

Mr. Black (Banffshire) ... 1559

Mr. Maconochie (Aberdeenshire, E.) ... 1563

The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.) ... 1564

Mr. Crooks (Woolwich) ... 1570

Bill read a second time and committed to a Select Committee.

Town Tenants (Ireland) Bill—[SECOND READING].—Order for Second Reading read.

Sir Frederick Banbury (Camberwell, Peckham) ... 1571

And it being half-past Five of the clock, the debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed upon Friday, 19th June.

Adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Six o'clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS: MONDAY, 25TH MAY, 1903.

POULETT PEERAGE.—Petition of Rosa Countess Poulett, formerly the wife and now the widow of William Henry, sixth Earl Poulett, as testamentary guardian of her infant son, William John Lydston, claiming to be Viscount Hinton of Hinton Saint George, in the county of Somerset, and seventh Earl Poulett, both in the Peerage of England, praying His Majesty to

May 25.]

declare that the said William John Lydston Poulett is by right entitled to the said dignities, titles, and honours of Viscount Hinton of Hinton Saint George aforesaid, and Earl Poulett, or to recognise his right thereto by ordering his name to be entered in the Parliament Rolls as a Minor Peer, together with His Majesty's reference thereof to this House, and the report of the Attorney-General thereon: Presented [by Command], and referred to the Committee for Privileges to consider and report ... 1573

EDGAR LORD BISHOP OF SAINT ALBANS was (in the usual manner) introduced 1573

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that no further Standing Orders are applicable to the following Bill:—

Kip's Patents [H.L.].

The same was ordered to lie on the Table ... 1573

Market Drayton Gas Bill; Scarborough Gas Bill.—Committee to meet to-morrow ... 1573

Mid Yorkshire Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Birmingham District Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Gosport, Fareham, and Cosham Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Manchester Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London) Bill [H.L.]; Brighton Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Bury and District Joint Water Board Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills; viz. :—

E. Lytton,
V. Hutchinson (*E. Donoughmore*),
L. Belhaven and Stenton,
L. Hatherton (Chairman),
L. Crawshaw;

agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly: The Committee to meet on Monday the 15th of June next, at Eleven o'clock; and all Petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills ... 1573

Taff Vale Railway Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments ... 1574

Lochnell Estate Bill [H.L.].—Read 2^a ... 1574

Hyde Corporation Bill; Nelson Corporation Bill.—Read 2^a, and committed 1574

Dewsbury, Batley, and Birstal Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Chard Corporation (Gas and Electricity Bill [H.L.]; South-Eastern and London, Chatham and Dover Railways Bill [H.L.]; Hastings Tramways (Extensions) Bill [H.L.]; Bournemouth Corporation Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Jewish Colonisation Association Bill [H.L.]; South Lancashire Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Pontypridd Urban District Council Bill [H.L.].—Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons ... 1574

Stroud and District Tramways Bill.—Brought from the Commons; read 1^a, and referred to the Examiners ... 1574

Stoke Newington Borough Council Bill.—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to ... 1574

May 25.]

Page

Willesden Urban District Council Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments	1574
Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]; Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [H.L.]; Gas and Water Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.].—Read 2 ^a (according to Order)	1574
Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (No 1) Bill ; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill.—Read 2 ^a (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House	1574
Local Government Provisional Order (Housing of the Working Classes) Bill ; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill.—Read 2 ^a (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House to-morrow	1575
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill .—Read 2 ^a (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House	1575
Electric Lighting (London) Bill [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to Order): The Amendments proposed by the Chairman of Committees made; Standing Committee negatived; The Report of Amendments to be received to-morrow; and Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered in order to its being dispensed with	1575
Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (East Ham, &c.) Bill [H.L.]; Pier and Harbour Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill.—House in Committee (according to Order); Bills reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; and Bills to be read 3 ^a to-morrow	1575

PETITIONS.

THAMES CONSERVANCY .—Petition for formation of a Non-Tidal Authority from Cricklade to Teddington: of County Council of Buckinghamshire. Read, and ordered to lie on the Table	1575
--	------

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS—I. ANNUAL SERIES.	
No. 2984. Denmark (Faroe Islands).	
No. 2985. China (Canton).	
No. 2986. Brazil (Pernambuco and Ceara)	1575
II. MISCELLANEOUS SERIES. —No. 591. Germany (German Technical High Schools)... ..	
	1576
BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (INTELLIGENCE DIVISION). —Annual Report of proceedings under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, 1875–1899; the Merchandise Marks Acts, 1887–1894; the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1893; and the Board of Agriculture Act, 1889 (Section 2, Sub-section 3); for the year 1902	
	1576
FACTORY AND WORKSHOP. —Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops for the year 1902. Part I. Reports:	
Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table	1576

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

xxi

Page

May 25.]

NATIONAL DEBT ACT, 1883 (TERMINABLE ANNUITIES).—Treasury Warrants, dated 18th May, 1903, for the adjustment of the terminable annuities created under the Finance Act, 1899, and held by the National Debt Commissioners on Account of the Trustees and Post Office Savings Banks ... 1576

COLONIAL PROBATES ACT, 1892.—Order in Council of the 20th May, 1903, applying "The Colonial Probates Act, 1892," to the Colony of Newfoundland ... 1576

FOREIGN JURISDICTION ACT, 1890.—Order in Council of the 20th May, 1903, amending the Order in Council of the 19th November, 1902, respecting the currency of the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria ... 1576

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894.—Orders in Council of the 20th May, 1903 :

1. Providing that the powers and duties of a British Consular Officer under the Act shall, in the New Hebrides, be exercised by the Resident Deputy Commissioner ;

2. Approving by-laws made by the Cardiff Pilotage Board ; and

3. Fixing the Engineering Establishment of the Corporation of Trinity House.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table... 1576

THE SITTINGS OF PARLIAMENT.

Lord Newton ... 1577

Moved to resolve, "That, in the opinion of this House, Parliament ought to rise at the beginning of July, and that the time required for the due transaction of Public Business should be provided by Parliament sitting during a longer period of the Winter than is customary at present."—(*Lord Newton*.)

Lord Clifford of Chudleigh ... 1586

Lord Tweedmouth ... 1588

The Earl of Rosebery ... 1592

The Chairman of Committees (The Earl of Morley) ... 1596

Lord Ribblesdale ... 1598

The Earl of Camperdown ... 1600

The Lord President of the Council (The Duke of Devonshire) ... 1602

On Question, their Lordships divided : Contents, 88 ; Not-Contents, 26.

DECK LOADS ON MERCHANT SHIPS.

• *Lord Muskerry* ... 1607

Moved to resolve, "That this House is of opinion that, inasmuch as under the Merchant Shipping Act, merchant ships are prohibited from carrying deck loads to the ports in the United Kingdom in the winter time, this prohibition should now be extended to similar vessels carrying deck cargoes to Continental ports during the winter season."—(*Lord Muskerry*.)

Lord Wolverton ... 1612

The Earl of Meath... 1613

On Question, their Lordships divided :—Contents, 4 ; Not-Contents, 18.

Resolved in the negative.

May 25.]

Page

REGIMENTAL CANTEENS.

<i>The Earl of Camperdown</i>	1613
<i>The Under Secretary of State for War (The Earl of Hardwicke)</i> ...	1613

Musical Copyright Bill [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to Order). Bill reported without Amendment; re-committed to the Standing Committee	1614
--	------

Polling Districts (County Councils) Bill [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to Order). An Amendment made; and Bill re-committed to the Standing Committee	1614
--	------

Polling Arrangements (Parliamentary Boroughs) Bill [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to Order). An Amendment made; and Bill re-committed to the Standing Committee	1614
--	------

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL AND BILLS IN PARLIAMENT.

<i>The Earl of Camperdown</i>	1614
<i>The Lord Chancellor (The Earl of Halsbury)</i>	1615

NEW BILL.

Allotments (London) Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to facilitate the provision of allotments by the London County Council was presented by the Earl Carrington; read 1 ^a ; and to be printed. (No. 82.)	1615
---	------

House adjourned at ten minutes past Seven o'clock, till To-morrow, Two o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: MONDAY, 25TH MAY, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz :—

Belfast Water Bill [Lords]; Shepshed Urban District Gas Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time 1615.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time to-morrow 1616

Cheshire Lines Committee Bill. —Read the third time and passed. (New Title.)	1616
--	------

May 25.]

East Ham Improvement Bill ; Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Bill.—Read the third time, and passed	1616
London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill (KING'S CONSENT SIGNIFIED).—Bill read the third time, and passed	1616
London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway Bill (KING'S CONSENT SIGNIFIED).—Bill read the third time, and passed. (New Title.)	1616
Plymouth and Stonehouse Gas Bill [LORDS].—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments	1616
Wellingborough and District Tramroads Bill ; West Cumberland Electric Tramways Bill.—Read the third time, and passed	1616
Baker Street and Waterloo Railway (Transfer) Bill ; Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway Bill.—As amended, considered; to be read the third time	1617
Great Southern and Western Railway Bill .—As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time	1617
Mullingar, Kells, and Drogheda Railway Bill ; Plymouth Corporation Bill; South Yorkshire Joint Railways Bill; Woolwich Borough Council Bill.—As amended, considered; to be read the third time... ..	1617
Baker Street and Waterloo Railway (Extension of Time) Bill ; Birmingham Corporation Bill [Lords]; Rickmansworth Gas Bill [Lords]; Sutton Coldfield Corporation Bill [Lords].—Read a second time, and committed	1617
Local Government Provisional (Orders No. 5) Bill ; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (Housing of Working Classes) Bill.—Read the third time, and passed	1617
Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill .—As amended, considered; to be read the third time to-morrow	1617
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 14) Bill ; Local Government Provisional Order (No. 16) Bill.—Read a second time, and committed	1617
LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (NO. 17) .—Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Bury and the Bury and District Joint Hospital District, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Grant Lawson and Mr. Walter Long	1617
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 17) Bill .—"To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Bury and the Bury and District Joint Hospital District," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills and to be printed. (Bill 210.)	1617
PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP E) .—Sir ALEXANDER HARGREAVES BROWN reported from the Committee on Group E of Private Bills, That Mr. Arthur Lee, one of the Members of the said Committee, was not present within one hour after the time appointed for the meeting of the Committee this day.	

Ordered, That Mr. Arthur Lee, one of the Members of the Committee on Group E of Private Bills, do attend the meeting of the said Committee To-morrow, at Eleven of the clock 1618

May 25.]

Page

Wood Green Urban District Council Bill. —Reported from the Police and Sanitary Committee, with Amendments ; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed	1618
---	------

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to, Land Drainage Provisional Order Bill, without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, “An Act to empower the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Worthing to construct tramways in and adjacent to the borough ; and for other purposes.” (Worthing Corporation (Tramways) Bill [Lords].) 1618

Worthing Corporation (Tramways) Bill [LORDS].—Read the first time ; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills	1618
--	------

PETITIONS.

LICENCES RENEWAL AND TRANSFER BILL.—Petition from Darwen, against ; to lie upon the Table	1618
--	------

LICENSING LAW (COMPENSATION FOR NON-RENEWAL) BILL.—Petitions against : from Darwen ; and Brighouse ; to lie upon the Table	1619
---	------

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.—Petition from Fetteresso, for alteration ; to lie upon the Table	1619
---	------

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL.—Petitions in favour : from Westminster ; Stratford-on-Avon ; Summerseat ; Heywood ; Llandudno ; Bolton ; Brierfield ; Dundee ; Yardley Hastings ; and Kingston-upon-Hull ; to lie upon the Table	1619
--	------

PUBLIC LIBRARIES.—Petitions for alteration of Law ; from Hyde ; and Clitheroe ; to lie upon the Table	1619
--	------

THAMES CONSERVANCY.—Petition from Buckinghamshire, for alteration of Law ; to lie upon the Table	1619
---	------

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894.—Copies presented, of Orders in Council of 20th May, 1903, (a) providing that the powers and duties of a British Consular Officer under the Act shall in the New Hebrides be exercised by the Resident Deputy Commissioner ; (b) approving By-Laws made by the Cardiff Pilotage Board ; and (c) fixing the Engineering Establishment of the Corporation of Trinity House [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table... ..	1619
---	------

FOREIGN JURISDICTION ACT, 1890.—Copy presented, of Order in Council of 20th May, 1903, amending the Order in Council of 19th November, 1902, respecting the currency of the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table	1619
--	------

COLONIAL PROBATES ACT, 1892.—Copy presented, of Order in Council of 20th May, 1903, applying The Colonial Probates Act, 1892, to the Colony of Newfoundland [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table	1619
---	------

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—Copy presented, of Report of the Chief Inspector for 1902, Part I, Reports [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table	1620
---	------

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (INTELLIGENCE DIVISION).—Copy presented, of Annual Report of Proceedings under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1875 to 1899, the Merchandise Marks Acts, 1887 to 1894, and other Acts for the year 1902 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table	1620
--	------

May 25.]

NATIONAL DEBT ACT, 1883 (TERMINABLE ANNUITIES).—Copy presented, of Treasury Warrants dated 18th May, 1903, for the adjustment of the Terminable Annuities created under the Finance Act, 1899, and held by the National Debt Commissioners on account of the Trustee and Post Office Savings Banks [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1620

TRADE REPORTS (MISCELLANEOUS SERIES).—Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Miscellaneous Series, No. 591 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1620

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2984 to 2986 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1620

ALLOTMENTS (SCOTLAND).—Return ordered, “of Allotments made in Scotland showing (1) the proceedings of Parish Councils in regard to Allotments and common pasture under Section 26 of The Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1894; and (2) the proceedings of County Councils in regard to representations by Parish Councils for orders under The Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1894, Section 26, authorising land to be taken on lease compulsorily for Allotment, since the date of the last Return on the 8th day of August last.”—(*Mr. Eugene Wason.*) 1620

ARMY PROMOTIONS.—Address for, “Return showing the average time taken from the date of first commission, in attaining respectively the ranks of Captain and of Major of Officers in the Cavalry, Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, Infantry, and Indian Army, before the late war and subsequently, in the following form :

	Captain.		Major.	
	Year.	Months.	Year.	Months.
1898 :—				
Cavalry - - - - -				
Artillery - - - - -				
Engineers - - - - -				
Infantry - - - - -				
Indian Army - - - - -				
1903 :—				
Cavalry - - - - -				
Artillery - - - - -				
Engineers - - - - -				
Infantry - - - - -				
Indian Army - - - - -				
—(<i>Major Evans Gordon.</i>)				

1621

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

ALIEN IMMIGRANTS INTO EAST LONDON.—Question, Sir Howard Vincent (Sheffield, Central); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1621

INCOME TAX.—Question, Mr. Whitley Thomson (Yorkshire, W. R., Skipton); Answer, Mr. Ritchie 1621

MEDICAL OFFICERS IN CROFTING DISTRICTS.—Questions, Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney and Shetland); Answers, Mr. A. Graham Murray 1623

<i>May 25.]</i>	<i>Page</i>
CONVEYANCE OF MAILS FROM LONGFORD STATION TO POST OFFICE.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.) ; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain	... 1624
POSTAGE RATES IN THE TRANSVAAL.—Question, Mr. Louis Sinclair (Essex, Romford) ; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain	 1624
ELECTRICITY IN MINES—REPORT OF COMMITTEE.—Question, Mr. John Ellis (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe) ; Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas	 1625
RULE OF SUCCESSION IN STATE OF HILL TIPPERAH, INDIA.—Question, Mr. Herbert Roberts (Denbighshire, W.) ; Answer, Lord George Hamilton	... 1625
FOREIGN MINISTERS OF COMMERCE.—Question, Mr. Louis Sinclair ; Answer, Lord Cranborne	 1626
CUSACK ESTATE, LONGFORD.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell ; Answer, Mr. Wyndham	 1626
IRELAND—HOSPITAL RELIEF FOR POLICEMEN.—Question, Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.) ; Answer, Mr. Wyndham	 1627
MUSKETRY AND MOUNTED INFANTRY COURSE FOR SANDHURST CADETS AWAITING COMMISSIONS.—Question, Mr. Henry Hobhouse (Somersetshire, E.) ; Answer, Mr. Brodrick	 1627
MILITIA RATIONS AT MARYBOROUGH.—Questions, Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory) ; Answers, Mr. Brodrick	 1627
PAY OF QUEEN'S COUNTY MILITIA RECRUITS.—Question, Mr. Delany ; Answer, Mr. Brodrick	 1628
COST OF MILITARY OPERATIONS IN NIGERIA.—Question, Mr. John Ellis ; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain	 1629
COMMISSION ON AMALGAMATION OF UNIONS IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell ; Answer, Mr. Wyndham	 1629
<i>QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.</i>	
DISEASE-INFECTED ARMY BLANKETS.—Questions, Sir Thomas Dewar (Tower Hamlets, St. George's), and Captain Norton (Newington, W.) ; Answers, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford)	... 1630
BARRACK EXPENDITURE IN SOUTH AFRICA.—Questions, Mr. Black (Banffshire), and Mr. Buchanan (Perthshire, E.) ; Answers, Mr. Brodrick	 1631
ROYAL VISIT TO EDINBURGH—MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS.—Question, Mr. Crombie (Kincardineshire) ; Answer, Mr. Brodrick	 1632
MEDITERRANEAN FLEET—ALLEGED WASTE OF AMMUNITION.—Question, Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis) ; Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.)	 1632
TRANSVAAL MINES—ASIATIC LABOUR.—Questions, Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil) and Mr. John Ellis (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe) ; Answers, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.)	1633
TRANSVAAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.—Questions, Mr. Lambert (Devonshire, South Molton) ; Answers, Mr. J. Chamberlain	 1634

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

cxxxvii

Page

May 25.]

BRIGHT TRADE WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES.—Question, The Master of Elibank (Edinburgh, Midlothian); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain	1634
LABOUR IN THE TRANSVAAL GOLD AND COAL MINES.—Question, Mr. D. A. Thomas (Merthyr Tydvil); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain	1635
FINANCES OF BURMAH.—Question, Mr. Schwann (Manchester, N.); Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Lord George Hamilton, Middlesex, Ealing)	1635
INDIAN IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.—Question, The Master of Elibank; Answer, Lord George Hamilton	1635
ADVERTISEMENTS IN CONSULAR REPORTS.—Question, Mr. D. A. Thomas; Answer, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Lord Cranborne, Rochester)	1636
POSTAGE RATES TO THE CONTINENT.—Question, Sir Thomas Dewar; Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.)	1636
WAPPING TELEGRAPH OFFICE.—Question, Sir Thomas Dewar; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain	1636
SWINE FEVER—COMPENSATION FOR COMPULSORY SLAUGHTER.—Question, Mr. Stevenson (Suffolk, Eye); Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.)	1637
INSPECTION OF POOR LAW SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. Crooks (Woolwich); Answer, Mr. Walter Long	1637
NOTTINGHAM SMALLPOX HOSPITAL.—Question, Mr. John Ellis; Answer, Mr. Walter Long	1638
DISEASE-INFECTED BLANKETS—TYPHOID ON TRAINING SHIP "CORNWALL."—Question, Mr. David Morgan (Essex, Walthamstow); Answer, Mr. Walter Long	1639
ARGENTINE CATTLE TRADE.—Question, Mr. Schwann; Answer, Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes (Huntingdonshire, Ramsey)	1639
SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS TO CHILDREN.—Question, Mr. Crombie (Kincardineshire); Answer, The Under Secretary of State to the Home Office (Mr. Cochrane, Ayrshire, N.)	1640
WALSHAM-LE-WILLOWS ANTI-VACCINATIONISTS.—Question, Mr. Malcolm (Suffolk, Stowmarket); Answer, Mr. Cochrane	1640
IMPORTED FOOD SUPPLIES.—Question, Mr. D. A. Thomas; Answer, The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade (Mr. Bonar Law, Glasgow, Blackfriars)	1641
JOHN BRIGHT'S STATUE.—Questions, Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.), and Mr. Powell-Williams (Birmingham, S.); Answers, Mr. Victor Cavendish (Derbyshire, W.)	1641
WESTMINSTER HALL.—Question, Mr. Trevelyan (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland); Answer, Mr. Victor Cavendish	1642
REPAIRS OF VOLUNTARY SCHOOLS.—Questions, Mr. Lambert; Answers, The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education (Sir William Anson, Oxford University)	1642

<i>May 25.]</i>	<i>Page</i>
ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY—BICYCLES.—Questions, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.) and Mr. William Redmond; Answers, the Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover)	1643
IRISH EQUIVALENT EDUCATION GRANT.—Question, Mr. James O'Connor; Answer, Mr. Wyndham	1644
LABOURERS' (IRELAND) ACTS.—Question, Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham	1644
IRISH LAND BILL.—Question, Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham	1645
LAND PURCHASE (IRELAND) ACTS.—Question, Mr. T. W. Russell; Answer, Mr. Wyndham	1645
NEW BISHOPRIC OF SOUTHWARK.—Question, Colonel Stopford-Sackville (Northamptonshire, N.); Answer, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)	1645
UPKEEP OF VOLUNTARY SCHOOLS.—Questions, Mr. Lambert; Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour	1645
THE WHITSUNTIDE HOLIDAYS.—Questions, Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour	1646
BRUSSELS SUGAR CONVENTION.—Questions, Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis), Mr. Lloyd-George (Carnarvon Boroughs), Mr. Buchanan, and Mr. John Ellis; Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour	1648
BRUSSELS SUGAR CONVENTION.—[Motion for Adjournment.]	
<i>Mr. Lough (Islington, W.)</i>	1648

Leave to move the Adjournment of the House refused.

Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Bill.—"To amend the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1893," presented by Mr. Cripps; supported by Mr. Henry Hobhouse, Mr. Lyttelton, and Sir Charles Renshaw; to be read a second time upon Monday, 8th June, and to be printed. (Bill 211.) 1651

London Education Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 2:—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 9, after the word 'shall,' to insert the words 'consist of such number of members as the local education authority shall determine, of whom a majority shall be persons who are members of the local education authority, appointed by that authority, and twelve shall be persons who are members of Councils of Metropolitan Boroughs appointed in manner provided in the First Schedule to this Act, and twenty-five shall be appointed by the local education authority in accordance with a scheme under this Act made by that authority and approved by the Board of Education.

“(2) The local education authority may, if they think fit, appoint not more than five persons from among the members of the London School Board to the supernumerary members of the first Education Committee; but those supernumerary members shall cease to hold office on the expiration of a period of five years from the date of the constitution of the first Education Committee, and any vacancy in their number occurring by death, resignation, or otherwise shall not be filled up.”—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Question again proposed, “That those words, as amended, be there inserted.”

<i>The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)</i>	1651
<i>Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.)</i>	1656

Motion made, and Question proposed, “That the Chairman do report Progress, and ask leave to sit again.”—(*Mr. Bryce.*)

<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	1657
<i>Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.)</i>	1659
<i>Sir William Hart Dyke (Kent, Dartford)</i>	1662
<i>Mr. Lloyd-George (Carnarvon Boroughs)</i>	1664
<i>Mr. Cohen (Islington, E.)</i>	1668
<i>Mr. Channing (Northamptonshire, E.)</i>	1668
<i>Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis)</i>	1669
<i>Mr. Lough (Islington, W.)</i>	1670
<i>Sir John Gorst (Cambridge University)</i>	1670
<i>Mr. Labouchere (Northampton)</i>	1671

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 111; Noes, 234. (Division List No. 98.)

Question again proposed, “That those words, as amended, be there inserted.”

<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton (Tower Hamlets, Poplar)</i>	1675
<i>Mr. Lough</i>	1675

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, as amended—

“After the first word ‘Act,’ to insert the words ‘with such number not exceeding one-third of the whole Committee of whom not less than six shall be women and who.’”—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	1676
<i>Dr. Macnamara</i>	1676
<i>Mr. Bousfield (Hackney, N.)</i>	1677
<i>Mr. Bryce</i>	1678
<i>Mr. Trevelyan (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland)</i>	1678
<i>The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education (Sir William Anson, Oxford University)</i>	1678
<i>Mr. Middlemore (Birmingham, N.)</i>	1679
<i>Mr. Humphreys-Owen (Montgomeryshire)</i>	1679
<i>Mr. Ernest Gray (West Ham, N.)</i>	1679
<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	1680
<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i>	1681

Amendment to the proposed Amendment, as amended, by leave, withdrawn.

<i>Dr. Macnamara</i>	1682
-----------------------------	------

Proposed Amendment, as amended, by leave, withdrawn.

<i>Mr. Yoxall (Nottingham, W.)</i>	1683
<i>Mr. Stuart Samuel (Tower Hamlets, Whitechapel)</i>	1683
<i>Dr. Macnamara</i>	1684
<i>Sir William Anson</i>	1685
<i>Dr. Macnamara</i>	1686
<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	1687
<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i>	1688
<i>Mr. Bousfield</i>	1689
<i>Mr. Alban Gibbs (London)</i>	1689
<i>Mr. Lough</i>	1690
<i>Mr. Burdett-Coutts (Westminster)</i>	1690
<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	1691
<i>Mr. Samuel Evans (Glamorganshire, Mid)</i>	1694

Clause 2, as amended, negatived.

Clause 3:—

<i>Mr. Yoxall</i>	1695
--------------------------	------

Motion made, and Question proposed, “That Clause 3 be postponed.”—
(*Mr. Yoxall.*)

<i>Sir William Anson</i>	1696
<i>Mr. Emmott (Oldham)</i>	1696
<i>Mr. Whitley (Halifax)</i>	1697
<i>Mr. Robson (South Shields)</i>	1698
<i>Mr. Whitmore (Chelsea)</i>	1698
<i>Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice (Wiltshire, Cricklade)</i>	1699
<i>Mr. Brynmor Jones (Swansea District)</i>	1700

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 121; Noes, 243. (Division List No. 99.)

<i>Mr. Mansfield (Lincolnshire, Spalding)</i>	1705
--	------

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 11, at the beginning to insert the words, ‘Unless the local education authority otherwise determines.’”—(*Mr. Mansfield.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

<i>Sir William Anson</i>	1706
<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i>	1708
<i>Mr. Alfred Hutton (Yorkshire, W. R., Morley)</i>	1708
<i>Mr. Haldane (Haddingtonshire)</i>	1710
<i>Mr. Lough</i>	1711

And, it being half-past Seven of the Clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again this evening.

May 25.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

cxvxi

Page

EVENING SITTING.

London Education Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 3 :—

Amendment proposed—

“ In page 1, line 11, at the beginning to insert the words, ‘ Unless the local education authority otherwise determines.’ ”—(*Mr. Mansfield.*)

Question again proposed, “ That those words be there inserted.”

<i>Mr. Channing (Northamptonshire, E.)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	1713
<i>Mr. Bousfield (Hackney, N.)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	1715
<i>Mr. Yoxall (Nottingham, W.)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	1717
<i>Mr. Cripps (Lancashire, Stretford)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	1720
<i>Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	1721
<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	...	...	...	...	...	1724
<i>Sir Edward Grey (Northumberland, Berwick)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	1729
<i>Sir John Gorst</i>	...	...	...	...	...	1732
<i>Dr. Macnamara</i>	...	...	...	...	...	1736
<i>Colonel Lockwood (Essex, Epping)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	1740
<i>Mr. Samuel Evans (Glamorganshire, Mid)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	1740
<i>The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	1741
<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i>	...	...	...	...	...	1741
<i>Mr. Whitmore</i>	...	...	...	...	...	1742

Mr. WALTER LONG rose in his place and claimed to move, “ That the Question be now put.”

Question put, “ That the Question be now put.”

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 183 ; Noes, 99. (Division List No. 100.)

Question put accordingly, “ That those words be there inserted.”

The Committee again divided :—Ayes, 99 ; Noes, 174. (Division List No. 101.)

And, it being after Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House. Committee report Progress ; to sit again this day.

THE TWELVE O'CLOCK RULE.—On the Motion for the adjournment of the House.

Sir A. Acland-Hood (Somersetshire, Wellington) ... 1748

Adjourned at Twenty minutes after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS : TUESDAY, 26TH MAY, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with :—

Ebbw Vale Water and Improvement ; Crystal Palace District Gas ; Leigh Corporation ; Gas Light and Coke Company ; Hampton Court Gas ; Lancashire and Yorkshire and London and North-Western Railways (Steam Vessels).

The same were ordered to lie on the Table 1749

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.—Report from, That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Petitions for additional provisions in the following Bills ought to be dispensed with, and leave given to the Committees on the Bills to introduce the respective additional provisions—

Manchester Corporation [H.L.] ; Bangor Corporation [H.L.] ; Gosport, Fareham, and Cosham Tramways [H.L.].

That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Coventry Electric Tramways Bill ought to be dispensed with, and the Bill allowed to proceed. Read, and agreed to 1749

North-Western Electricity and Power Gas Bill [H.L.]—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 1749

Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Tramways Bill [H.L.]—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 1749

Scottish-American Mortgage Company, Limited, Bill.—Reported, with an Amendment 1749

Burgess Hill and St. John's Common Gas Bill ; Sittingbourne District Gas Bill ; Market Drayton Gas Bill ; Scarborough Gas Bill.—Reported, without Amendment 1749

Carmarthenshire Electric Power Bill [H.L.] ; Liverpool University Bill [H.L.] ; Barry Railway Bill [H.L.] ; Didcot, Newbury, and Southampton Railway Bill [H.L.] ; Winchester Water and Gas Bill.—Reported, with Amendments 1749

Hastings Harbour District Railway Bill [H.L.]—The King's Consent signified ; and Bill reported, with Amendments 1750

Fife Electric Power Bill [H.L.]—Reported, with Amendments 1750

Kips Patents Bill [H.L.]—Read 2^a 1750

London United Tramways Bill ; New Hunstanton Improvement Bill.—Read 2^a, and committed. The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 1750

Gorleston and Southtown Gas Bill.—Read 2^a, and committed 1750

Poole and District Electric Traction Bill [H.L.]—Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons 1750

May 26.]

Page

Maryport Harbour Bill [H.L.].—Read 3^a; an Amendment made; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons ... 1750

Torquay Corporation Water Bill [H.L.]; Preston, Chorley, and Horwich Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons ... 1750

London and North-Western Railway Bill [H.L.]; London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Bill [H.L.]; Cardiff Railway Bill [H.L.]; Aston Manor Improvement Bill [H.L.]; King's College, London, Bill [H.L.]; St. Philip's Chapel (Regent Street) Bill [H.L.]; Port Talbot Railway and Docks Bill [H.L.]; British Gas Light Company (Norwich) Bill [H.L.]; Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation Bill [H.L.]; Tynemouth and District Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons ... 1750

North Middlesex Gas Bill.—Read 3^a, and passed .. 1750

Bridgwater Gas Bill; Sutton District Water Bill. Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons ... 1750

London Hydraulic Power Bill.—Read 3^a, with the Amendment, and passed, and returned to the Commons ... 1751

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (Housing of the Working Classes) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill.—Brought from the Commons ... 1751

Cheshire Lines Committee Bill; East Ham Improvement Bill; Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Bill; London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill; London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway Bill.—Brought from the Commons; read 1^a, and referred to the Examiners 1751

Wellingborough and District Tramways Bill; West Cumberland Electric Tramways Bill; Highland and Invergarry and Fort Augustus Railway Companies Bill.—Brought from the Commons; read 1^a, and referred to the Examiners ... 1751

Plymouth and Stonehouse Gas Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons amended; the said Amendments considered, and agreed to ... 1751

Chatham and District Light Railways Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments ... 1751

Rochester Corporation Tramways and Improvements Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments ... 1751

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill (No. 83); Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill (No. 84); Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill (No. 85); Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas) Bill (No. 86); Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (Housing of the Working Classes) Bill (No. 87); Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill (No. 88).—Read 1^a; to be printed, and referred to the Examiners ... 1751

PRIVATE AND PROVISIONAL ORDER CONFIRMATION BILLS.—Ordered, That Standing Orders Nos. 92 and 93 be suspended; and that the time for depositing petitions praying to be heard against Private and Provisional Order Confirmation Bills, also the time for depositing Documents relating to any

Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, which would otherwise expire during the Adjournment of the House at Whitsuntide, be extended to the first day on which the House shall sit after the Recess 1752

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (East Ham, &c.) Bill [H.L.] ; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]—Read 3^a (according to Order) and passed, and sent to the Commons 1752

Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill ; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill ; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill.—Read 3^a (according to Order), and passed 1752

North British Railway (General Powers) Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.]—Read 2^a (according to Order), and (pursuant to the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899), deemed to have been reported from the Committee 1752

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill.—Read 2^a (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Friday, the 12th of June next 1752

Local Government Provisional Order (Housing of the Working Classes) Bill ; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill : Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill ; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill.—House in Committee (according to Order). Bills reported without Amendment ; Standing Committee negatived : and Bills to be read 3^a on Thursday the 11th of June next 1752

PETITIONS.

LICENSING ACT AMENDMENT BILL [H.L.]—Petitions in favour of : of Doneaster and District Licensed Victuallers Wine and Beer Sellers Association ; Aberdeen Excise Licence Holders Association ; Berkshire Brewers Union ; Isle of Wight Licensed Victuallers Protection and Benevolent Society ; Southampton and District Licensed Victuallers Association ; Kendal, County of Westmorland, and District Licensed Victuallers Association ; Ashton-under-Lyne and Neighbourhood Licensed Victuallers Association ; Campbelltown Distillers Association ; Neath and District Licensed Victuallers Association ; St. Helens, Widnes, and District Licensed Victuallers Association ; Bolton Brewers Association ; Aberystwyth Licensed Victuallers Association ; Goole and District Licensed Victuallers Protection Association ; Faversham Licensed Victuallers Association ; Burton-on-Trent and District Licensed Victuallers Protection and Benevolent Association ; Plymouth, Devonport, Stonehouse, and District Licensed Victuallers Society ; Farnworth, Kearsley, Little Hutton, and Little Lever Beer and Wine Trade Defence Association ; Ashford and District Licensed Victuallers Association ; Boston and District Licensed Victuallers Association ; Leith Wine, Spirit, and Beer Trade Association ; Bristol and District Beer, Spirit, and Wine Trade Protection and Benevolent Association ; Crewe, Nantwich, and District Licensed Victuallers and Wine and Beer Sellers Association ; Malton, Norton, and District Licensed Victuallers Association ; Paisley and Renfrew Wine, Spirit, and Beer Trade Association ; Newcastle and District Off Licence Holders Protection Association ; Bristol Licensed Victuallers Protection Benevolent Association ; Portsmouth and District Off Licence Holders Association ; Oldham Brewers and Licensed Victuallers Association ; Helensburgh and Gareloch Wine, Beer, and Spirit Trade Association ; Cirencester and District Licensed Victuallers Association ; City of Westminster and Borough of Chelsea Licensed Victuallers Association ; North

May 26.]

Page

Staffordshire Licensed Victuallers Association; Ramshottom Beer and Wine Trade Association; Largs Licensed Traders Defence Association; Ilkeston and District Off Licence Holders Protection Association; Walsall and District Licensed Victuallers and Beer Retailers Friendly Society; Keighley Licensed Victuallers Association; Grays and District Licensed Victuallers Association; Bolton Off Licence Holders Association; South Wales Brewers Association; Chelmsford and District Licensed Victuallers Association; Whitstable and Seasalter Licensed Victuallers Protection Association; Eastbourne and District Licensed Victuallers and Beer Retailers Association; Mining Division of the County of Cornwall Licensed Victuallers Association; Bradford Licensed Victuallers Trade Protection Association; Preston and District Licensed Victuallers Association; The Wine and Spirit Association; Droitwich, Bromsgrove and District Licensed Victuallers and Beer Sellers Protection Association; Torquay and District Licensed Victuallers and Beer-house Keepers Protection Association; Devon County Brewers Association; Wigan and District Off Licence Holders Association; Bury and District Wine and Beer Sellers Association; Maidenhead and District Licensed Victuallers and Beer Sellers Protection Association; Vale of Irvine Branch Wine, Spirit, and Beer Trade Defence Association; Bellshill and District Wine, Spirit, and Beer Trade Association; Devizes and District Licensed Victuallers and Beer Retailers Protection Association; Rochdale and District Wine and Beer Trade Association; Welshpool and District Licensed Victuallers Association; Gloucestershire Brewers Association; Stamford and District Licensed Victuallers Association; Chorley and District Licensed Victuallers and Beer Sellers Protection and Benevolent Association; Nuneaton, Atherstone, and District Licensed Victuallers Association; Bridgend District Licensed Victuallers Association; Hull and District Licensed Victuallers Association; Dundalk Licensed Vintners Association; South East London Licensed Victuallers and Beer Sellers Trade Protection Society; Bolton Licensed Victuallers Association; Brighton and County Beer Retailers Protection Association; Carnarvonshire, Anglesey and Merioneth Licensed Victuallers Association; Southport, Birkdale, Ainsdale, Freshfield and Formby Association of Licensed Victuallers; Vale of Leven Wine, Spirit and Beer Trade Association; Lawford's Gate (West Gloucester) Licensed Victuallers Protection Association; Solihull, King's Heath, and South Birmingham Licensed Victuallers and Brewers Protection Society; Canterbury Association of Licensed Victuallers; Bolton Beer and Wine Trade Protection Society; Stranraer Association of Licensed Victuallers; Gloucestershire Association of Licensed Victuallers; Harrogate Association of Licensed Victuallers; Biggleswade Association of Licensed Victuallers; Hartlepool Association of Licensed Victuallers; Bedford Association of Licensed Victuallers; Stockport, Heaton Norris and District Beer and Wine and Spirit Retailers Protection Association; Wolverhampton and District Incorporated Society of Licensed Victuallers; Cumberland Brewers and Wholesale Wine and Spirit Merchants Association; Burnley and District Beer and Wine Trade Association; Brierley Hill, Pensnett, Kingswinford and District Licensed Victuallers Association; Borough of Portsmouth, Gosport and District Licensed Victuallers Protection and Benevolent Association; Newport (Mon.) Licensed Victuallers and Beer-house Keepers Association; Rochester, Chatham, Brompton, Gillingham and Vicinity Licensed Victuallers Protection Association; Gravesend, Northfleet and District Licensed Victuallers and Beer-house Keepers Protection Association; National Trade Defence Northern District Association; Reigate and District Licensed Victuallers Protection Association; Sheffield, Rotherham, and Surrounding Districts Wine and Beer Trade Association; Southend and District Licensed Victuallers and Beer Sellers Protection Association; Bacup and Rossendale Beer and Wine Trade Association; Warrington and District Off Licence Protection Association;

Sevenoaks and District Licensed Victuallers Protection Association ;
 Rochdale and District Off Licence Holders Protection Association ;
 North and South Shropshire Licensed Victuallers and Beersellers
 Association ; Stourbridge, Lye and District Licensed Victuallers and Beer
 Retailers Protection Society ; Wiltshire Brewers Association ; Leeds and
 District Off Licence Holders Protection and Benevolent Association ; Dar-
 wen and District Licensed Victuallers and Beersellers Association ;
 Harwich, Dovercourt and District Licensed Victuallers Trade Protection
 Association ; Girvan and District Wine, Spirit, and Beer Trade Associa-
 tion ; Dunoon and District Licensed Trade Defence Association ; Belfast
 and Ulster Licensed Vintners Association ; Metropolitan Beer and Wine
 Trade Protection Society ; Coalville and District Licensed Victuallers
 Protection and Benevolent Association (Leicestershire) ; Peebles-shire
 Licensed Trade Defence Association ; Somersetshire Brewers Association ;
 Kirkcaldy and District Licensed Grocers Association ; Northamptonshire
 Licensed Trades Association, Limited ; North-West Wilts Licensed
 Victuallers and Beer Retailers Association ; Hamilton and District Wine,
 Spirit, and Beer Trade Defence Association ; East Lothian Licensed Trade
 Defence Association ; Lincoln and Lincolnshire Licensed Victuallers, Beer
 Sellers, and Wine Dealers Association ; Leicester and District Off Licence
 Association ; Chesterfield and District Licensed Victuallers Association ;
 Pontefract, Castleford, and District Licensed Victuallers and Wine and
 Beer Sellers Protection Association ; West Hartlepool and District Licensed
 Victuallers and Wine Trade Protection Society ; Bucks Brewers Association ;
 Wisbech and District Licensed Victuallers Association ; Shettleston,
 Tolleross, and District Licensed Trade Defence Association ; Monmouth-
 shire Brewers Association ; Peterborough Licensed Victuallers Protection
 and Benevolent Association ; Leek and District Licensed Victuallers and
 Wine and Beersellers Association ; Liverpool and District Incorporated
 Brewers and Spirit Merchants Association ; Crail, Anstruther, and District
 Licence Trade Defence Association ; Hawick and District Licensed Vic-
 tuallers Association ; Buxton and District Licensed Victuallers and Wine
 and Beersellers Association ; Bedfordshire Brewers Association ; Notting-
 hamshire Brewers Association ; Aberdeenshire Licensed Trade Defence
 Association ; Manchester, Salford, and District Licensed Victuallers
 Association ; Wakefield and District Licensed Victuallers Association ;
 Pontypridd and Rhondda Valleys Licensed Victuallers Association ; West
 Bromwich, Smethwick, and District Licensed Trade Association ; Working-
 ton and District Licensed Victuallers Association ; Rye and District
 Licensed Victuallers Association ; Southport and District Off Licence
 Holders Association ; Barnsley and District Licensed Victuallers Associa-
 tion ; Stockport and District Off Licence Holders Protection Association ;
 Port Glasgow Wine, Spirit, and Beer Trade Association ; Dorking District
 Licensed Victuallers Protection Society ; Midlothian Licensed Trade Defence
 Association ; Brechin and District Wine, Spirit, and Beer Trade Defence
 Association ; Bridlington and District Licensed Victuallers Association ;
 Dudley and District Licensed Victuallers Benevolent and Protection
 Society ; Great Grimshy and Neighbourhood Brewers, Wine and Spirit
 Merchants, and Licensed Victuallers Association ; Weston-super-Mare,
 East and Mid Somerset Licensed Victuallers Association ; Barnet Licensed
 Victuallers Protection Association ; Dewsbury and District Licensed
 Victuallers and Beer and Wine Sellers Association ; Number Four District
 of the Licensed Victuallers National Defence League of England and
 Wales ; Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge, and District Licensed Victuallers
 Association ; East London Licensed Victuallers Protection Association ;
 Exeter and District Off Licence Holders Association ; Exeter and District
 Licensed Victuallers Protection Society ; Falmouth, Penryn, and Flushing
 Licensed Victuallers Association ; Brigg and District Licensed Victuallers
 Association ; Blackburn and District Licensed Trade Association ; Skipton

May 26.]

and District Licensed Victuallers Association; Ashton-under-Lyne and District Beer, Spirit, and Wine Trade Association; Bradford and District Beer, Wine, and Spirit Trade Protection Association; Dundee Wine, Spirit, and Beer Trade Protection Association; Stafford, Rugeley, and District Licensed Victuallers Protection Association; Falkirk and District Licensed Trade Defence Association; Penzance and Western Division Licensed Victuallers Trade Protection Society; Carlisle and District Licensed Victuallers Association; Scottish Licensed Trade Defence Association; West Suffolk Licensed Victuallers Protection Association; South-West London Licensed Victuallers Protection Association; Leicester and Leicestershire Licensed Victuallers Association; Fraserburgh and District Licensed Trade Association; Partick and District Wine, Spirit, and Beer Trade Association; Peterhead and District Wine, Spirit, and Beer Trade Defence Association; Spilsby and District Licensed Trades Association; Bradford and District Off Licence Holders Association; Luton Licensed Victuallers Protection Association; Brighouse and District Licensed Victuallers Protection Association; Hammersmith and North Kensington Licensed Victuallers Protection Association; Leigh and District Licensed Victuallers Wine and Beer Retailers Association; Eccles Division Licensed Victuallers Defence Association; Manchester Brewers Central Association; Pollokshaws and District Wine, Spirit, and Beer Defence Association; Monmouth and District Licensed Victuallers Association; Birmingham and Midland Counties Wholesale Brewers Association.—Read, and ordered to lie on the Table ... 1753

Shops (Early Closing) Bill [H.L.].—Petition in favour of; of Harbour Traders and Early Closing Association; read, and ordered to lie on the Table ... 1758

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.—Statistical Tables relating to emigration and immigration from and into the United Kingdom in the year 1902, and Report to the Board of Trade thereon: Ordered to be laid before the House.—(*The Lord Wolverton.*) ... 1758

COLLEGE CHARTER ACT, 1871.—Applications received from the Owen's College, Manchester, and the University College, Liverpool, for the establishment of Universities in those cities, which were referred by His Majesty in Council for the consideration and Report of a Committee of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council; together with the Drafts of the Charters applied for: Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table ... 1758

BOARD OF EDUCATION.—Statement of Schemes for the formation of education committees, approved during the month of April, 1903, by the Board of Education, under Section 17 of the Education Act of 1902 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper (Command No. 1564) of Session 1903) showing —Name of local authority; Number of the council; Number of members on the education committee; Number of members of the education committee who are necessarily members of the council; Number of women who are necessarily on the education committee; Forms of educational experience to be represented on the committee; Recommendations or nominations (if any) ... 1758

NAVIGATION AND SHIPPING.—Annual Statement of Navigation and Shipping of the United Kingdom, for the year 1902. Presented [by Command] and ordered to lie on the Table ... 1759

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.—Return respecting; Laid before the House (pursuant to Order of this day), and to be printed. (No. 94.) ... 1759

May 26.]

Page

Prevention of Cruelty to Children (Amendment) Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Standing Committee with further Amendments. The Report of the Amendments made in Committee of the Whole House, and by the Standing Committee, to be received and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 89.) 1759

Union of Benefices Act, 1860, Amendment Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Standing Committee with Amendments. The Report thereof to be received on Thursday the 11th of June next; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 90.)... 1759

Polling Districts (County Councils) Bill [H.L.] (**No. 91**); Polling Arrangements (Parliamentary Boroughs) Bill [H.L.] (**No. 92**).—Reported from the Standing Committee without further Amendment. The Report of the Amendment made to each Bill in Committee of the Whole House to be received on Thursday the 11th of June next; and Bills to be printed as amended ... 1759

Electric Lighting (London) Bill [H.L.].—Amendments reported (according to Order): Then Standing Order No. XXXIX. considered (according to Order) and dispensed with. Bill read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons ... 1760

Statute Law Revision (Scotland) Bill [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to Order). Bill reported without Amendment, and re-committed to the Standing Committee ... 1760

Supply of Electricity Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to amend the Acts relating to Electric Lighting, was presented by the Lord Wolverton. Read 1^a, and to be printed. (No. 95.) ... 1760

Ecclesiastical Commissioners Bill [H.L.].—Read 3^a (according to Order), and passed, and sent to the Commons ... 1760

Justices of the Peace Bill [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to order).

On the Motion of the Lord Chancellor, a new clause was inserted, providing that a solicitor may be appointed a Justice of the Peace for any county in England or Wales, but it shall not be lawful for any solicitor being a Justice to practice himself or by any partner directly or indirectly before any Court of Summary jurisdiction or quarter sessions for that county.

Bill re-committed to the Standing Committee, and to be printed as amended. (No. 93.) ... 1760

Coal Mines (Certificates) Bill—[SECOND READING].—Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

The Earl of Jersey ... 1760

Moved, That the Bill be now read 2^a.—(*The Earl of Jersey*.)

On Question, Bill read 2^a, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Friday the 12th of June next.

THE GROCERS' SCHOOL CADET CORPS.

The Earl of Meath ... 1761

The Under Secretary of State for War (The Earl of Hardwicke) ... 1765

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

cxvix

Page

May 26.]

AN IMPERIAL YEOMANRY RESERVE.

<i>Lord Denman</i>	1767
<i>The Earl of Hardwicke</i>	1769

THE MAHARAJAH OF PANNA.

<i>Lord Tweedmouth</i>	1771
<i>The Earl of Hardwicke</i>	1773
<i>The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (The Marquess of Lansdowne)</i> ...	1777

House adjourned at twenty minutes before Six o'clock, to Thursday, the 11th of June next, a quarter past Four o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: TUESDAY, 26TH MAY, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz. :—

Somerset and District Electric Power Bill [Lords]; Scunthorpe Urban District Water Bill [Lords]; Dudley, Stourbridge and District Tramways Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time 1778

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO NOT COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have not been complied with, viz. :—

Hove, Worthing and District Tramways Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders 1778

Faversham Gas Bill [LORDS]; Life Association of Scotland Bill [Lords]; North's Navigation Collieries Bill [Lords].—Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment 1778

Highland and Invergarry and Fort Augustus Railway Companies Bill.—As amended, considered. Ordered, That Standing Orders Nos. 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(Mr. Caldwell.) Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed 1778

Lima Railways Bill [LORDS].—[Not amended] considered. To be read the third time 1779

Southampton Harbour Bill [LORDS].—Read a second time, and committed... 1779

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 1779

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill.—Read a second time, and committed 1779

May 26.]

Page

Naval Works Provisional Order Bill. —Reported, without Amendment (Provisional Order confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table. Bill to be read the third time to-morrow...	1779
Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill. —Reported, without Amendment (Provisional Orders confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table. Bill to be read the third time To-morrow ...	1779
Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill. —Reported, without Amendment (Provisional Orders confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table. Bill to be read the third time To-morrow ...	1779
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11) Bill. —Reported, without Amendment (Provisional Orders confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table. Bill to be read the third time To-morrow ...	1779
Wigan Corporation Tramways Bill; Grindleford, Baslow, and Bakewell Railway Bill.—Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed ...	1779
Knott End Railway (Extension of Time) Bill [LORDS].—Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed ...	1779
Cleveland and Durham County Electric Power Bill [LORDS].—Reported, with an Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed ...	1779
Milford Docks Bill [LORDS].—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table ...	1779
Pelican and British Empire Life Office Bill [LORDS].—Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table.	
Bill to be read the third time ...	1779
Harrow and Stanmore Gas Bill [LORDS].—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed ...	1779
South Wales Mineral Railway Bill [LORDS].—Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed ...	1780
Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Bill [LORDS]; Wellington (Salop) Gas Bill [Lords].—Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed ...	1780
South Shields, Sunderland, and District Tramways Bill. —Reported (Preamble not proved); Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed ...	1780
RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP NO. 5). —Sir LEWIS M'IVER reported from the Committee on Group No. 5 of Railway Bills: That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned until Tuesday, 9th June, at half-past Eleven of the clock. Report to lie upon the Table ...	1780
MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS. —That they have agreed to—Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; North Middlesex Gas Bill, without Amendment.	

London Hydraulic Power Bill, with an Amendment.

Bridgwater Gas Bill ; Sutton District Water Bill, with Amendments.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to provide for the appointment of an additional Church Estates Commissioner." (Ecclesiastical Commissioners Bill [Lords].)

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to provide for the adjustment, in accordance with changes of boundary effected under the London Government Act, 1899, of the areas within which local authorities and companies are authorised to supply electricity." (Electric Lighting (London) Bill [Lords].)

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Education under the Elementary Education Acts 1870 to 1900, to enable the School Boards for East Ham, Lower Michaelstone, Manchester, and Willesden, to put in force the Land Clauses Act." (Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (East Ham, etc.) Bill [Lords].)

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the General Pier and Harbour Act, 1861, relating to Llandudno, Galway, and Scrabster." (Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill [Lords].)

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the construction of a new tramway in the urban district of Ravensthorpe and the electrical equipment and reconstruction of tramways in the boroughs of Dewsbury and Batley and the urban districts of Gomersal, Birkenshaw, Soothill Upper, and Birstal ; and for other purposes." (Dewsbury, Batley, and Birstal Tramways Bill [Lords].)

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Chard to purchase the undertaking of the Chard Gas Company, and to supply gas and electricity within their borough and the neighbourhood thereof ; and for other purposes." (Chard Corporation Gas and Electricity Bill [Lords].)

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to enable the South Eastern and Chatham Railway Companies Managing Committee to work the South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways by electrical power ; and for other purposes." (South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill [Lords].)

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to empower the Hastings Tramways Company to construct extension tramways in the county borough of Hastings ; and for other purposes." (Hastings Tramways (Extensions) Bill [Lords].)

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to empower the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the borough of Bournemouth to maintain and use the tramways authorised by the Bournemouth Corporation Tramways Order, 1900, and to make provision for the transfer of the undertaking of the Poole and District Electric Traction Company, Limited, and for other purposes." (Bournemouth Corporation Tramways Bill [Lords].)

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to extend the powers of the Jewish Colonisation Association ; and for other purposes." (Jewish Colonisation Association Bill [Lords].)

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the South Lancashire Tramways Company to construct additional tramways and other works, and to extend the time for taking lands and for the construction and completion of certain authorised tramways and widenings ; and for other purposes." (South Lancashire Tramways Bill [Lords].)

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to empower the Pontypridd Urban District Council to make a new street and other street works, to lay down

May 26.]

a tramway, and to confer further powers upon the Council with regard to their gas and electricity undertakings, and with regard to the good government and improvement of the district." (Pontypridd Urban District Council Bill [Lords].)

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to extend the time limited for the completion of and purchase of lands for the works authorised by the Christchurch and Bournemouth Tramways Act, 1900; and for other purposes." (Poole and District Electric Traction Bill [Lords].)

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to incorporate a Company and authorise them to acquire the undertaking of the Commissioners for the Harbour of Maryport, and to construct a dock, railways, and works at and near Maryport; and for other purposes." (Maryport Harbour Bill [Lords].)

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the Corporation of Torquay to construct additional waterworks; and for other purposes." (Torquay Corporation Water Bill [Lords].)

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to incorporate the Preston, Chorley, and Horwich Tramways Company, and to empower that Company to make and maintain tramways and other works; and for other purposes." (Preston and Horwich Tramways Bill [Lords], now "Preston, Chorley, and Horwich Tramways Bill [Lords].")

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for conferring further powers upon the London and North Western Railway Company in relation to their own undertaking, and upon that Company and the Midland Railway Company in relation to their respective joint undertakings, and upon the Shropshire Union Railways and Canal Company in relation to their undertakings; and for other purposes." (London and North Western Railway Bill [Lords].)

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confer further powers on the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Company; and for other purposes." (London, Brighton and South Coast Railway Bill [Lords].)

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for empowering the Cardiff Railway Company to construct a new railway and works, and to abandon the construction of portions of railways already authorised; for extending the time for the completion of certain railways and works; and for other purposes." (Cardiff Railway Bill [Lords].)

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to make further and better provision with regard to the electric light undertaking of the Council, and for the improvement, health, local government, and finance of the district; and for other purposes." (Aston Manor Improvement Bill [Lords].)

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to amend King's College, London, Act, 1882." (King's College, London, Bill [Lords].)

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to provide for the sale and disposal of St. Philip's Chapel (Regent Street) and for other purposes." (St. Philip's Chapel (Regent Street) Bill [Lords].)

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the Port Talbot Railway and Docks Company to raise further moneys for the purposes of their undertaking." (Port Talbot Railway and Docks Bill [Lords].)

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for empowering the British Gas Light Company (Limited) to expend further capital at Norwich." (British Gas Light Company (Norwich) Bill [Lords].)

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confer further powers upon the Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation Company." (Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation Bill [Lords].)

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for authorising the Tynemouth and District Electric Traction Company (Limited) to use mechanical power upon their tramways; and for other purposes." (Tynemouth and District Tramways Bill [Lords].)

May 26.]

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (East Ham, etc.) Bill [LORDS]. —Read the first time ; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. (Bill 212.)	1784
Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill [LORDS.] —Read the first time ; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. (Bill 213.)	1784
Dewsbury, Batley, and Birstal Tramways Bill [LORDS] ; Chard Corporation Gas and Electricity Bill [Lords] ; South-Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Bill [Lords] ; Hastings Tramways (Extensions) Bill [Lords] ; Bournemouth Corporation Tramways Bill [Lords] ; Jewish Colonisation Association Bill [Lords] ; South Lancashire Tramways Bill [Lords] ; Pontypridd Urban District Council Bill [Lords] ; Poole and District Electric Traction Bill [Lords] ; Maryport Harbour Bill [Lords] ; Torquay Corporation Water Bill [Lords] ; Preston, Chorley, and Horwich Tramways Bill [Lords] ; London and North-Western Railway Bill [Lords] ; London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Bill [Lords].—Read the first time ; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills	1874

Cardiff Railway Bill [LORDS] ; Aston Manor Improvement Bill [Lords] ; King's College, London, Bill [Lords] ; St. Philip's Chapel (Regent Street) Bill [Lords] ; Port Talbot Railway and Docks Bill [Lords] ; British Gas Light Company (Norwich) Bill [Lords] ; Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation Bill [Lords] ; Tynemouth and District Tramways Bill [Lords].—Read the first time ; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills	1784
---	------

PETITIONS

BURGH POLICE (SCOTLAND) BILL. —Petitions for alteration : from Partick ; and Renfrew ; to lie upon the Table	1784
COUNTY COUNCILS (BILLS IN PARLIAMENT) BILL. —Petition from Renfrew ; in favour ; to lie upon the Table	1784
COUNTY COURTS JURISDICTION EXTENSION BILL. —Petitions in favour : from Eccles ; and Hanley ; to lie upon the Table	1785
LICENCES RENEWAL AND TRANSFER BILL. —Petitions against : from Helston ; and Morley ; to lie upon the Table	1785
LICENSING LAW (COMPENSATION FOR NON-RENEWAL) BILL. —Petitions against : from Kilmarnock ; and Morley ; to lie upon the Table	1785
LICENSING BILL (COMPENSATION FOR NON-RENEWAL) BILL, AND LICENCES RENEWAL AND TRANSFER BILL. —Petitions against : from Manchester ; Oldham ; and Bristol ; to lie upon the Table	1785
LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL. —Petition from Linlithgow, in favour ; to lie upon the Table	1785
MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL. —Petition from Headington, against ; to lie upon the Table	1785
PORT OF LONDON BILL. —Petitions against (praying to be heard by Counsel) : from County Council of Essex ; and Waterside Manufacturers within the Port of London ; to lie upon the Table	1785
PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL. —Petitions in favour : from Edinburgh ; Haltwhistle ; Styal ; Holyhead ; Willesden ; Falmouth ; Kilbride ; Auchinheath ; Paignton ; Enderby ; St. Cuthberts ; Dove Holes ; Horbury ; Walton ; Derby ; Thrapston ; Tyldesley ; Brightside ; Swalwell ; Blantyre ; Lazonby ; and Lincoln ; to lie upon the Table	1785

Amendment proposed—

“In page 4, line 14, at beginning, to insert the words ‘The provisions of the principal Act as to endowments in London shall be so modified as to provide that, where under the trusts or other provisions affecting any endowment the income thereof must be applied in whole or in part to educational purposes, it shall be the duty of the local education authority to prepare a scheme for the application of any income so applicable to educational purposes adapted to the needs of the parish or district concerned and to submit such scheme for the approval of the Board of Education.’”—(*Sir Michael Foster.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

<i>Sir William Anson</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1906
<i>Mr. Ernest Gray</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1906
<i>Mr. Bryce</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1907

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 4, line 14, to leave out paragraph 4.”—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Amendment agreed to.

<i>Mr. Haldane</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1908
--------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

Amendment proposed—

“In page 4, line 39, at end to add the words, ‘Where governors or managers are appointed by the local education authority, on the governing body of any institution aided by grant from the local education authority, the qualifications required by the scheme or trust deed of the institution shall not apply to such governors or managers.’”

Question proposed, “That those words be there added.”

<i>Sir William Anson</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1909
--------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

Question put, and agreed to.

<i>Dr. Macnamara.</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1909
-----------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

Amendment proposed, after the last Amendment to add the words—

“There shall always be at least six women upon the Education Committee of the local education authority.”—(*Dr. Macnamara.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there added.”

<i>Sir William Anson</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1909
<i>Mr. Henry Hobhouse</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1909
<i>Mr. Samuel Evans</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1910
<i>Mr. Corrie Grant</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1910
<i>Mr. Labouchere (Northampton)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1911
<i>Mr. Lough</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1912

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 61 ; Noes, 124. (Division List No. 107.)

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

May 26.]

iv
Page

Dr. Macnamara 1913

Amendment proposed, after the last Amendment, to add the words

“The Education Committee of the local education authority shall transact all its ordinary business in public.”—(*Dr. Macnamara.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there added.”

Sir William Anson 1914

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 57 ; Noes, 117. (Division List No. 108.)

Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Bill reported ; as amended, to be considered upon Monday, 8th June, and to be printed. (Bill 216.)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Questions, Mr. Bryce and Mr. Lough ; Answers, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)... .. 1915

Adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Two o'clock.

END OF TABLE OF CONTENTS TO VOL. CXXII.

<i>May 26.]</i>	<i>Page</i>
HONG KONG PUBLIC HEALTH LAWS.—Question, Mr. Weir ; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain	1797
PREFERENTIAL RATES FOR EMPIRE PRODUCTS.—Question, Sir John Leng (Dundee); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain	1798
<i>QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.</i>	
MOUNTED INFANTRY IN SOUTH AFRICA.—Questions, Mr. Charles Hobhouse (Bristol, E.), and Mr. Winston Churchill (Oldham); Answers, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford)	1798
146TH BATTERY ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY.—Question, Mr. Seymour Ormsby-Gore (Lincolnshire, Gainsborough)	
[Question not put.]	
NAVAL GUNNERY.—Questions, Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis); Answers, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.) ...	1799
CHINESE LABOUR IN THE TRANSVAAL MINES.—Question, Mr. Trevelyan (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.)	1800
PLAGUE AT HONG KONG.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain	1800
SOUTH AFRICAN COMPENSATION CLAIMS.—Questions, Mr. Weir; Answers, Mr. J. Chamberlain	1801
FREE TRADE IN THE CONGO FREE STATE.—Question, Mr. Charles M'Arthur (Liverpool, Exchange); Answer, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Lord Cranborne, Rochester)	1801
FEMALE LABOUR AT COAL PITS.—Question, Mr. Sullivan (Westmeath, S.); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Akers Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's)	1802
INQUIRY INTO WAGES OF POSTAL SERVANTS.—Question, Mr. Corrie Grant (Warwickshire, Rugby); Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.)	1802
LIVERPOOL EMIGRANT LODGING HOUSES.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, The Secretary to the Local Government Board (Mr. Grant Lawson, Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk)	1803
GEORGE SQUARE, LIVERPOOL—INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Grant Lawson	1803
LIVERPOOL SMALLPOX HOSPITAL—ESCAPE OF PATIENTS.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Grant Lawson	1804
EDUCATION FINANCE.—Question, Mr. Mansfield (Lincolnshire, Spalding); Answer, The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education (Sir William Anson, Oxford University)	1804
HOLLAND COUNTY COUNCIL—EDUCATION SCHEME.—Questions, Mr. Mansfield; Answers, Sir William Anson	1805

May 26.]

VACCINATION IN SCOTLAND—HUMAN LYMPH. Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, The Lord Advocate (Mr. A. Graham Murray, Buteshire) ... 1806

IRISH LAND DISPUTE CASE OF REV. MR. ELLIOTT. Question, Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover) ... 1806

ANTARCTIC RESEARCH—RELIEF OF THE "DISCOVERY."—Questions, Colonel Royds (Rochdale), and Sir John Colomb (Great Yarmouth); Answers, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 1807

THE EDITING OF QUESTIONS.—Questions, Mr. William Redmond; Answers, Mr. Speaker ... 1808

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEE).—Mr. Halsey reported from the Committee of Selection, That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure: Mr. Channing (added in respect of the Prevention of Corruption Bill [Lords]); and had appointed in substitution: Mr. Toulmin; Report to lie upon the Table ... 1810

NEW BILLS.

Local Government Act (1888) Amendment Bill.—"To amend the Local Government Act, 1888," presented by Mr. Spear; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, June 16th, and to be printed. (Bill 214.) ... 1810

Local Government Act (1888) Amendment (London) Bill.—"To amend the Local Government Act, 1888," presented by Mr. Herbert Robertson; supported by Mr. Bousfield and Mr. Allhusen; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, June 9th, and to be printed. (Bill 215.) ... 1810

Sittings of the House (Exemption from the Standing Order).—Motion made, and Question put, "That the proceedings on the London Education Bill, if under discussion at Twelve o'clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Order (Sittings of the House)."—(Mr. A. J. Balfour.)

The House divided—Ayes, 189; Noes, 81. (Division List No. 102.) ... 1810

London Education Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 3:—

Mr. Henry Hobhouse (Somersetshire, E.) ... 1813

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 11, to leave out Sub-section (1) and insert the words 'All public elementary schools provided by the local education authority shall have a body of managers consisting of a number of managers, not exceeding eight, appointed by the local education authority, together with a number not exceeding four appointed by the

Council of the Metropolitan Borough within which the schools are situate. In the appointment of managers regard shall be had to the desirability of including a due proportion of women.'—(*Mr. Henry Hobhouse.*)

Question proposed, "That Sub-section (1) stand part of the clause."

<i>The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education (Sir William Anson, Oxford University)</i>	1817
<i>Sir John Gorst (Cambridge University)</i>	1821
<i>Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.)</i>	1825
<i>Mr. Ernest Gray (West Ham, N.)</i>	1828
<i>Mr. W. F. D. Smith (Strand, Westminster)</i>	1832
<i>Mr. Lloyd-George (Carmarvon Boroughs)</i>	1832
<i>Mr. Herbert Robertson (Hackney, S.)</i>	1834
<i>Captain Jessel (St. Pancras, S.)</i>	1836
<i>Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.)</i>	1838
<i>Mr. Peel (Manchester, S.)</i>	1844
<i>Mr. Cohen (Islington, E.)</i>	1845
<i>Mr. Lough (Islington, W.)</i>	1847
<i>Sir William Anson</i>	1850
<i>Sir George Bartley (Islington, N.)</i>	1851
<i>Mr. Sydney Burton (Tower Hamlets, Poplar)</i>	1852
<i>Mr. Henry Hobhouse</i>	1854
<i>Mr. T. P. O'Connor (Liverpool, Scotland)</i>	1854
<i>Sir Francis Powell (Wigan)</i>	1854
<i>Dr. Macnamara</i>	1855

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

<i>Mr. Peel</i>	1856
------------------------	------

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 11, to leave out Sub-section (1), and insert the words, 'All public elementary provided schools within the area of each Metropolitan Borough shall have a body or bodies of managers whose number shall be determined by the Council of each borough subject to the approval of the Board of Education. Provided that three-fourths of such body or bodies shall be appointed by the Borough Council, and one-fourth by the local education authority. Provided also that due regard shall be had to the inclusion of women on the said bodies of managers.'"—(*Mr. Peel.*)

Question put, "That Sub-section (1) stand part of the Clause."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 11 ; Noes, 349. (Division List No. 103.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

<i>Mr. Ernest Gray</i>	1857
-------------------------------	------

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"To leave out the words, 'or bodies.'"—(*Mr Ernest Gray.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'or bodies' stand part of the proposed Amendment."

May 26.]

Page

<i>Sir William Anson</i>	1861
<i>Mr. Samuel Evans (Glamorganshire, Mid)</i>	1861
<i>Mr. Peel</i>	1861
<i>Sir George Bartley</i>	1861
<i>Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid.)</i>	1862

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

<i>Mr. Samuel Evans</i>	1863
--------------------------------	------

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

“To leave out the words ‘council of each borough’ and insert the words ‘local education authority after consultation with the council of each borough.’”—(*Mr. Samuel Evans.*)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment.”

<i>Sir William Anson</i>	1864
<i>Mr. Bryce</i>	1864
<i>Mr. Bond (Nottingham, E.)</i>	1865
<i>Dr. Macnamara</i>	1866
<i>Mr. Lough</i>	1866
<i>Col. Williams (Dorsetshire, W.)</i>	1867
<i>Mr. Ernest Gray</i>	1868

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 210; Noes, 119. (Division List No. 104.)

<i>Mr. Yoxall (Nottingham, W.)</i>	1871
---	------

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again this evening

EVENING SITTING.

London Education Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[*Mr. J. W. LOWTHER* (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 3:—

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 11, to leave out Sub-section (1), and insert the words, ‘All public elementary provided schools within the area of each Metropolitan borough shall have a body or bodies of managers whose number shall be determined by the Council of each Borough subject to the approval of the Board of Education. Provided that three-fourths of such body or bodies shall be appointed by the Borough Council, and one-fourth by the local education authority. Provided also that due regard shall be had to the inclusion of women on the said body of managers.’”—(*Mr. Peel.*)

Question again proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Yoxall 1874

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"To leave out the word 'three-fourths,' and insert the word 'one-fourth.'"—(*Mr. Yoxall.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'three-fourths' stand part of the proposed Amendment."

Mr. J. H. Lewis (Flint Boroughs) 1875
Mr. Herbert Robertson (Hackney, S.) 1875
Sir Albert Rollit (Islington, S.) 1877
Mr. Sydney Buxton 1877

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 83 ; Noes, 40. (Division List No. 105.)

Mr. George White (Norfolk, N.W.) 1879

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"In line 7 to leave out all the words after 'that' in order to insert the words 'one-fourth of such body or bodies shall be women.'"—(*Mr. George White.*)

Sir William Anson 1880
Mr. Sydney Buxton 1881
Mr. Bryce 1881

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Question, "That those words be there inserted," put and agreed to.

Dr. Macnamara 1882

Amendment proposed—

"In Clause 3, page 2, line 1, to leave out Sub-section (2), and insert the words, 'It shall be the duty of the local education authority to consult the Borough Council in respect to the site to be chosen for the erection of any new public elementary school within the area of such Borough Council.'"

Question proposed, "That Sub-section 2 stand part of the clause."

Sir William Anson 1883

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"To add the words 'And in case of compulsory purchase, if the Council of the Metropolitan Borough does not concur in the proposed compulsory acquisition, the Board of Education shall be empowered, as a condition of its approval of the Provisional Order, to require, if it thinks fit, the substitution in the Order of any other site proposed by the Council of the Metropolitan Borough for that inserted by the local education authority.'"—(*Sir William Anson.*)

May 26.]

Page

<i>Mr. Bryce</i>	1884
-------------------------	------

Amendment agreed to, Sub-section 3 omitted from the clause.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That Clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i>	1884
<i>Sir Michael Foster (London University)</i>	1885
<i>Mr. George Whiteley (Yorkshire, W. R., Pudsey)</i>	1885
<i>Mr. Bryce</i>	1886

Clause 3 agreed to.

Clause 4 (Modification of Principal Act) and Clause 5 (Commencement, repeal, and short title), the last clause of the Bill, were agreed to without discussion, the former with a verbal Amendment.

New clauses.

<i>Mr. Bryce</i>	1886
-------------------------	------

New clause :—

"(1) Every ratepayer in London may at any reasonable time, without payment, inspect and take copies of and extracts from all minutes of proceedings of the Education Committee or any sub-Committee thereof. (2) Any person who hinders a ratepayer from exercising any of his rights under this section, or demands a fee for allowing him to do so, shall be liable on summary conviction to a penalty not exceeding £5 for each such offence."—(*Mr. Bryce.*)

Brought up and read the first time.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

<i>Sir Albert Rollit</i>	1887
<i>The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.)</i>	1887
<i>Colonel Williams (Dorsetshire, W.)</i>	1888
<i>Mr. Samuel Evans</i>	1888
<i>Mr. Yoxall</i>	1888
<i>Mr. John Ellis (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe)</i>	1889
<i>Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice (Wiltshire, Cricklade)</i>	1889
<i>Mr. Bull (Hammersmith)</i>	1889
<i>Mr. McKenna (Monmouthshire, N.)</i>	1889
<i>Mr. Samuel Evans</i>	1890
<i>Mr. Walter Long</i>	1890
<i>Mr. Claude Huy (Shoreditch, Hoston)</i>	1891
<i>Dr. Macnamara</i>	1891

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 103 ; Noes, 180. (Division List No. 106.)

<i>Mr. Lough</i>	1893
-------------------------	------

New Clause :—

"That Sub-section 3 of Section 5 of the London Government Act of 1899 shall not apply to proceedings under this Act."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Motion made, and Question proposed, “ That the Clause be read a second time.”

<i>Mr. Walter Long</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1895
<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1895

Clause read a second time.

“The local education authority shall, in accordance with a scheme or schemes made by such authority and approved by the Board of Education, appoint for all schools for blind, deaf, and defective children, and for central schools for drawing, manual training, and domestic subjects, provided by them, a body of managers, and shall delegate to such managers such powers and duties as may by such scheme or schemes be determined.”—(*Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice.*)

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Clause be read a second time."

<i>Sir William Anson</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1896
<i>Mr. Bryce</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1896
<i>Mr. Samuel Evans</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1897

Schedule 1 omitted from the Bill

Mr. Lough 1897

"In page 3, line 31, omit paragraph A."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

Sir William Anson	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1897
-------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

“To insert the word ‘and’ after the word ‘council’ in line 32 in order to strike it out in line 33.”

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the word be there inserted."

<i>Mr. Samuel Evans</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1898
<i>Mr. Walter Long</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1898
<i>Mr. McKenna</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1899
<i>Sir William Anson</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1899

May 26.]

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Alfred Hutton (Yorkshire, W.R., Morley) ... 1899

Amendment proposed—

“In page 4, line 5, after the word ‘to,’ to insert the words ‘consultation with the Board of Education and as to.’”—(*Mr. Alfred Hutton.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

Sir William Anson ... 1900
Mr. Bryce ... 1900

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Sir Joseph Dimsdale (London) ... 1901

Amendment proposed—

“In page 4, line 6, at end, to insert the words ‘the provisions of that section shall not be construed so as to enable the local education authority to compel the acceptance of the aid in that section referred to.’”—(*Sir Joseph Dimsdale.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

Mr. Lough ... 1902
Mr. Bryce ... 1902
Sir Joseph Dimsdale ... 1903
Mr. Bryce ... 1903
Mr. Henry Hobhouse ... 1903
Sir William Anson ... 1903
Mr. Crooks (Woolwich) ... 1903
Mr. Alban Gibbs (London) ... 1903

Amendment negatived.

Mr. Channing (Northamptonshire, E.) ... 1904

Amendment proposed—

“In page 4 to leave out lines 7 to 13 inclusive.”—(*Mr. Channing.*)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the schedule.”

Sir William Anson ... 1904

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Channing ... 1905

Amendment proposed—

“In page 4, to leave out lines 12 and 13.”

Amendment agreed to.

Sir Michael Foster ... 1905

Amendment proposed—

“In page 4, line 14, at beginning, to insert the words ‘The provisions of the principal Act as to endowments in London shall be so modified as to provide that, where under the trusts or other provisions affecting any endowment the income thereof must be applied in whole or in part to educational purposes, it shall be the duty of the local education authority to prepare a scheme for the application of any income so applicable to educational purposes adapted to the needs of the parish or district concerned and to submit such scheme for the approval of the Board of Education.’”—(*Sir Michael Foster.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

<i>Sir William Anson</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1906
<i>Mr. Ernest Gray</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1906
<i>Mr. Bryce</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1907

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 4, line 14, to leave out paragraph 4.”—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Amendment agreed to.

<i>Mr. Haldane</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1908
--------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

Amendment proposed—

“In page 4, line 39, at end to add the words, ‘Where governors or managers are appointed by the local education authority, on the governing body of any institution aided by grant from the local education authority, the qualifications required by the scheme or trust deed of the institution shall not apply to such governors or managers.’”

Question proposed, “That those words be there added.”

<i>Sir William Anson</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1909
--------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

Question put, and agreed to.

<i>Dr. Macnamara.</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1909
-----------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

Amendment proposed, after the last Amendment to add the words—

“There shall always be at least six women upon the Education Committee of the local education authority.”—(*Dr. Macnamara.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there added.”

<i>Sir William Anson</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1909
<i>Mr. Henry Hobhouse</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1909
<i>Mr. Samuel Evans</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1910
<i>Mr. Corrie Grant</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1910
<i>Mr. Labouchere (Northampton)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1911
<i>Mr. Lough</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1912

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 61 ; Noes, 124. (Division List No. 107.)

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

May 26.]

ix
Page

Dr. Macnamara 1913

Amendment proposed, after the last Amendment, to add the words

“The Education Committee of the local education authority shall transact all its ordinary business in public.”—(*Dr. Macnamara.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there added.”

Sir William Anson 1914

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 57 ; Noes, 117. (Division List No. 108.)

Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Bill reported ; as amended, to be considered upon Monday, 8th June, and to be printed. (Bill 216.)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Questions, Mr. Bryce and Mr. Lough ; Answers, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)... .. 1915

Adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Two o'clock.

END OF TABLE OF CONTENTS TO VOL. CXXII.

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(AUTHORISED EDITION)

IN THE
FOURTH SESSION OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND, IN THE
THIRD YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HIS MAJESTY KING EDWARD VII.

FIFTH VOLUME OF SESSION.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 7th May, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with :—

Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway; City and South London Railway.

Also the Certificates that no Standing Orders are applicable to the following Bills :—

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1); Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3).

And also the Certificates that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with :—

VOL. CXXII. [FOURTH SERIES.]

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2); Local Government Provisional Order (Housing of the Working Classes).

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

Report from, That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Petitions for additional Provisions in the following Bills ought to be dispensed with, and leave given to the Committees on the Bills to insert the additional Provisions, viz. :—

North-Western Electricity and Power Gas [H.L.]; Salford Corporation [H.L.]; Hove, Worthing, and District Tramways [H.L.]

That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Baker Street and Waterloo Railway (Extension of Time) Bill ought to be dispensed with.

That the further Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Maidstone

Gas Bill ought to be dispensed with, and the Bill allowed to proceed :

Read and agreed to.

Fife Electric Power Bill [H.L.]. Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the Opposition thereto having been withdrawn ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table : The orders made on the 12th of March and Thursday last discharged, and Bill committed.

Bangor Corporation Bill [H.L.] Petition for additional provision ; of the Corporation of Bangor ; together with the proposed Amendments annexed thereto ; read, and referred to the Examiners.

Southampton Harbour Bill [H.L.] The King's consent signified ; and Bill reported, with Amendments.

Poole and District Electric Traction Bill [H.L.] ; Reported with Amendments.

Birmingham Corporation Bill [H.L.] Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Hastings Harbour District Railway Bill [H.L.] Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition thereto having been withdrawn ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table : The orders made on the 19th of March and the 30th of April last discharged ; and Bill committed.

Pontypridd Urban District Council Bill [H.L.] ; Taff Vale Railway Bill [H.L.] ; London and North-Western Railway Bill [H.L.] ; Aston Manor Improvement Bill [H.L.] ; Macclesfield and District Electric Tramways Bill [H.L.] ; Torquay Corporation Water Bill [H.L.] ; Rochester Corporation Tramways and Improvements Bill [H.L.] ; Chatham and District Light Railways Bill [H.L.] ; Brighton Corporation Bill [H.L.] ; Bury and District Joint Water Board Bill [H.L.].

Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Lord Redesdale be proposed to the House as a member of the

Select Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Viscount Powerscourt ; read, and agreed to.

Ipswich Gas Bill ; Burgess Hill and St. John's Common Gas Bill ; London Hydraulic Power Bill ; Sutton District Water Bill ; Winchester Water and Gas Bill. Read 2^a, and committed.

Wellington (Salop) Gas Bill [H.L.] ; Frinton-on-Sea Sea Defences Bill [H.L.] ; Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (No. 2) Bill ; Lanarkshire and Ayrshire Railway Order Confirmation Bill. Brought from the Commons.

Great Eastern Railway Bill ; Great Northern Railway Bill. Brought from the Commons ; read 1^a ; and referred to the Examiners.

Lanarkshire and Ayrshire Railway Order Confirmation Bill. Read 1^a ; to be printed, and (pursuant to the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899), deemed to have been read 2^a—(*The Lord Balfour*), and reported from the Committee. (No. 55.)

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (No. 2) Bill. Read 1^a ; to be printed ; and referred to the Examiners. (No. 56.)

PETITIONS.

DECLARATION OF THE SOVEREIGN AGAINST TRANSUBSTANTIATION.

Petition for abrogation of ; of Roman Catholics residing in Great Grimsby, Lincolnshire ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

LAND REGISTERS (SCOTLAND) BILL [H.L.]

Petition for amendment of ; of the Aberdeen Corporation ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

Code of Regulations for Continuation Classes, 1903.

RAILWAY RETURNS (PRELIMINARY STATEMENT).

Return relating to the railways of the United Kingdom for the year 1902; with comparative figures for the years 1900 and 1901.

ARMY (CANTEENS AND REGIMENTAL INSTITUTES).

Evidence taken before the Committee on Canteens and Regimental Institutes.

Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table.

NAVAL FORCES BILL.

Read 3^a [according to Order], and passed.

BERWICKSHIRE COUNTY TOWN BILL.

[THIRD READING.]

Moved, That the Bill be now read 3^a—
(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: Before this Bill is read a third time I should like to ask the noble Lord a question. I have no doubt he has explained the measure, but I missed his explanation. I should like to know why Greenlaw is to cease to be the head burgh or county town of Berwickshire, and why Duns is to take its place. I suppose the latter town is more prominent now than it used to be, but will not the change involve considerable expense to the ratepayers? I presume that buildings will have to be erected at Duns for county purposes. I should like some explanation on the point.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH): This Bill passed your Lordships' House last session and the session before, and on the first of these occasions I gave generally the reasons for this change. Until this year the Bill had not passed the other House of Parliament, but this year it originated in the House of Commons and it has passed through that chamber without opposition. Every authority in the county that has communicated with me is in favour of the change, including

the County Council. They have been most anxious for it for several years, and the Member of Parliament for the county supports the Bill. My noble friend Lord Tweedmouth is also desirous that this change shall be made. Greenlaw is a small place of some 200 or 300 inhabitants. It is very much out of the way, and, although it has a county building, it is very inconvenient for the county councillors. The railway communication at Duns is much better; that town is more central, and it is the old capital of the county. I think I can say to your Lordships that everybody in the county who has a right to express an opinion is in favour of this change. In three years I have received no representation against it, and therefore I think your Lordships are safe in passing the Bill.

On Question, Bill read 3^a and passed.

THE STRANDING OF THE "FIRTH OF FORTH."

LORD MUSKERRY, who had given notice "To call attention to the case of the second officer of the ss. 'Firth of Forth,' who, at the Board of Trade inquiry into the stranding of this steamer was found to have acted throughout in a careful and intelligent manner, and much impressed the Court by the way in which he gave his evidence, the Court suggesting to the solicitor to the Board of Trade that the Board might very properly reimburse this officer for the legal expenses incurred by him in attending the inquiry; and to ask if this recommendation has been acted upon, and, if not, why not"—said: My Lords, this is a case where Mr. Stobbs, the second officer of the "Firth of Forth," acquitted himself in a most creditable manner, both before the stranding of the vessel and afterwards in giving evidence at the Board of Trade inquiry; in fact, the Court stated that he was the only one who really came out of the inquiry satisfactorily. This inquiry involved the suspension of the certificate of the officer in question, one of the questions submitted by the Board of Trade to the Court being—

"Was serious damage to the ss. 'Firth of Forth' caused by the wrongful act or fault of the master, chief, or second officers, or any of them?"

A 2

Therefore this officer, in self-protection, was compelled to secure legal assistance in order to avoid what might have been very serious consequences in the cancellation or suspension of his certificate. He was consequently not only subjected to great anxiety, but to serious expense, which, on the Court's recommendation, should justly be recouped by the Board of Trade, who were the responsible party in detaining him for the inquiry. Masters and officers are readily enough punished, but when meriting encouragement and assistance they generally fail to receive it. I hope to hear that in this case the Board of Trade have acted on the most praiseworthy recommendation of the Court of inquiry, and that an officer who has so ably conducted his duties shall not be allowed to bear the burden of legal expenses incurred in protecting his professional reputation owing to the action of the Board of Trade.

LORD WOLVERTON: As this is purely a Departmental question I will content myself with reading the answer of the Board of Trade. "The recommendation referred to by the noble Lord as to reimbursing to the second officer of the steamship 'Firth of Forth' his legal expenses in attending the inquiry held into the stranding of that vessel has not been acted upon. The Board of Trade have no funds out of which they can defray such expenses, and the fact that an officer has acted properly and given his evidence in a straightforward manner would not, in the opinion of the Board of Trade, in itself justify them in making a special application to the Treasury in such a case."

PROTECTION OF WILD BIRDS IN IRELAND.

THE EARL OF MAYO: My Lords, I beg to ask His Majesty's Government why notices with regard to the Wild Birds Preservation Act, Close Season (Ireland), have not been posted up for the last three years on all the Royal Irish Constabulary Barracks in Ireland. It is felt in Ireland that the posting of these notices tends very largely to the preservation of wild birds, as it enables people in out-of-the-way districts to know what the law is. In August, 1901, the noble and learned Lord, the Lord

Chancellor of Ireland, replying to a question which I put to him, said—

"In July, 1899, my noble friend asked the Irish Government for information with reference to the protection of wild birds, and he was then told that the constabulary were specially and fully instructed by general circular in May, 1899, to enforce the Wild Birds Protection Acts. I believe that has been loyally carried out."

I therefore beg to ask the Question standing in my name.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I hope the noble Earl will accept the answer from me in the absence of my noble friend who represents the Irish Office. In reply to the Question, the Irish Office say that in May, 1899, the police throughout Ireland were instructed to enforce the Wild Birds Protection Act 1880, as amended by the subsequent Acts of 1881 and 1894. The police, at the same time, were instructed to endeavour to have these statutes obeyed by first warning persons detected of offences against the law, and, where a warning was ineffectual, the facts of the case were to be reported to the local police officers for instructions with a view to the institution of proceedings. Placards were also posted up outside each constabulary barracks informing the public of the danger they would incur by offending against the law. It has not since been considered necessary to renew the posting of these placards. Prosecutions have been undertaken by the police under the provisions of the Act in each year since they were instructed to enforce it. In 1899, six prosecutions were instituted, resulting in two convictions; in 1900, the same number of prosecutions resulted in one conviction; in 1901, three prosecutions were instituted, resulting in three convictions; and in 1902, four prosecutions resulted in four convictions. The police are thoroughly alive to their duties under these Acts, and the Irish Office are not of opinion that the repeating of these notices will make the police more vigilant. At the same time I am asked to add that if the noble Earl who put this Question has any evidence which goes to show that the Act is not strictly enforced and will supply it to the Irish Office, or to Lord Denbigh, who

represents that Office in this House, immediate inquiry will be made, because it is the desire of the Office, and they have, they believe, the active co-operation of the police, to see these valuable Acts enforced as thoroughly as possible.

House adjourned at twenty minutes before Five o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 7th May, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

NEW WRIT.

New Writ for Preston Borough, in the room of the right hon. Robert William Hanbury, deceased. — (*Sir Alexander Acland-Hood.*)

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Great Central Railway Bill. Read the third time, and passed. [New Title.]

London County Council (General Powers) Bill. Read the third time, and passed. [New Title.]

Queensland Investment and Land Mortgage Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7). Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Cambridge and District, Isle of Sheppey and District, Sandwich, Deal, Walmer and District, Sittingbourne and Milton, Stroud and Dartford (Rural Districts), Tadcaster and District (Extension), Uxbridge and District (Extension), and Wimbledon (Extension). Ordered to be brought in by Mr. Bonar Law and Mr. Gerald Balfour.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill. "To confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Cambridge

and District, Isle of Sheppey and District, Sandwich, Deal, Walmer and District, Sittingbourne and Milton, Stroud and Dartford (Rural Districts), Tadcaster and District (Extension), Uxbridge and District (Extension), and Wimbledon (Extension)." Presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. (Bill 185.)

Land Drainage Provisional Order Bill. Reported, without Amendment (Provisional Order confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time To-morrow.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill. Reported, without Amendment (Provisional Orders confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time To-morrow.

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill. Reported, without Amendment (Provisional Orders confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time To-morrow.

Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill [Lords]. Reported, without Amendment (Provisional Order confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time To-morrow.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill. Reported, with Amendments (Provisional Orders confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill. Reported, with Amendments (Provisional Orders confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow.

Hampton Court Gas Bill; Cheshire Lines Committee Bill; Ebbw Vale Water and Improvement Bill. Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the transfer of the Knaresborough Waterworks to the Corporation of Harrogate, and to enable them to supply water in Knaresborough and adjoining places." (Harrogate Water Bill [Lords].)

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to revive and extend the powers for the purchase of land and the time limited for the completion of the railway authorised by The Wirral Railway Act, 1898; to extend the time for disposing of and otherwise dealing with certain surplus lands of the Wirral Railway Company; to increase the capital of that company; and for other purposes." (Wirral Railway Bill [Lords].)

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to effect a combination of the undertakings of the Pelican Life Insurance Company and the British Empire Mutual Life Assurance Company; and for other purposes." (Pelican and British Empire Life Office Bill [Lords].)

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the Harrow and Stanmore Gas Company to acquire lands, to construct gasworks, to raise additional capital; and for other purposes. (Harrow and Stanmore Gas Bill [Lords].)

Harrogate Water Bill [Lords]; Wirral Railway Bill [Lords]; Pelican and British Empire Life Office Bill [Lords]; Harrow and Stanmore Gas Bill [Lords].

Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

PETITIONS.

COAL MINES REGULATION BILL.

Petitions in favour: from Pendleton; Silverdale; No. 17 Pit, Silverdale; High Carr; Woodfield, Watermills; Tibshelf (No. 2); Leacroft; Five Ways; Kingswinford; Platt Bridge; Chesterton; Nos. 14 and 15 Pits, Silverdale; Pencoed; Mwrwg Vale; Eddlewood; and Newmains Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

COUNTY COURTS JURISDICTION
EXTENSION BILL.

Petitions in favour: from Stockport; Great Torrington; Aberystwyth; Banbury; and Heywood; to lie upon the Table.

DETENTION OF POOR PERSONS
(SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour: from Urquhart; and Logiewester; and Glassford; to lie upon the Table.

HALL-MARKING OF FOREIGN PLATE
(No. 2) BILL.

Petition from Birmingham, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING LAW (COMPENSATION FOR
NON-RENEWAL) BILL.

Petition from Loughborough, against; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMEND-
MENT BILL.

Petitions for alteration: from Kiltarn; Stenton; Burghead; Monimail; and Selkirk; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMEND-
MENT BILL.

Petitions in favour: from Auchterarder; and Perth; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FRANCHISE AND
REPRESENTATION (EXTENSION TO
COMPANIES) BILL.

Petition from Birmingham, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S
SISTER BILL.

Petition from Parkstone, against; to lie upon the Table.

PHARMACY BILL.

Petition from Nottingham, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL.

Petitions in favour: from Alva; Burnley; Rawdon; Congleton; St. Rollox; Gainsborough; Seghill; Amble; Tadcaster; Ashington; Egremont; Haslingden; and Sunderland; to lie upon the Table.

**PUBLIC HOUSES (HOURS OF CLOSING)
(SCOTLAND) BILL.**

Petition from Glasgow, in favour ; to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Petition from Aberystwyth, for alteration of law ; to lie upon the Table.

TRADES DISPUTES BILL.

Petition from Birmingham, against ; to lie upon the Table.

TRADES DISPUTES BILL.

Petitions in favour : From Pendleton : Silverdale ; No. 17 Pit, Silverdale ; High Carr ; Woodfield ; Watermills ; Tibshelf (No. 2) ; Leacroft ; Five Ways ; Kingswinford ; Platt Bridge ; Chesterton ; Tunstall (No. 2) ; Kents Lane Pits, Silverdale ; Knutton ; No. 1, East Cannock ; Pencoed ; Eddlewood ; Newmains ; Mwrwg Vale ; and Rutherglen Collieries ; to lie upon the Table.

**TRADE UNIONS AND TRADE DISPUTES
BILL.**

Petition from Birmingham, against ; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) (CONTINUATION) CLASSES.

Copy presented, of Code of Regulations for Continuation Classes, providing further instruction for those who have left school, 1903 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

MERCANTILE MARINE (SIGHT TESTS).

Copy presented, of Report on the sight tests used in the Mercantile Marine for the year ended 31st December, 1902 (in continuation of [C. 1140]) ; [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

**ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL
ORDERS (No. 4) BILL.**

Return presented, relative thereto (ordered 6th May—*Mr. Bonar Law*) ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 146.)

**ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL
ORDERS (No. 5) BILL.**

Return presented, relative thereto (ordered 6th May—*Mr. Bonar Law*) ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 147.)

**ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL
ORDERS (No. 6) BILL.**

Return presented, relative thereto (ordered 6th May—*Mr. Bonar Law*) ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 148.)

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House.

TEMPORARY LAWS.

Register of Temporary Laws for the Fourth Session, Twenty-seventh Parliament, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, pursuant to Report of the Select Committee on Expiring Laws in Session 1866 ; to be printed. (No. 149.)

**PARLIAMENTARY BOROUGHs, ETC.
(DIAGRAMS).**

Address for "Return of Diagrams showing the Parliamentary and Municipal Boroughs and the Parliamentary County Divisions of the United Kingdom, with the respective electorates and populations."—(*Mr. Kimber.*)

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT.

Address for "Return of all sentences of Corporal Punishment inflicted under 26 and 27 Vic., c. 44, upon persons convicted of offences against Section 43 of the Larceny Act, 1861, and Section 41 of the Offences against the Person Act, 1861, in England and Wales, from the 31st day of December, 1900, to the 31st day of December, 1902 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 204, of Session 1901).—(*Mr. Lloyd Morgan.*)

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.**

Claims of Sirdar Balvant Ramchandra.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty) : To ask the Secretary of State for India whether the claims made by Sirdar Balvant Ramchandra, native of Poona, which are set forth in a letter dated 25th

August, 1901, addressed to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, have yet received the consideration promised; and if so, will he state the nature of the decision arrived at.

(Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.) As far as I am aware, the Sirdar has not definitely renounced his intention of having recourse to legal proceedings. The situation, therefore, remains as it was when I answered the Question addressed to me by the hon. Member on the 22nd October last.†

Conversion of the Khairpur Currency.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for India if he will ascertain whether a scheme for the conversion of the Khairpur currency has yet been arranged; and, if so, on what conditions the Native State rupee is now accepted by the Khairpur State Treasury.

(Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.) Yes. In January last the Mir of Khairpur issued a notification substituting British Indian silver coinage for Chalan coinage in those parts of his territory in which the latter coinage was current. Every person presenting genuine Chalan rupees for conversion will receive in exchange British rupees at the rate of 100 British rupees for every 140 Chalan rupees.

Glasgow Assistant Postmen.

SIR J. STIRLING-MAXWELL (Glasgow, College): To ask the Postmaster-General whether, in view of the number of assistant postmen employed at Glasgow and the delay in their obtaining an established appointment, steps will be taken to have the matter adjusted as recommended on page 24 of the Tweedmouth Committee's Report, which has never been carried out in Glasgow.

(Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.) A revision of the outdoor force at Glasgow is now under consideration, and a sufficient number of new appointments will probably be found justified to admit of several senior assistant postmen being nominated to established places.

† See (4) *Debates*, cxiii., 462.

Revision of Bristol Postal Staff.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE (Bristol, E.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether a revision of the Bristol post office staff was due in 1901; and whether, in view of the number of men affected, he will state when the scheme will be brought into effect.

(Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.) Revisions of the postal force at any office do not become due at any particular period, but are carried out as circumstances require. It is not clear whether the Question refers to the outdoor or the indoor force. A revision of the outdoor force was authorised in 1901, except as regards the superior appointments, proposals as to which are now approaching settlement. A revision of the indoor force is in hand, and will be brought into operation as soon as practicable.

Improved Postal Facilities in the Gweedore and Bunbeg District, County Donegal.

MR. HUGH LAW (Donegal, W.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether, in view of the opening for traffic of the Burtonport Extension Railway, he can now arrange a better postal service in the districts of Gweedore and Bunbeg, County Donegal.

(Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.) Arrangements are being made for using the Burtonport Extension Railway for the day mail service in the district served by it, and the company have been asked on what terms they would provide trains at suitable hours for the night mail service. The correspondence for the district is, however, small, and no considerable payment for such trains would be justified.

Monopoly for the Sale of Currants in Greece.

MR. CHARLES M'ARTHUR (Liverpool, Exchange): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether a scheme for the grant by the Greek Government to a Greek and British syndicate of a monopoly for the sale of all currants grown in Greece has been brought under the notice of the British Minister at Athens; and, if so, will he state whether he has taken any, and if so, what action in the matter.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) The answer to the first Question is in the affirmative. On the 3rd ultimo His Majesty's Minister at Athens was instructed by telegraph to ask the Hellenic Government for information as to the exact nature of the proposals, as a monopoly would seem to be contrary to the spirit of the commercial agreement between the two countries of 28th March, 1890. No scheme has yet been approved by the Greek Government, and Sir E. Egerton has recently reported that so far the proposals are neither definite nor complete.

Undue Preference in Consular Reports.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if his attention has been called to the reference on page 10, in Mr. Consul Neville Rolfe's Report on the Trade of South Italy for 1901, to the position of a foreign firm in the coal trade; and, if so, will he say whether the instructions given to our Consuls abroad prohibit the use of Consular reports as a medium of advertisement for particular firms; and, if not, will he consider the propriety of issuing some such instruction for their future guidance.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) The answer to the first Question is in the affirmative. The rule is that no particular mercantile house or firm should be mentioned in such a manner as to lay a Consular officer open to the charge of favouritism. The publication of the passage, which does not in the opinion of the Secretary of State constitute an infringement of the rule, was approved by him.

Physical Training in Scotland.

MR. SHAW-STEWART (Renfrewshire, E.): To ask the Lord Advocate what steps are being taken to carry out the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Physical Training (Scotland) regarding the appointment of a skilled Committee to prepare a model course containing exercises adapted to the requirements of the differently situated schools, and the different ages, sexes, and conditions of health of the children in Scotland.

(*Answered by Mr. A. Graham Murray.*) The special recommendation of the Royal Commission to which the hon. Member refers has received the attention of the Scottish Education Department, and steps are now being taken, along with the Board of Education, to nominate a Joint Committee for the purpose indicated. It is hoped that the Committee will begin work shortly.

MR. SHAW-STEWART: To ask the Lord Advocate whether he can state what steps are being taken to obtain the assistance of medical officers to carry out the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Physical Training (Scotland) for establishing a system of medical inspection of the children in all schools; and whether, in aid of the remuneration of their services, provision will be made out of the Parliamentary Vote; also, if any arrangements are being made for the appointment, to serve under the Education Department, of sub-inspectors, male and female, for the purpose of assisting in sanitary matters the existing staffs of schools.

(*Answered by Mr. A. Graham Murray.*) The Scotch Education Department is now in communication with representatives of those interested, in order to obtain their views as to the recommendation referred to and the means by which it can be carried out. When their Lordships are in possession of these views they will consider what, if any, proposals may be submitted to the Treasury as to the financial arrangements.

Patents Act, 1902—Date of coming into Operation.

SIR ALFRED HICKMANN (Wolverhampton, W.): To ask the President of the Board of Trade when he proposes to put in force the provisions of the Patents Act of last Session.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) The part of the Act amending the Law as to the grant of compulsory licences came into force on the 18th December, 1902. As at present advised, Section 1, which deals with the examination of previous specifications in the United Kingdom, will come into operation early in 1905. During the interval a great deal of preliminary work has to be done

in connection with the completion of the illustrated abridgments, the arrangement of the material of search, and the increase and re-organisation of the staff of the Patent Office. This work is now proceeding.

Reduction of the Royal Irish Constabulary.

SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether he can state by what method the reduction of the Royal Irish Constabulary is to be carried out, whether in anticipation of the Land Purchase (Ireland) Bill becoming law, or after it has received the Royal Assent; and if the latter course is to be pursued, whether the reduction will be effected *in globo* and immediately on the passing of the Bill, or by a gradual process; and if by degrees, whether the reductions will be regulated by reference to, and *pari passu* with, the extent of transactions of land purchase.

(Answered by Mr. Wyndham.) Reduction in the strength of the force will be effected mainly by the cessation of recruiting. The reduction now being carried out arises from the improvement which has manifested itself in the condition of the country, and which is largely due, no doubt, to the introduction of the Land Bill. It will continue to be effected by gradual process extending over a period of years. Broadly speaking the reductions will proceed *pari passu* with the development of land purchase, but they will not necessarily be regulated by the latter consideration.

Ireland—Refusal to Grant Gun Licence.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will explain why Mr. P. Cournane, of Castlemaine, county Kerry, has been refused a gun licence to use for the protection of his crops.

(Answered by Mr. Wyndham.) The holding of the applicant extends to seven acres, of which two acres only are under tillage. The licensing officer, in whom is vested by law the discretion of granting or withholding a licence to keep arms, does not consider that the applicant in the present case requires a gun for the protection of his crops.

South African War Medals for 78th Imperial Yeomanry.

SIR J. STIRLING-MAXWELL: To ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state when medals for the South African War will be issued to the men of the 78th Company Imperial Yeomanry.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.) The medal roll of this company was sent in without the regimental numbers, and will have to be completed in the War Office. The roll will be dealt with in due course in its proper turn.

Repairs of Roads in the Naas District.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been directed to a representation from the Naas (No. 2) Rural District Council to the effect that they had received from the acting county surveyor of Wicklow an application for the maintenance of 296 perches of road between the three roads at Ballyfolan and the roads at Shankill at 6s. per perch per annum, being an increase of 5s. 6d. per perch per annum as compared with the amount paid prior to the establishment of the military camp at Shankill; and to an application from the Naas Rural Council for the sum of £81 a year towards defraying the cost of maintaining the road to the camp, in addition to the sum of £46 7s. 4d. already paid by the council in excess of the usual amount, the increased expenditure having been occasioned by the traffic to the camp; and whether he will see that the Naas Council is recouped for its outlay in this case.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.) The increase in the wear and tear of the roads mentioned is met by the increased contributions in lieu of rates due to the increase in the value of the War Department property, in respect of which the contributions are made.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Attack on Mr. Stanford at Cape Town.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that Colonel

H. Cooper, C.M.G., who held the position of Boer commandant at Cape Town from 1st April, 1900, was present at the dance given at Mount Nelson Hotel on Christmas Eve, 1901, and was at that time resident in the hotel; and that he did not stop the attack made upon Mr. Stanford in the grounds at the back of the hotel; can he state whether Colonel Cooper took any, and if so what, steps to investigate the matter; did he make any, and if so what, report to Lord Kitchener; why was the report of the legal proceedings, in which a sum of £1,500 damages and £2,000 costs were recovered by Mr. Stanford against ten officers in the High Court of Cape Colony, excluded from the Cape papers by the action of the Military Press Censor; why were not the apologies offered by the ten officers involved allowed to appear in the Cape Press owing to the action of the Press Censor; and can he now give any explanation of this occurrence, and of the fact that in August last he had no information whatever about it, and of the steps he intends to take in the matter.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): The Commander-in-Chief has ordered a Court-martial to assemble to try the officers concerned in this case. Very serious charges have been made by Mr. Stanford, and it is desirable that the officers concerned should have the opportunity of clearing their characters. Colonel Cooper was not involved in the assault, nor did he hear anything of it till later—but in view of the proceedings about to be taken, I must ask to be absolved from making any statement at present.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I will only ask a friendly supplementary. Will the right hon. Gentleman answer the last part of the Question?

*MR. BRODRICK: That is covered by my reply.

Army Returns.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL (Oldham): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state when the promised Command Paper giving the strength of the various units of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Army Corps will be laid upon the Table.

*MR. BRODRICK: The return is being prepared with all possible despatch, but I cannot fix an exact date for its publication.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL: The right hon. Gentleman is aware, I suppose that this return was promised by the 1st of the month.

*MR. BRODRICK: No, Sir; I promised to give returns as to the strength on the 1st of the month. It must take some days.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL: That was not at all the intention of the right hon. Gentleman.

Dorchester Barracks.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been directed to the condition of the artillery barracks at Dorchester, and to the fact that the men are quartered over stables, and to the effect of this fact on the health of the Imperial Yeomanry who were quartered there before being sent out to South Africa; and, if so, will steps be taken to put the barracks in repair and in a sanitary condition?

MR. BRODRICK: There is nothing to show that the health of the men has in any way suffered from their being quartered over stables. The barracks are old, but are not insanitary. No complaints have been forwarded on the subject. It is not intended to retain these barracks permanently for mounted troops as others become available.

Private Fox, 1st Battalion 15th Foot.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether his attention has been directed to the case of No. 661, Private W. Fox, 1st Battalion 15th Regiment of Foot, who served about eleven years, was discharged from the Army owing to heart disease contracted through rheumatic fever while serving in the Army; and whether, in view of his character in the Army and of the fact that he was discharged without remuneration or pension, and that he had active and Foreign service in Bermuda,

St. John's, and New Brunswick, he can, in view of this man's age and present condition, grant him a small pension.

MR. BRODRICK: The case cannot at present be traced from the information supplied in the Question. Will the hon. Member kindly forward the man's discharge certificate or the date of his discharge to enable further search to be made?

MR. FLAVIN: I will forward the documents asked for.

British Trade in the Congo Free State.

MR. BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has received any petitions from Chambers of Commerce in this country, or complaints from merchants in the Congo Free State, setting forth the fact that British traders are not allowed to trade in certain parts of the Congo Free State, as they are entitled to do under Article 5 of the Berlin General Act; and, if so, will he state what action, if any, the Government have taken on this question with the Congo Free State Government; and, whether he will lay Papers dealing with the matter upon the Table of the House.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord CRANBORNE, Rochester): The attention of His Majesty's Government has been called by Chambers of Commerce to the limitations on the freedom of British Trade alleged to be due to improper action on the part of the Authorities of the Congo Free State. The questions raised by these allegations were already receiving the careful consideration of the Government, but there are at present no Papers which can usefully be laid before the House, and no decision has yet been come to.

Distillation of Spirit in England.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he would state the total quantity of spirit distilled in England during the year 1902, and how much was used for methylation, rectifying, and compounding purposes; whether any

English spirit is used as whisky in Excise or Customs warehouses in Leith; and, if so, what is the total quantity despatched thereto from distilleries in England; what are the materials from which English spirit is usually distilled; and, if any beet molasses from abroad is used in its manufacture.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): The total quantity of spirits distilled in England during the year ended March 31st, 1903, was 11,295,563 proof gallons. The quantity of home-made spirits used for methylation, for the same period, was 3,574,733 proof gallons. I have no means of knowing the quantities used for rectifying and compounding. English spirit is used in the warehouses at Leith, but I have no means of knowing the quantities. The materials from which the English spirit is usually distilled are malt, unmalted grain, molasses, sugar, glucose, and rice. No doubt beet molasses is used to some extent, but I have no means of knowing the quantities.

MR. T. M. HEALY asked what became of the 8,000,000 gallons of English spirit that was not sold as such.

*MR. RITCHIE: I cannot say.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Will the right hon. Gentleman inquire whether it is not sold as Scotch or Irish?

No reply was given.

Alleged Frauds in the Whisky Trade.

MR. T. M. HEALY: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether any official information has reached him that, in preparing whisky for the market, frauds are practised in bond by the users of patent still spirit under the supervision of the Government officials; whether he will consider the advisability of bringing the sale of spirituous liquors under the supervision of the Food and Drugs Acts in the same manner as milk, butter, and other articles of consumption; and whether, in the interests of the public health, the Government will inquire whether chemical analysis by modern methods is now able to practically determine the composition of alcoholic liquors.

*MR. RITCHIE: In reply to the first clause of the Question, I have no official information on the subject. In reply to the second clause, I do not think this matter falls within the province of the Treasury. In reply to the third clause, if the intention be to ascertain whether chemical analysis is able to determine the relative proportion of raw grain or patent-still spirit and malt or pot-still whisky in a mixture of the two, the answer is that as both these spirits vary considerably in their chemical characteristics only an approximate estimation, at best, could be made in the case of a blend of which the origin and constituent ingredients were unknown.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Has the right hon. Gentleman not seen the contrary stated in that highly scientific paper, the *Lancet*.

*MR. RITCHIE: No, Sir, I have not.

Coal Exports.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): I beg to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he can say to what extent the quantity of coal declared for export as of a value of 5s. and not exceeding 6s. per ton fell short of the quantities from 4s. to 5s., and from 6s. to 7s. during the financial year ending 31st March last; and if he has any official information explaining the cause of the smaller quantity shipped at the first-named price.

*MR. RITCHIE: The quantity of coal exported during the year ending March 31st last at a declared value not exceeding 5s. the ton, was 737,812 tons; exceeding 5s. but not exceeding 6s. the ton, 3,004,573 tons; and exceeding 6s. but not exceeding 7s. the ton, 883,665 tons. The quantity shipped at values between 4s. and 5s. the ton comprises nearly all that stated above to be not exceeding 5s., but the exact figures are not readily available. It will be seen that the tendency of the figures is in the direction opposite to that suggested by the hon. Member.

Millers' Bonding Stores in Ireland.

MR. SULLIVAN (Westmeath, S.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention has

been called to the fact that a licence for a bonding store has been granted to a miller in Dublin and refused to one in the country; and if so, will he take steps to grant the same facilities to millers in country places as in Dublin.

*MR. RITCHIE: It is probable that this Question refers to a verbal application made to the collector of Customs at Dublin for bonding privileges for a millers' store situated in the country at a considerable distance from that port. As it would be impossible for Customs Officers to supervise the premises in question the matter has been referred to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, who have officers stationed in the neighbourhood, and who will be prepared to consider a specific application for bonding privileges. The same course will be pursued with regard to inland bonding in general.

United Kingdom Millers' Bonding Arrangements.

MR. SULLIVAN: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will consider the advisability of altering the proposed bonding arrangements so that the millers of the United Kingdom may not be placed in a worse position than the importers of Foreign manufactured flour, who, under the suggested arrangement, will have their flour in bond up to 1st of July and can then immediately deliver to their customers, whereas the miller will have to sell flour manufactured from taxed wheat against foreign manufactured flour duty free taken out of bond.

*MR. RITCHIE: I am giving the matter close consideration and hope to make a statement very shortly.

Londonderry Customs—Cigar Smuggling.

MR. O'DOHERTY (Donegal, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he is aware that the collector of Customs at Londonderry, in the month of July, 1902, fined a passenger by the ss. "Columbia" from New York for alleged smuggling of cigars; and that, the passenger having brought the facts before Sir George Ryder, the latter ordered a refund of the fine; and, if so, will he state what steps will be taken to prevent a recurrence of such conduct to tourists arriving at Londonderry.

*MR. RITCHIE: I am informed that the passenger referred to, having been found in possession of cigars which he had not declared to the Customs officers, elected to deposit the regulated fine to avoid the institution of summary proceedings against him before the Magistrates. Upon the matter being reported to the Board of Customs in the usual way they directed the fine to be brought to account and the cigars to be retained by the Department as a seizure. Subsequently, on an appeal by the passenger, the Board, as an act of grace, and whilst entirely approving of the action of the collector, allowed a portion of the fine to be returned to the passenger. The remainder of the deposit and the cigars seized were, however, retained by the Customs to mark the breach of the law which had been committed. I do not consider any steps are called for, as passengers can always escape trouble of the kind by candidly answering the questions put to them by officers of Customs as to dutiable articles brought by them from abroad.

Executions at Holloway.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is now prepared to announce his decision in connection with the representations made to him with regard to discontinuing executions at the Holloway Prison.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (MR. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): The matter is one of considerable difficulty, and must be taken in connection with that of executions at Pentonville Prison. I can say at once that I do not see my way to discontinue the latter; but I have still under consideration the question of Holloway. I may perhaps point out that Holloway is exclusively a prison for females; and we may hope that it will be long before another sentence of death upon a woman has to be carried out.

Women Telegraphists—Promotion Grievance.

MR. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether his attention has been called to the fact that two women telegraphists were selected to perform tech-

nical duties in reference to the inter-communication switch in London, who were junior in service and possessed of less technical qualifications than other women telegraphists who were passed over; and whether, seeing that, although official information was given that such selection was not a question of promotion and no special rank or pay would result, one of the two officers concerned has been appointed to a superior grade on account of her experience gained by being selected for these duties, he will explain why the more senior and experienced women were passed over in the first place.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): I have nothing to add to the answer which I gave to the hon. Member on this subject on the 23rd March,† beyond stating that the officer to whom he is supposed to refer has not been appointed to any superior grade. She has merely been lent temporarily to assist at the Central Telephone Exchange in work for which she has special qualifications.

Liverpool Registry of Smallpox Patients.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that when application is made to the clerk to the sanitary authority of Liverpool for permission to search the list of smallpox patients, which he is required to keep under the Vaccination Act, 1898, the applicants are sent to the various smallpox hospitals for the purpose of inspecting the registers there; and will he say whether arrangements can be made for the register to be kept in the clerk's office.

THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (MR. GRANT LAWSON, Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk): I understand that the Hospitals Committee of the Town Council have imposed the obligation of making the entries in the smallpox register on the physician of the hospital, and that the register is available at the office of the hospital for any person who desires to inspect it. I am informed by the Town Clerk that arrangements could be made for having it at some other office, but that if this was done it would not be possible to keep the register so well up-to-date or so accurately as at present.

† See (4) *Debates*, cxix., 1464.

Liverpool Smallpox Epidemic.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that the present epidemic of smallpox in Liverpool has already lasted for a period of six months, during which time there have been about 1,400 cases and ninety deaths; and whether, seeing that the epidemic is spreading, will he consider the desirability of deputing one of the Board's medical inspectors to inquire and report in regard to the measures which are being adopted by the Liverpool health authorities to cope with the disease.

MR. GRANT LAWSON: I am aware of the smallpox epidemic at Liverpool. At the early part of the outbreak one of the medical inspectors of the Local Government Board was directed to visit the district and confer with the local authorities as to the measures to be taken, and I have no reason to suppose that they are not doing their utmost in this matter. I may mention that the latest returns do not show that the epidemic is increasing.

Vaccination—Humanised Lymph.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will state when public vaccinators discontinued the use of human lymph; and for what reason its use was abandoned.

MR. GRANT LAWSON: The use of humanised lymph by public vaccinators was discontinued at the beginning of 1899, when the Vaccination Act, 1898, came into operation. The change was made in view of the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Vaccination.

Newport (Mon.) County Council Education Scheme.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education if he can say what is the position of the scheme adopted by the Newport County Council on 14th April last.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir WILLIAM ANSON, Oxford University): The Board of Education have received three schemes from the Newport County Council, on 13th February, on 13th March, and on 17th April. These

schemes differ widely in character, and indicate the existence in the borough of two bodies of opinion, somewhat evenly balanced, and very difficult to reconcile. The Board think that the circumstances of the case may make it desirable to hold a public inquiry under Section 23 (10) of the Education Act.

Irish School Teachers and Politics.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will consider the advisability of repealing the regulations debarring Irish national school teachers from taking part in political meetings or joining political associations.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): I see no reason for repealing the Rule in question, which was framed in the interests of the teachers and of the schools.

Assistant School Teachers in Ireland.

MR. SLOAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will direct the Commissioners of National Education to continue the payment of one assistant in all schools where such a teacher is at present employed until the average falls below fifty.

MR. WYNDHAM: I must refer my hon. friend to my reply to a similar Question on the 5th March.†

Londonderry Land Appeal Court

MR. WOOD (Down, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state when the Court of the Land Commission last sat to hear appeals for the county of Londonderry, and when the next sitting for the hearing of such appeals will be held.

MR. WYNDHAM: February of last year. The next sittings will commence at Londonderry on 2nd June, proximo.

County Down Magistracy.

MR. WOOD: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state how many

† See (4) *Debates*, cxviii., 1548.

appointments have been made to the magistracy for the county of Down and the county of the city of Belfast, respectively, since the appointment of the Lord Lieutenant of that county; and can he state how many are Roman Catholics, Methodists, Episcopalians, and Presbyterians, respectively.

MR. WYNDHAM: Twelve for the county Down, of whom six are Episcopalians, four Presbyterians, and two Roman Catholics. Appointments to the Commission of the Peace in the Borough of Belfast are made by the Lord Lieutenant.

Royal Irish Constabulary at Ballyporeen.

*MR. CULLINAN (Tipperary, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland what were the numbers of officers and men of the Royal Irish Constabulary assembled in Ballyporeen, county Tipperary, on Sunday, 26th April; what was the reason for their attendance; and what source will their expenses come from.

MR. WYNDHAM: One officer and seventy men. The force was assembled in anticipation of an unlawful assembly. The expenses of the concentration will be defrayed from the Constabulary Vote.

*MR. CULLINAN: May I ask whether the concentration of this enormous force had to do with a dispute as to a small plot of ground, less than half an acre in extent, which has been used as a public playground for over a quarter of a century, and the value of which is not one-tenth the amount spent on this occasion?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

Irish Technical Instruction Grant.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the grant of £7,000, promised to Ireland last December in lieu of the equivalent grant for technical instruction, is now available, and, therefore, to be paid as it may be earned at the end of the present school year.

MR. WYNDHAM: I hope to supplement out of the funds provided in the Development Grant Bill the moneys now at the disposal of the new Department of Technical Instruction.

CAPTAIN DONELAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the grant in lieu of the equivalent grant for technical education will be made for instruction in the subjects of technical education generally, as understood by the Agricultural and Technical Department (Ireland), or only for special subjects, and if the latter, on what subjects; and, in view of the fact that it is no longer an equivalent grant, will he state on what principle will it be paid to the different parts of the country; and whether it will be distributed on the same conditions as to amount over localities which, in the academic year 1900-1901, availed themselves of the provisions of the Technical Instruction Acts of 1889 and 1891, and over localities which have taxed themselves for technical instruction for the first time since 1901.

MR. WYNDHAM: Until additional funds have been placed at the disposal of the Department for the purposes of technical instruction, it cannot be stated how these funds will be administered.

Granard Union Inquiry.

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Local Government Board can state the decision arrived at as the result of the sworn inquiry in Granard Union into the action of the medical officer and his management of the Union Hospital.

MR. WYNDHAM: A decision has not yet been come to. It will be communicated, in the ordinary course, to the Guardians.

Roscommon Extra Police Tax.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the total amount levied as an extra police tax off the De Freyne and Murphy estates, when was it collected, and what is the present liability of the Roscommon County Council in respect to it.

MR. WYNDHAM: A claim for £206 has been sent to the County Council, and a further claim for £620 is about to be sent. The area of charge extends beyond the limits of the two estates mentioned. The first mentioned claim has not yet been satisfied.

Strokestown Union Inquiry.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Local Government Board can state on what grounds they ordered a sworn inquiry in Strokestown Union as to the nursing arrangements in the rural districts of the union, and what has been the result; and why the Local Government Board propose to hold a similar inquiry in Boyle Union.

MR. WYNDHAM: The inquiry at Strokestown was necessitated by the reports of the Board's medical inspector. The result of the inquiry established the recommendations of the inspector. The inquiry at Boyle is proposed for similar reasons.

Altmore (Tyrone) Tenants and the Land Bill.

MR. DOOGAN (Tyrone, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that tenants on the lands of Altmore, County Tyrone, are excluded from the benefits of the Land Acts by reason of the existence of a reversionary lease of their holdings which was made at a higher price prior to the Act of 1881; that the lessee soon after died in New Zealand, leaving no representative to claim possession, when the farms fell into reversion; and whether he will make provision in the coming Land Act to enable these tenants to purchase their farms.

MR. WYNDHAM: I am not aware of the circumstances of the particular estate mentioned, but if the hon. Member will furnish me with a full and precise statement, I will have inquiries made into the facts, with a view to seeing whether any Amendment of the Bill is necessary or desirable.

Irish Police and the Evicted Tenants.

MR. FLAVIN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state what

directions, if any, have been given to the Royal Irish Constabulary in connection with inquiries that are being made about evicted tenants in Ireland in connection with the Irish Land Bill; and whether the police inquire or ask for information in the first instance from the evicted tenant where it is possible.

MR. WYNDHAM: The only directions issued were contained in two circular letters calling for information to enable the Return moved for by the hon. Member for South Tipperary to be prepared. Where the official records were insufficient to supply this information, the police obtained it from the best source available, including in many cases, the evicted tenants. But no special instructions were given on this point.

Listowel Urban Council Audit.

MR. FLAVIN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the fact that the books and papers of the Listowel Urban Council were removed from the urban council office, where the public audit was advertised to be held, to a licensed house in the town, where the audit was held; and if so, will he state by whose directions were the books so removed, who was the auditor who audited the accounts in the public house, and what action, if any, has the Local Government Board taken in the matter.

MR. WYNDHAM: The matter is engaging the consideration of the Local Government Board.

MR. FLAVIN: Will the audit be suspended until the report has been received?

MR. WYNDHAM: I am fully considering the matter, but I am not prepared to make any statement on the subject at present.

MR. FLAVIN rose to put a further question.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The question has been fully answered.

Listowel Mail Delays.

MR. FLAVIN: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he can state the number of times, owing to

the failure of the trains connecting at Limerick Junction, that the mails have arrived late at Listowel since the amalgamation of the Waterford and Limerick Railway Company with the Great Southern and Western Railway Company, and the number of times the mails were late in arrival at Listowel during a similar period of time before the amalgamation of these railways.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN : Inquiry shall be made as to the irregularity in the arrival of the mails at Listowel, and an answer shall be sent to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Gun Licences in Ireland—Castleblaney Complaint.

MR. SLOAN : I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that John Adair of Castleblaney paid 10s. to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue last October for a licence to carry and use a gun ; and whether, in view of such licence being refused, he will order a refund of the money paid.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (MR. ELLIOT, Durham) : The excise licence duty of 10s. will, in the circumstances, be refunded by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue.

The King's Tour.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) : I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury has any authentic record been kept of what passed at the recent private and other interviews between the Sovereign of these Realms and their Majesties the Kings of Portugal and Italy, His Holiness the Pope of Rome, and the President of the French Republic, as well as at the interviews with the Foreign Ministers of those States ; if so, by whom and in what form was that record kept, has it been transmitted to His Majesty's Government, and will it be so preserved as to be accessible to future administrations.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (MR. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.) : I would venture to remind my hon. friend that

friendly conversations cease to be private if records are kept for official use.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES : Am I to conclude that affairs of State were not dealt with at those interviews ?

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order !

Housing of the Working Classes Bill.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) : I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can now fix the date for the introduction of the Bill to deal with certain matters affecting the Housing of the Working Classes.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : I am not able to fix the actual date, but my right hon. friend the President of the Local Government Board hopes to introduce the Bill very shortly.

Private Bill Procedure.

MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE (Somerset, E.) : I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if his attention has been drawn to the recommendations, Nos. 23, 25, and 33, of the Report of the Select Committee on Private Business which sat last session ; and if he will propose or consent to the appointment of a Joint Committee of the two Houses to consider the revision of House fees and other matters mentioned in the recommendations.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : I have been making inquiries into the subject matter of this Question. On the whole I am inclined to think that it would be advisable to appoint a conference between the Chairmen of Committees of the two Houses, together with the officials who are concerned in the conduct of private business. Whatever may be the ultimate decision of the Government, I think the course I have proposed would prove useful.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. LOUGH asked if the right hon. Gentleman intended to take the division on the Irish Land Bill before the dinner interval, in view of the fact that a large number of Members desired to speak.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: And may I also remind the right hon. Gentleman that there are also a great number of Members on this side of the House, representing English constituencies, who likewise desire to speak.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Of course if there are any large number of Members desirous of speaking the debate can be continued at the evening sitting, but I thought it would be more convenient to hon. Members if the division could be taken at the end of the afternoon sitting. I did not suggest it with any desire of pressing on other Government business.

MR. LOUGH: What Budget Resolution will be taken next Tuesday?

*MR. RITCHIE: I propose to take the Resolution first on tobacco and spirits—the Customs and Excise—then the Income Tax, and then the Sinking Fund.

MR. T. HARRINGTON (Dublin, Harbour): Will the Public Officers (Dublin) Bill be taken on Monday, and will an opportunity be afforded for discussing it?

*MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No, the Bill will not be taken on Monday as that day is allotted to Supply.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN BILL.

Reported, with Amendments, from the Standing Committee on Trade, etc.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No 150.)

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee to be printed. (No. 150.)

Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), to be considered upon Monday next, and to be printed. (Bill 186.)

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

MR. HALSEY reported from the Committee; That they had added to the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, the following Fifteen Members in respect of the Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill:—Mr. Griffith Boscawen, Mr. Churchill, Mr. John Dewar, Sir

Charles Dalrymple, Sir Henry Fowler, Sir Brampton Gurdon, Sir John Kennaway, Mr. Walter Long, Mr. Mellor, Sir Gilbert Parker, Mr. John Rutherford, Sir Barrington Simeon, Mr. Talbot, Lord Edmund Talbot, and Mr. Tomkinson.

Report to lie upon the Table.

NEW BILLS.

SALMON AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries," presented by Mr. Richard Cavendish; supported by Mr. Helme, Sir Herbert Maxwell, Sir Henry Seton-Karr, and Mr. Osmond Williams; to be read a second time upon Thursday next, and to be printed. (Bill 187.)

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT (1897) AMENDMENT (SEAMEN) BILL.

"To amend The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897," presented by Mr. Robson; supported by Lord Hugh Cecil, Mr. Runciman, Sir Francis Evans, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, Mr. Buxton, Sir Fortescue Flannery, and Mr. Harris; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. (Bill 188.)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (SUPPLY).

Ordered, That the proceedings on the Second Reading of the Irish Land Bill and the Committee of Ways and Means have precedence this day of the Business of Supply.—(*Mr. Balfour.*)

IRISH LAND BILL.

Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Amendment to Question [4th May], "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Which Amendment was—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Mr. Coghill.*)

Question again proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question." Debated resumed.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES (Durham, N. W.): I am aware that not a small

number of my hon. friends on this side of the House feel very great repugnance to the financial provisions of this Bill, and I believe that with some of them that repugnance is so strong that they intend either to vote against the Bill or to abstain from going into the Division Lobby. I am bound to say that my repugnance to the financial proposals of the measure is quite as strong, perhaps, as that of my hon. friends, and I was at first disposed to take the course which they, supported by many weighty reasons, have decided to adopt. But I could not help reflecting that the finances of this Bill are in the main almost entirely to be found by the Irish people, and consequently I recognise what the hon. Member for Waterford, and the other able leaders of the Irish Party, who have been associated with the cause of Irish land reform for twenty years or more, have unhesitatingly affirmed, viz., that in their judgment the Second Reading of this Bill should pass. They have declared their belief that if it be passed into law, with certain reasonable Amendments, it will give an assurance of a happier era of peace and prosperity for the people of Ireland; I hope therefore my hon. friends on this side of the House will not think me presumptuous if I say that they will take a very grave responsibility upon themselves should they oppose the Second Reading because they distrust the financial proposals so far as Ireland's responsibility is concerned, and because they regard with distaste the proposed bonus, representing a capital sum of £12,000,000, together with the annual payment amounting to somewhere about £300,000. I recognise that the financial proposals of this Bill are unsatisfactory, but I try to put myself in the position of the Irish people, and this is the conclusion I have come to. By this Bill we are purchasing—it is true for a considerable sum of money—from the Irish landlord the economic emancipation of the Irish peasantry, and if the Irish landlord has the hereditary itching palm, we may well be content to pay him this money rather than that the Bill should be lost. In other words we may say to him “you may keep the change.” That is the position which I take up with regard to this measure, and I propose to give it my support, subject to certain Amendments which I believe the Chief

Mr. Atherley-Jones,

Secretary for Ireland will be willing favourably to consider. I will go even farther and say that if anyone contemplates our agrarian policy in Ireland, and if anyone will take the trouble to look at the present congested condition of Connaught, he will come to the conclusion that it would not be too much if we were to make a free gift of £100,000,000 sterling to the Irish people, instead of advancing it by way of loan. I must say, under these circumstances, that I think the attitude of some of my hon. friends upon this question is incomprehensible. I do not regard the hon. Member for Stoke-upon-Trent as incomprehensible; it would be difficult to do that at any time. He told us, in the able speech which he made, that he objected to the Bill because he thought it would facilitate Home Rule. I believe that the Government have, by their Local Government Bill, and by this Bill, laid the foundations of the structure of self-government which they or we shall finish. I hold that the Bill removes one of the main objections to Home Rule which was urged by the Unionist Party in 1886, viz., the danger of the landlords being oppressed by the grant of local government and by its employment by the Irish people. In the removal of that objection I think we have one of the strongest assurances for the future prosperity of Ireland.

I wish to draw the attention of the Chief Secretary to what will happen regarding his preposterous financial proposals. I do not vouch for the accuracy of my figures, but I have worked out the problem as best I could, as to what will be the effect of the Bill on first-term tenancies of £100 per annum. I find that for such a holding the tenant now gives twenty years purchase, and the landlord gets £2,000. He invests this £2,000 cash at $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., and receives £65 per annum. But under this Bill, in order to sell a similar holding, it has to be reduced by 20 per cent.; that brings it down to £80; that you capitalise at $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., and you arrive at £2,461. To that you add the bonus of 15 per cent., and the landlord gets £2,830 which, if invested at $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., brings in £92 per year. Thus the landlord gets £830 more for the holding under this Bill than he does under existing Acts, and I want to know on what principle of sound finance such an arrangement can be

justified. It may be said by the Chief Secretary—indeed, I think he has said it—that we have now reached the end of the willingness of the landlord to sell; that the list of all, or nearly all, of those who are willing to get rid of their estates has been exhausted, and that consequently it is necessary either to have compulsion or to give the landlords something to induce them to sell. But I should like to draw the attention of the Chief Secretary to the figures of the last Return issued by him under the Acts of 1891 and 1896. These Returns show that down to the end of December, 1902, there were 41,133 applications for loans to purchase, or an average of 3,738 per annum. But in the month of January last there were 416 applications, which works out at an average of 4,992 per annum—in other words, at the rate of an increase of 1,000 applications over the average of the preceding eleven years since the Land Act came into operation. These figures may be capable of explanation, but unless there are some exceptional circumstances which explain them, I ask what becomes of the right hon. Gentleman's statement that there has ceased to be manifested by the landlords a desire to sell? If my statement be only partially true, or even if it be only inaccurate, surely there can be no justification for the proposed thirty years maximum. The Attorney-General told us that this maximum reduction was retained because there would be pressure brought to bear on the landlord by the tenants, which would interfere with the rapid and facile transaction of purchases. The right hon. Gentleman, at the same time, gave expression to his confidence in the restraining influences exercised by the leaders of the Irish Party on this side of the House, and in the honesty of the Irish peasantry. An eloquent tribute has also been paid to them by Mr. Bailey in his most interesting report, and surely the right hon. Gentleman might trust the tenant to the advice and guidance of those who have conducted this Irish land war for so many years with such startling success, and leave it to them to see that there is no improper pressure brought to bear on the landlords to sell. I find that in this Bill there is no single reference, beyond two or three ridiculous clauses, to any

provision being made for the labourers of Ireland. We have passed Acts of Parliament in the interests of the labourers, but those Acts are almost a dead letter in Ireland.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): No, no.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES: Well, I have gone most carefully through the figures, and I find that down to the end of 1902 there was not a single instance, in the county of Down, where the Labourers Acts were enforced. They are under the Act to get a beggarly statute acre, but they can only get it at the whim and pleasure of the local authorities. I would like to know how many farm labourers in Ireland have obtained plots.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Thousands.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES: The Returns presented to us do not appear to show that. Still, I will not labour the point.

MR. T. M. HEALY: May I point out that the state of things in the north of Ireland is very different from that prevailing in other parts of the country.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES: I would like to ask why the labourers are not included in this Bill? The Prime Minister, in the course of the debate on the King's speech in 1901, said—

“The labourers will lose heavily by the expropriation of the landlords.”

At this point someone dissented, and the right hon. Gentleman continued—

“Well, in my opinion they will lose heavily and they will come to us and say—‘Does British credit exist only for the Irish tenant? Are we to have nothing out of it?’ My hon. friend the Member for South Tyrone, when that day comes, may stump Ulster from one end to the other, and he may use his great gifts to agitate the passions of another class.”

I hope many Irish Members will be found ready to agitate in the same way, and that they will be prepared to stump the country in vindication of the just rights of the 300,000 farm labourers in Ireland in order to secure for them some small share or part in this measure. I trust too, that the right hon. Gentleman

the Chief Secretary, when he comes to reply on this debate, will make some reference to legislation which may be intended to meet the requirements of this class. As far as I can see, the farm labourers of Ireland are to remain helots. There is no facility afforded, as is afforded in other countries, enabling them to become the peasant proprietors of holdings which might be made available for them by judicious legislation. There is a *coulour de rose* about Mr. Bailey's report, but if one reads it carefully one sees there is a sinister danger that the emancipated tenants of Ireland will get over-loaded with debt. If I read one paragraph of the report I think it will enable hon. Members to appreciate the gravity of this question. Mr. Bailey, speaking of the local Joint Stock Banks in Ireland says—

"These banks of late years seem to have ousted the gombeen man, whose rates of interest they, however, often adopt. The obtaining of a loan from a bank is no light matter for a struggling farmer. The interest charged for a small sum often amounts to ten per cent."

Again he says—

"If the system of purchase by State aid is to be a success in Ireland some method should be devised for supplying the small purchasers with capital on easy terms. There is undoubtedly a danger that unless an easy and satisfactory method be adopted of supplying capital, a system of borrowing and mortgaging will spring up that will entail all the disadvantages that frequently attach themselves to a peasant proprietary system. As the purchasers acquire larger interests in their holdings; as unrest, agitation, and the accompanying difficulty of recovering debts secured on land die out, it is almost certain that the moneylender, in one form or another, will again appear and gradually spread over the country."

The tenants will raise future loans at higher rates, and in the end will be but in name the owners of the holdings they were enabled to purchase on such favourable terms by the aid of State credit. Let me refer to a German prototype. I have read the declaration made at the time that that edict establishing the Stein Hardenberg system was established, and the one thing that was then regarded as essential was to prevent, by some method or other, peasant proprietors from becoming sunk in debt under a landlordism worse than Irish landlordism. The first thing they did was to establish land banks to advance money to purchasers, properly secured, of course, to

Mr. Atherley-Jones.

enable tenants without capital to carry on their farming operations in a fairly successful way. The defect in this Bill is that it creates a peasant proprietary without taking any steps to preserve that peasant proprietary. I think I will have the good will of my hon. friends from Ireland behind me when I say that we ought to establish some system whereby the purchasing tenant should be prevented from falling into the hands of the gombeen man, or into the bankruptcy courts.

I cannot help thinking that the period of sixty-eight and a half years is too long. I know that the right hon. Gentleman will say that that period was selected in order that the pressure on the tenants might not be too great. But this is the first time in the history of land purchase that a period of sixty-eight and a half years has been selected by any Government to enable tenants to purchase their farms. In Germany the period was fifty-six years; but then there was a provision that if a tenant chose to pay a higher rate of interest the period should be reduced from fifty-six to forty-five years. Why could not the right hon. Gentleman adopt that? I merely throw it out as a suggestion. Why cannot the right hon. Gentleman provide that where a tenant is disposed to pay a somewhat larger sum the period should be reduced in order that he might sooner have the sentiment and feeling of a peasant proprietor. I have come to the conclusion that it is right to support this Bill; and I am not at all shaken in my conviction by what was said by my hon. friend the Member for the Launceston Division. My hon. friend disparaged peasant proprietary. My hon. friend, when he rumbled the dry bones of musty political economy must have forgotten that peasant proprietary is established in almost every country, in Europe. In the last century we asked our Consuls to make reports as to peasant proprietary in European countries; and these reports established beyond doubt that peasant proprietary, properly fostered by the Government, and not throwing a lot of impoverished tenants on their holdings without capital, was the best system of land tenure. I hope the right hon. Gentleman will secure that the system of land purchase shall be effective in its inception and in its operation, so that it may be of lasting and vital benefit to

Ireland. Let me say in conclusion that whatever may be the attitude assumed by a few of my hon. friends, I am persuaded that the people of England will be touched by the magnanimity displayed by the people of Ireland towards the Irish landlords. They have been taught, and justly taught, to regard the Irish landlords as the agents and ministers of the present Government, and in numerous cases they have suffered from landlord extortion. Yet, notwithstanding that, they are not letting the landlords go out naked. They are going to give them not only a just but a generous compensation. And more than that, in a spirit which I am afraid my own countrymen would scarcely equal, they desire that these landlords should continue to abide among them in order to work out the great problem of self-government for their country.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTSON (Hackney, S.): I am sure we were all pleased to hear the hon. and learned Gentleman express approval of the general principle of this Bill, absolutely and unconditionally. With his last observations, however, about Irish landlords, I cannot in the least agree; and as regards Home Rule, to which the hon. and learned Gentleman referred, I have not a single word to say on this occasion. The hon. and learned Gentleman has voiced the view expressed by a few hon. Members representing English constituencies; namely, that under this Bill the landlords will get too much. He says that twenty years purchase of £100 of rent would only mean £2,000, but that under the Bill the landlord will get £2,800. That is to ignore the whole position of Irish affairs. Why does the hon. and learned Gentleman assume twenty years purchase to be the saleable value. I presume it is because Lord Dunraven estimated that that was the average number of years purchase the landlords had received. But Lord Dunraven qualified that estimate by the fact that the sales which had recently taken place were almost the last sales that could take place. Anyone who knows anything directly about Ireland knows that sales of land have practically ceased. Who will dispute the fact, in these circumstances, that as regards land purchase you cannot get on unless you give the landlords more favourable terms?

I would beg the hon. Member to remember that this is not a mere question of passing this Bill. What is wanted is a Bill that will satisfy the reasonable demands of the Irish landlords. No one wants to give them too much; what is wanted is to give them fair and reasonable compensation. I would beg the hon. and learned Gentleman to put the idea of twenty years purchase out of his mind as being absolutely fallacious. The hon. and learned Gentleman also referred to the labourers. I do not think the hon. and learned Gentleman's knowledge of the labourers question is quite up-to-date; and if he happens to be in Ireland and honours me by calling on me, I will show him labourers' cottages in all directions. In a great many parts of Ireland very considerable provision has been made for the labourers; and if I am told that this Bill does not do enough for the labourers my answer is that it is not a Bill to settle the labourers' question, but to settle the landlord and tenant dispute. He has also said the tenants will mortgage and lose their holdings, but putting aside the part of the Bill which prevents that, I point out that he himself approved of peasant proprietorship. If you approve of a peasant proprietorship, how can you say these people will mortgage their holdings and disappear?

MR. ATHERLEY JONES: No, I said these unfortunate tenants, starting without capital, would have to borrow money, and in default of other resources they would go to the gombeen man.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTSON: But you do not start them. From the remark of the hon. Member one would suppose that we took a certain number of persons and planted them down in a particular district without anything to commence with. That is not the position at all. We are starting persons who are actual farmers, and they have their stock. The position is this. I take the hon. Gentleman's reduction of 20 per cent. A man who is paying £100 now will have to pay £80, but he will have the same amount of stock as he had before. What necessity is there for him to go to the gombeen man? There may be people who know as much and more of Ireland than I do, who think there is some possibility of that occurring, but my own

view is that it will not take place to any great extent. Everybody knows that what an Irishman wants to do is to avoid losing his holding by any possibility. He will do anything rather than lose his holding, and I do not for a moment believe there is any danger of their going to the gombeen man and mortgaging and losing their property. Of course a certain number of people will do so; Ireland would be Paradise if they did not. With regard to the bonus. The reason the bonus is given to the landlords has been put most strongly by the right hon. Baronet the Member for Berwick, and I cannot pass by his speech without thanking him on behalf of every Member for Ireland for the sympathetic tone he adopted and the knowledge he displayed. It has been said this is a bonus, dole, or gift to the landlords. I absolutely dispute that. The right hon. Baronet puts the matter in this way. If a man wants to buy a horse and has not enough money, and you lend him four-fifths of the money, that is a gift to the man who buys the horse and not to the man who sells it. But supposing that to be the wrong way to put it, I will put it in another way. The Imperial taxpayer says for this purpose he desires that the landlord shall sell to the tenant, he has a direct interest in that transaction being brought about. The tenant says, "I can only give £100 for this," and the landlord says, "I cannot sell for less than £110." That leaves £10 to be found, and if the Imperial taxpayer says, "I will make good that £10," that is not a gift either to the landlord or the tenant. It is given for carrying out a transaction which the Imperial taxpayer has, or thinks he has, an interest in seeing carried out. Now it is asked, why should demesne lands be bought from the landlord and sold back to him? The answer is simple. You must bear in mind that all Irish estates, and English estates too, I believe, for the matter of that, have charges and mortgages on them, and one thing and another. These charges and mortgages are on the demesne land as well as on the other land, and you must free the entire estate; and the Imperial taxpayer says, "In order to clear the whole estate we will buy up the whole, including the demesne lands, and as we do not want the demesne

lands we will sell them back." The landlord does not get much out of it, all he does is to get clear of the whole.

Now, many English Members are much afraid that if this Bill is passed the landlords of Ireland will leave the country entirely. We must acknowledge with gratitude the change of expression from hon. Gentlemen opposite with regard to the retention of landlords in Ireland. They used to speak of the landlords being driven out of Ireland altogether, but probably that was only a figure of speech, and all the time they wanted to retain the landlords. But they have now expressed the view, and have stated that it is for the benefit of Ireland as a whole that the landlords should remain there. But the question which my English friends have asked me is this: "Will not the effect of this Bill be to force the landlords to leave the country?" My answer is "No." Of course it will not bring back the absentee landlords, but in Ireland we have very large houses, we have important and agreeable demesnes attached to the houses, and the mere fact that you have sold all your land does not prevent the necessity of your doing something with the demesne lands. We are not going to leave them deserted, that is certain, and it will be extremely difficult to let them. If they can be let it does not much matter, except from a sentimental point of view, whether the old landlord goes and a new tenant, who is probably richer, comes in his place. Of course it will be a great blow to the sentiment of Ireland, because the people, there is no doubt, do like the quality who have been living among them. We shall have to live there whether we like it or not. I know of no country, if you hold no land, more pleasant to live in than Ireland. I honestly admit I should not like to own much land there, and it is a satisfaction to me not to have too large an estate at rental in the country. I have lived in Ireland with great enjoyment, and I believe that is the experience of most of us. Another point is whether the trees will be destroyed. As a matter of fact the plantations will not pass under this Bill at all. The plantations will either be kept or sold separately and will not be sold to those who will cut them all down. I myself do not believe

that Irishmen have such a hatred of trees as people imagine; they may not like trees spreading their roots into their fields. One of the peculiarities of Irish scenery is that when one looks over a large stretch of country it seems to be uninhabited, but those who know the country well, know that wherever there is a clump of trees there is a house. The Irishman has no dislike to trees, and there is no fear of his cutting them down when he gets possession of his holding.

Now there are a few other points in the Bill that I should like to refer to. To make this Bill work easily it is necessary that the landlord should know what he can sell, and in the first clause of the Bill there is considerable doubt as to what that is. The first clause refers to the sale of an estate, and an estate, as defined by the Act of 1885, is "Whatever the Commissioners decide to be an estate." That is not what the landlords want to know. They want, if they agree with a tenant of a holding, or a tenant of ten holdings, to sell those holdings, that to be considered "an estate." We want some certainty. You will never get a landlord to take any trouble in the matter unless he knows the transaction will be carried out. Then there is the £3,000 and £5,000 limit. That means that if the value of a holding exceeds £3,000 the holding cannot be purchased except under certain special circumstances when it is raised to the value of £5,000.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, London-derry, N.): That is the limit of the advance.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTSON: If the value of a holding is £6,000, the old principle is to be continued that £3,000 is to be advanced. We think that that clause ought to be struck out. Our idea is that the landlord should be able to free himself from the position of a landlord, to cease to be a collector of rents at all, and to do away with his agent, and that will be impossible unless he is able to sell his large holdings, as well as the small ones, and also be able to get the entire money. The next point is

the perpetual rent-charge. That may be said to interest the tenant far more than the landlord. But the landlords have an interest in making the Bill work, and they desire to get it framed in accordance with the sentiments of the tenants, so far as those sentiments agree with those of the landlords. The tenants have shown a marked desire not to have that one-eighth left as a perpetual rent-charge, and, after consideration, I cannot see any benefit to the Government in retaining it. It has been suggested that it will give the State some right of preventing sub-letting, mortgaging, and so forth. But to do that it is not in the least necessary to have even one penny reservation. There are any number of estates round London absolutely bound by certain covenants without any rent-charge whatever upon them. I hope, therefore, in view of the wishes of the tenants, the Government will be able to alter that clause of the Bill.

Then with regard to the 30 per cent. maximum reduction. It may be defended on two grounds—first, that it is a protection to the landlord from pressure to increase that maximum, and, secondly, that it would not be a good thing for Ireland as a whole to have any excessive reduction in any particular part. The latter may be described as the De Freyne estate argument. As to the former, I think I am justified in saying that the landlords most strongly urge the Government to retain the maximum reduction. I agree there may be cases in which it would be desirable to go below the maximum, but, on the other hand, to induce tenants to hold out for ever to get the largest sum they could by way of reduction would be an incalculable evil, and might destroy the whole benefit of the Bill. In the interests both of quick sale and of the landlords, it is desirable that the maximum reduction should be retained. As to the De Freyne argument, we have all felt the difficulty of a sudden enormous reduction in any particular district, and none of us want a repetition of the scenes on the De Freyne and the Dillon Estates. There must be a certain amount of danger if a landlord of a large estate chooses to sell below the maximum. The 30 per cent. reduction is practically one third of the rent; and I think that is sufficient to induce the

tenants to come in, and they are more likely to come in if they know what the maximum reduction is.

Another matter is the decadal reductions. The Chief Secretary has some objection, but personally, I think the decadal reduction might be, and it is very desirable that it should be, introduced. The hon. and learned Member for Waterford mentioned a proposition of Lord Dunraven's that there should be a further subvention calculated in proportion to the saving to the Irish Exchequer as the result of this Bill, which subvention should be used for the purpose of facilitating decadal reductions. There would be no objection to that on the part of the landlords. The decadal reduction has had an important influence for good in Ireland, and I hope the Chief Secretary will be able to re-introduce it.

Some little care will be required to retain to the landlords their fishery rights. That is of the utmost importance if it is desired to retain the landlords in Ireland, because you cannot retain them unless these rights are preserved. They are of enormous value, not only to the owner, but to the district in which they are situated. They would, however, be valueless if cut up amongst a number of small holders, and I am sure hon. Members opposite do not desire to see a property destroyed by sub-division.

I understand the first schedule is to be materially modified; therefore, I need not refer to that now. I desire to say a word as to landlords' costs. The landlords will incur a certain amount of costs, and I would suggest—I believe the solicitors in Ireland have expressed their willingness to concur in such an arrangement—that a scale should be agreed upon of the costs which the landlords would pay to their own solicitors. They would then know what they were about, whereas, under present circumstances, they would be afraid of entering on the matter for fear of the costs.

Another question is—who is to get the bonus? According to the Bill it is to be paid to the vendor. If the Bill were worked out according to the legal principle, the vendor, being only tenant for life, would be a trustee for himself and the remainder man. I feel most strongly that this money should be paid to the persons who are the actual owners of the estates. That is to say, if it is

settled, to the tenant for his life and held in trust for his remainder man. That seems to me only fair and equitable. If that is not done, I do not see how you are to adjust, as between the two sets of purchase money, what is to fall upon each. I must express my thanks to the Chief Secretary for having conceived and brought in this Bill. As one who knows Ireland from both the English and the Irish point of view, I am confident that this Bill, if made such a measure as induces the landlords to sell their property, will confer upon Ireland an inestimable benefit, for which that country will always be grateful.

MR. T. M. HEALY: I cannot help acknowledging the remarkable and disinterested testimony which the landlords are giving to Ireland as a happy place to live in. We are now told by the hon. and learned Member for Hackney that Ireland is a most delightful country to live in, and therefore the landlords must be preserved in their demesnes. I gather from that that the hon. and learned Member is not a victim of Mr. Gladstone's Land Bill. At any rate, I think it is greatly to be regretted that he was not at that time in the country instead of now. The tone and temper of the landlords of that day, and their descriptions of the horrible country they had to live in—how they could not stir out of doors without being shot at—were really one of the great assets of the time. Even the illustrious Empress of Austria, who used to go to Ireland to hunt, was stopped by the direct intervention of the Government of the day, only twenty years ago, on the ground that the country was absolutely unsafe. More over, an Indian nurse, an ayah, made a bargain with her European mistress, when leaving India, that she was willing to go to any country in Europe except Ireland. I must say, having listened to all the speeches, that, with a couple of exceptions, I do not think any Irish Member has any reason to complain. I do not complain of the speech made by the hon. Member for Stoke or by the hon. Member who seconded his Motion. Certainly it is remarkable that the only two absolutely ignorant speeches delivered on the Bill came from hon. and learned Members above the Gangway on

the Opposition Benches. The speech of the hon. Member for Launceston could not be answered, because nobody could understand it. The hon. and learned Member for South Shields made a very able speech, but it largely took the shape of prophecy. He said the most marvellous things and made the most marvellous prophecies. Having deluged the Chief Secretary with a cold douche of predictions, he denounced this Bill first and foremost on the ground that it would practically ruin Ireland and end eventually in Home Rule. I have looked about for a prophet with which to compare the hon. and learned Gentleman. I will not compare him with Jeremiah or any of the better-known ones. I remember what the cynical Frenchman has said about the prophet Habakkuk—viz., that he was *capable de tout*, and certainly after the remarkable speech of the hon. and learned Member for South Shields I should think he was capable of anything in the direction of prophecy. The hon. and learned Gentleman first compared the agricultural grant in England with the agricultural grant in Ireland. One, he said, was £700,000 and the other £1,500,000, and I suppose the proportions were those of seventy-five to nine. I certainly could discover no relation in those proportions. What are the facts? Is the agricultural land of England to be compared with the agricultural land of Ireland? If you take the valuation of the two things the strict proportion is absolutely maintained. The hon. Member has said that there would be no security unless you have a local authority, and that string has been harped upon by many hon. Members. In the first place £100,000,000 means practically only £3,000,000 a year. Can the House realise that for that £100,000,000 in the sixty-eight and a half years the Irish people will have to pay something like £200,000,000? Since 1886 the taxes of Ireland have gone up by £3,000,000. Had you any scruple or shrinkage in assessing them? If you are able to enforce taxes why should you not be able to enforce your rent? Those £3,000,000 were put upon us after your own Royal Commission, presided over by Mr. Childers, a Liberal Member, had reported that our taxation was

£3,000,000 too high. Is it not absurd for Liberal Members—whatever may be said of Tory Members who are anxious to give Ireland some amount of relief when they know that every shilling of this money will come back from Irish sources—is it not absurd for them to make mis-statements for the sole purpose of prejudicing Conservative Members? When somebody on the opposite side of the House makes us these unexpected proposals is it right that the obstruction should come from the Liberal side? I submit that it is not right.

I may say that personally I much prefer the Bill of last year to this Bill. It was a much cheaper Bill for the Irish people, although this gives us five shillings lower interest. Yet at the same time I venture to say that England nowhere has better security for her money than she will have under this measure. Go and agitate in any district where the tenants have already bought their land. Let these tenants once make a bargain, and you will find that wild horses will not drag them out of it. I do not say myself whether I think this Bill makes for Home Rule or against it. If I were to offer an opinion of my own I might also be indulging in the region of prophecy. One may fairly say "yes" or "no," or take the opinion expressed by the hon. Member for Stoke, or the opinion of Ulster Members, but is it not a remarkable thing that those who have hitherto expressed in the past the greatest objection to Home Rule—namely, the Orange Party and the Ulster Members, are every one of them in favour of this Bill. Ought they not to know the effect of this measure rather better than amateur politicians, however respectable they may be? Reference has been made to Mr. Gladstone's Act of 1881, and a very proper vindication of that Act has come from some of my colleagues above the Gangway. When the Irish landlords are complaining of the administration of that Act, and are complaining of its introduction, I would like this House of Commons to put itself in the position of that House of Commons. What was the state of things then? You had a House of Commons with a high franchise, and almost every Liberal Member was a landlord. Almost every Conservative Member was a landlord—as

well. Take Ireland itself. There were only twenty Irish representatives with Mr. Parnell. Take the County of Leitrim, now represented by two men who have been oftenest in His Majesty's gaol. Irishmen were represented by two colonels, one of whom was Colonel Tottenham, who laid down the doctrine before the Richmond Commission that the best manure you ever put upon land was that it should be well salted with rent. There was no Closure in the House then, or naming by Mr. Speaker. There were no new rules, and you could talk as long as you liked, and the landlords did talk fairly long. I think the wildest night I ever saw in this House of Commons was when the landlords were resisting a proposal that the tenant, the man who was living in huts, should be allowed to build a new house upon the land. This was only carried by great grace and favour, and I was allowed to move an Amendment—"Except in substitution of the old one." Considering the extraordinary difficulties of that time in proposing legislation the wonder is not that the Act of 1881 was passed, but that any Act at all was carried. We advised Mr. Gladstone then, as we advised every Government from that time to the present, that the true remedy was peasant proprietors. If anybody had proposed at that time the methods that we then advocated, which are now recognised by the Chief Secretary for Ireland, the landlords in a body would have taken off Mr. Gladstone to a lunatic asylum—and it is only by the long results of time and patience that the House of Commons has been educated under a different franchise. I have always said that this Conservative House of Commons is far more liberal, far kinder in its temper and spirit, than the Liberal House of Commons of that day. Therefore, it is absurd to throw any reproach upon the great name of Gladstone, whose memory for ever will live in fragrance in Ireland.

But we are dealing with a Bill of a very different character. For my part my acknowledgments go out fully and heartily to the Chief Secretary for Ireland. I do not wish to mince words, and I say that in my opinion the right hon. Gentleman is deserving of public thanks and of Irish thanks. Those of my hon. friends who took part in the

Land Conference had a very difficult task indeed. I did not quarrel with them, but they made this acknowledgment—that the purchase price should be based upon income, and that for the purpose of obtaining such a result an equitable price should be paid to the owners. They were acting as counsel for the tenants and trying to make a good bargain. It would appear to me that the hon. Member for South Tyrone has taken a harsher line against the terms of the Chief Secretary's Bill than the Member for Cork or the Member for Waterford, so that, instead of having gone his way and boasted, now he is sorrowing. But, at all events, look at the situation they created for the Irish Government. Look at the situation they created for this House. Immemorial enemies in Ireland have for the first time for centuries of disagreement put their hands to a treaty which they call upon the British Government to ratify, and if they do not ratify it the Chief Secretary has not only to face a revolt of the tenants but a revolt of the landlords. I should like to have seen that revolt in other times, I should have liked to have seen the landlord party especially in the House of Lords—a very interesting lot of insurgents they would be—attacking His Majesty's Government and saying, as they very well might say—Lord Barrymore, Lord Clanricarde, and Lord Ardilaun—that "You, an English Minister, are less generous to us than O'Brien and Russell and the rest." I should like to see how long a Conservative Government would last if such a state of things was proposed. I should like to see a Liberal Government coming in to legislate upon that situation. They certainly would get great assistance from the House of Lords. Now what is it that the right hon. Gentleman had to do? I have stated that in my judgment—I am not at all complaining of others—the cheaper course—I do not say that it would be the more magnanimous course, or even the best course patriotically—but the cheaper course for the tenant would have been to have allowed last year's Bill to pass, and as years went on—because you cannot sell Ireland in a day, or a year, or five years, or ten years—the cheaper course would have been to have taken that Bill and then to have added to it and patched it as estates came into the market. But I must acknowledge that the remarkable course which

has been taken has very many advantages for Ireland. In the first place it was desirable to strike the national imagination. In the next place it was necessary and desirable and wholesome to show the landlord party that the tenant party were not their deadly enemies, and that they were prepared to give them just and equitable terms. And I believe, even if the tenants have to pay a little more under this Bill, the price is worth it in the better spirit which has been generated by means of this Land Conference. I do not grudge the landlord the terms he has got, nor shall I incite any tenant not to give them. On the contrary, as I say, I think the bargain was well worth striking.

Now, the question for the House of Commons, therefore, is purely, or almost purely, one of finance. Every shilling under this Bill, in my opinion, is absolutely safe. It would be absolutely impossible, in my judgment, to suggest any doctrine of repudiation. In the first place I am quite satisfied, though of course we shall object to the sixty-eight and a half years, that a solemn treaty will have been made with the British Government—a solemn treaty ratified unanimously by the Irish representatives, and if any repudiator came along to fight with the British Government he would not have leave to open his mouth for twenty-four hours. I would give him a taste of Brian Boru. Therefore hon. Members forget the very drastic means that exist in Ireland for dealing with inconvenient persons. I have not experienced it myself, but others have, and I hope they liked it. But Ireland is absolutely in the hollow of England's hand. Your system is such that if you want to know in Dublin Castle any morning what every man had for breakfast from one end of Ireland to the other you could know it. There is a police force, there are magistrates, and then, sir, such is the state of the law, that if I wanted, Mr. Speaker, to convict you of the Moat murder, which we are hearing about, with that machinery in my hands I would have no difficulty whatever in bringing you in guilty. Therefore, in a state of things like that—in a country so departmentalised, the notion that anybody

could start a campaign of repudiation, even if the people would listen to it, is the wildest notion. But the people would not listen to it. Why should they listen to it? Why should a man give up his house and his holding, after he has made it comfortable, when good honest money had passed on the head of it, and he had signed the bargain, and it had been ratified in this House with the complete assent of every Irish Member, when every public man in the country would be against it, and when, above all, every clergyman, Protestant, and Catholic, from one end of the country to the other, would preach against it as an abomination? Therefore, so far as this doctrine of repudiation goes, I say it is idle. But let me at the same time make this acknowledgment, for I think one should be perfectly frank, I do think there should be some provision in regard to men under £10, when a bad season, or a sudden shortage, might make the annual instalment difficult of collection, and it is well worth consideration—because we have known terrible visitations of Providence in former times—it is well worth the consideration of the Government whether they should not put in some little rainy day clause, so that, in the case of these small men—now I am speaking purely on behalf of the small men—whether some sort of savings-bank deposit could not be carved out, say a shilling or two more a year, or added on to the rent, so that if a season of dearth and distress came, the Government could at least afford to wait six, eight, or twelve months. It is fair to say that a great many small mountainous estates have been bought up. It is pretended by some that the best estates are coming into the market. That is utterly unfounded. I should rather think that it is the other way about, with the exception of the Egham estate. With that exception, the people who have bought are small humble people, and there has been nothing like loss to the Treasury. But it is fair to acknowledge that there have occasionally been processes issued on account of delay, but the moment the processes are issued, by hook or by crook the man gets the money, and he pays the Government. However, for my part, I should

see no reason whatever to complain if English Members, in view of the possibilities of bad seasons, though I might not think it a necessity, insisted upon a clause of that kind.

Then there is the question of decadal reduction. You have no room to give it at present. We should all like to have it. It was a remarkable invention of the right hon. Gentleman, the present President of the Board of Trade, whom we have to thank for many things in Ireland. I am very sorry indeed that now the tenuity of the position is such that there is no room to make that reduction, but, if it should be given, it can only be given by doubling the sinking fund. I would be quite satisfied if the sinking fund were increased 5s., but that is a Treasury and a Government matter. The tenant would not be hurt by it and perhaps it would be quite as well at the beginning of this business that the sinking fund might be a little higher. I am quite sure that the Government know a great deal more about this fiscal question than I do, and if the right hon. Gentleman states that, having gone into the whole actuarial position he is unable to do so, I shall for my part rest perfectly satisfied. There is another question, namely, that of the one-eighth, and I think that the reasons which have been given for retaining it are not strong and are not logical. You can prevent, as you do now, mortgaging and sub-letting without the one-eighth at all. But it is a question which may deserve consideration in the future whether something should not be done with the one-eighth, and whether a little bit of sinking fund could be put on in the way of letting the amount go to the local authority. If there is to be anything like that I would support it, but if there is not to be anything like that, I should oppose it.

The case of the labourers has been, I think, rather unfairly dealt with. One way that occurs to me of benefiting them would be to go back to the position before the Local Government Act, and relieve the labourers and the small men under £4 valuation of all their rates. I do not say that that is an ideal suggestion; and more than that, as the franchise hangs upon it, it is not very easy to handle. See what has happened under the Local Government Act. Before it came into operation Sir Roger Palmer

used to give one cheque in respect of £500 valuations on his estate. The rate collector to-day has twice a year to make a pilgrimage over the estate and call on these 500 men with holdings under £4 valuation. The same occurs on many other estates, so that it is evident that an enormous burden is cast on the local authorities in the shape of increased expenditure on matters like that. If the eighth is not to go for any Irish purpose that I can see, I recognise that it can only be abolished by adding it to the sinking fund, and if so, I should cheerfully accept that position. The hon. Member for Tyrone contends that this Bill does not deal hardly with the labourers. How did the Conference Report deal with the labourers? I would remind the hon. Member for Tyrone of what the Conference Report says. It says that—

“The failure to enforce the Labourers Acts in certain portions of the country constitutes a serious grievance, and, in the opinion of the Conference, in certain districts of the country sufficient accommodation for the labourers has not been given by the local authorities. Power should be given to the local authorities to acquire sites for labourers’ cottages.”

But that is the law already. Mr. Ellison Macartney, the present Master of the Mint, ran a Bill through the House some time ago enabling the Local Government Board, where a labourer complained that his case had not been attended to by the local guardians, to send down an inspector, and, if necessary, to erect a house over the Guardians’ heads. I have another suggestion as to what should be done to improve the condition of the labourers in addition to relief from rates. It is this: that any man who takes benefit under the Purchase Act should be debarred from contesting a decision of the Local Board entitling a labourer to a cottage on his land. I do not think that is unreasonable. If the farmers of Ireland get a large easement in the shape of this Government money from the general body of the taxpayers, it is only right that they should concede to the labourers some such measure of accommodation as I have suggested. The hon. Member for Durham says that the labourers of Ireland have been unfairly dealt with by the farmers. That is not so, except in the province of Ulster, where there are no labourers’ cottages.

Mr. T. M. Healy,

In the three southern provinces the farmers have, in my judgment, behaved as generously and as fairly to the labourers as anyone could expect, and in my opinion they are quite willing to continue to do so, although, of course, there may be an odd exception to that fair and generous treatment here and there. The labourers have a special protection; they have now under the Local Government Act the precious weapon of the franchise, by which they can return such guardians, and elect such district and county councillors as they choose. Let anyone remember the state of things before the Local Government Act was passed. It was decided by the Irish Courts that one landlord—Lord Fitzwilliam—could cast thirty-two votes for the Board of Guardians. But to-day every man, woman, and labourer in these unions has a vote, and can return the guardians of their choice. Therefore, so far as the labourers themselves are concerned, there is a complete—not a perfect, but a very valuable code by which the labourers can obtain large benefits.

Complaint has been made that the right hon. Gentleman has under-estimated the rent, and a statement has been made that, to some extent, he has misled the House. I do not think so. I think we have rather reason to complain of the narrow way in which the Bill has been drawn in this respect. All the old Ashbourne Acts admitted tenants of every kind and sort, and the Bill of last year said that no estate should be purchased which was not in the main agricultural or pastoral, or partly agricultural and partly pastoral. That is not the case in this Bill. As I understand it, this Bill only applies to tenants who have obtained the benefit of the Land Courts. Certainly the first Clause is to that effect. And if that be so then you are really importing all these minute decisions from the Land Act of 1881 into this present Act—a thing that has never been done in any previous Purchase Act. Therefore I think the right hon. Gentleman's estimate of £4,000,000 is very moderate. I do not think, however, that £4,000,000 of rental can be dealt with under this Bill if these restrictions are retained, and I believe it would be most desirable indeed to get rid of them. I shall reserve to the

Committee stage further criticism on this first Clause of the Bill. I think the hon. Member for Waterford was well advised when he said that the Government were in a difficult position and had various interests to consider, and I hope that the right hon. Gentleman will see his way to accede to the view expressed by my hon. friend the Member for Waterford. There is another matter to which attention must be called; it is the question of title. At the present moment, as I understand the position, something like 300 titles roll into the Lands Commission Office every year, and it is about six months before the Lands Commission officials can untie the red tape or string of these titles. If you suddenly increase that 300 to 3,000, what an extraordinary congestion you will have in the Land Estates Office. These titles at present go in to the Lands Office with every point cleared by the landlord's solicitor, and with all blots removed so far as the solicitors are concerned. But under this Bill you propose that these undigested titles shall be shovelled into the hands of clerks, who will necessarily be laymen and without any legal assistance of any kind or description. Bills which were said to be not lawyers' Bills have generally proved to be bad. There was the Workmen's Compensation Bill, which was a Bill with which no lawyer was to have anything to do. Well, that Bill, after becoming an Act, has given rise to more litigation than almost any other Act, and the decisions of the Court of Appeal have been invariably reversed by the House of Lords. No Bill will benefit lawyers so much as the Bill to do away with lawyers; and in my judgment the solicitors of Ireland, who are now crying out against these clauses, if well advised would let it alone, because in about six months there will be such a condition of things in the Lands Commission Office, or in the new Estates Office as will require a perfect Hercules to clear up. The tenants will be waiting for their titles, and the landlords will not be getting their money; nothing will be done, and you will have the tenants all over the country cursing the new Department and wondering what good they are going to get out of the Land Purchase Act. My advice to the solicitors is "Leave this Bill alone," and the whole of the landlords will take their titles to their

family solicitors to prepare them. That may cause a six months delay, but the solicitors will send the titles made clear, in to the new staff that must be created under this Bill. The lawyer, after all, is not an enemy of the human race. He is only a tradesman who knows a little more about certain subjects than other people; and, as George III said, if he does not know the law he knows where to find it. All those solicitors who deal with these titles are landlords' solicitors, and it is absurd to suggest that these men, with their acquaintance with old family deeds and roots of titles, will not deal as expeditiously in clearing the titles as a number of new clerks who will have to be appointed in the Land Estates Office.

There is another blot on the Bill on which I wish to offer a remark. The right hon. Gentleman excludes what he calls holdings within the limits of a town. That may seem to Englishmen quite natural; but does he forget the great liberties of Dublin, Waterford, Galway, Limerick, and other places which extend for three or four miles out of the city. Above all, does he forget the case of Dublin, the boundaries of which were extended by a Bill two years ago so as to include a large breadth of agricultural land, on which fair-rents had been fixed, and in respect of which there is an express provision, that the extension of the city boundaries shall not affect the operation of the Land Acts. I respectfully urge the right hon. Gentleman to reconsider that clause of the Bill. Then there is the question of the £3,000 limit. If you exclude the larger tenants from the benefits of this Act you exclude the men who hire and pay for labour. The small tenants do the labour on their farms themselves. Above all, this £3,000 limit will become an extremely difficult limit, because of the fact that a tenant has to give so much more money for his land than formerly. When he gave only from fifteen to sixteen years purchase for the holding, the limit might have been fair, but now that he has to give twenty-five years purchase in some cases, is it fair that the original limit of £3,000 should be adhered to? I respectfully submit that it should not.

The only other point is the composition of the tribunal, which, in this case, has given very general satisfaction. I, for my part, have expressed my opinion already, and I do not intend to say

Mr. T. M. Healy.

anything more upon the subject. There is this difficulty which the hon. Member for Waterford partly touched upon, and it is very important; the new Commissioners are to hold their office during pleasure. Now, "during pleasure," with the possibility of a debate on their salaries in the House of Lords and in the House of Commons, is a very different thing from "good behaviour." It is perfectly right that we should have the right in this House, and that the landlords should have the same right in the other House, to debate the action of this Land Commission; but is it right when, for the first time, you will have constituted a Land Commission which meets with general approbation from the people of the country, that you should make the tenure of these men so uncertain that, as a result of a debate—perhaps a well-informed debate—a debate of the landlords in the House of Lords, or of the tenants in the House of Commons, a Minister may become panic-stricken, and use some language in the heat of debate that would drive one of the Gentlemen out of office. Give us power to debate their conduct, and give the landlords power to debate their conduct, but give them the ordinary tenure of County Court Judges. If these men are to have dependence in their offices, I think it is vital that some greater measure of independence should be given to them, and I very strongly object to the phrase "during pleasure." I believe that it will really mean that a Minister of the day—and certainly the Lord Lieutenant—could tell a Commissioner to leave his office. At any rate, the words "during good behaviour" have the sanction of English Revolution, and of two or three centuries of well-considered precedent, and, in my judgment, they are far larger and more beneficial words to use in dealing with a Commission appointed to carry out this beneficent law. With regard to the way in which Murrough O'Brien has been treated, I do not believe the right hon. Gentleman knows one bit about it. It will take considerable diving into Acts of Parliament to have it found out, but it shows what miserable advisers he has in the Land Commission. I know as well as if I saw him here who it was drafted that clause to prejudice Mr. O'Brien. Mr. O'Brien is a Protestant gentleman; he has been thirty years in

office, in fact, ever since the Church Act was passed, and simply because he stated he always regretted having to make Church tenants pay thirty years purchase for their property, and that it was too high, he has been hounded down ever since, and every opportunity has been taken to depress and degrade him. And in the Act which was passed some four or five years ago—the Act which gave additional salaries to these two Commissioners of £500 a year—as soon as the right hon. Gentleman's Ministers appointed Mr. Murrough O'Brien, they would not give him the new salary created under the Act, and they docked him of £500 a year under the pretence that the Act did not apply to him. If they did that when under a Home Rule Government, what would they do with a Tory Government in power? We then had the advantage of Lord Rosebery in office, and I do protest that these little niggling and vindictive discriminations should not be allowed to create in our minds a reservoir of distrust. You see the one man who has played up to the British Government, you see him honoured, salaried, and pensioned. Take the case of Mr. Fitzgerald. Under the Bill the First Lord says that the salary of these two Gentlemen was made £3,000 a year, but if they took a pension it would only be £2,500 a year. Mr. Lynch, a wise man, took the £2,500 and his pension, Mr. Fitzgerald, with a full belief in the bounty of the British Government and Mr. Wrench, took £3,000 a year and no pension, and now this Bill is to give them a pension. Who could lose faith in a British Government like that? But poor Mr. Murrough O'Brien, a man of birth and education, a descendant of ancient kings and a close relative of Lord Inchiquin, simply because he had endeavoured to do justice to the people, has, so far as this Bill is concerned, to turn out of doors without a copper. I am satisfied that the right hon. Gentleman knew absolutely nothing of his case. These were Land Commission clauses shovelled in upon his head—a sort of baptism of fire that he had to stand. This is the price for getting reasonable information and assistance from these men. If he had not taken their advice on these subjects they would have denied him the information he required. They would have boycotted him. He would not have been able to

run sweet with them, or to frame proper drafting clauses. That is the price which every Irish administration has to pay for the abominable system which they maintain.

I take my leave of this Bill. I wish it a prosperous future, I have given it my humble support as I did the right hon. Gentleman's last year's Bill. I shall hope to do the same with this measure. It is a far-reaching measure in its importance. It has been introduced under the most favourable auspices. I have never known a moment when the auspices seemed more favourable, and I can only hope that these favourable auspices will continue, and that a measure like this, presented as it is, a great measure of peace, will bring, as I hope it may, a new spirit, not merely into the heart of Ireland but into the heart of England. I believe there is at this moment an attitude between the two countries favourable to peace, favourable to a general understanding, and favourable to considerations which deeply affect the people. You cannot deal with this question merely as decimals or percentages, or as £ s. d. It strikes hard a chord in the Irish character other than the sordid note of finance, it marks a reversal of a long period of dismal oppression and awful sorrow—of a breach of treaty faith committed, it is true, two centuries ago, but having to this day left a living effect. This Bill will change more than Ireland, it will change England too, and with that change I hope to see a brighter light in the eyes of dark Rosaleen.

*MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): I desire to take a view of this measure as it appears to English eyes—not to mine alone but to many others who take an interest in it. When the hon. Member for Waterford told the hon. Member for South Molton that this business was none of his, I am sure he did not intend to refuse the right of criticism on the part of English Members. I should not rise at this moment if I did not feel that some of the considerations that have occurred to me during the criticism of this Bill deserve to be put before this House and the country. I think I am qualified in every way to be one of the greatest friends of this Bill. To see Ireland prosperous and contented is one of the dearest wishes of

my heart. I would rather have a contented Ireland than an expanded Empire, and I always have had great sympathy, not only with the Irish people, but with the Irish Members of Parliament. I have recognised in them useful and in some respects pattern Members of this House. They always do all they can to further the interests of their constituents; they do not neglect their work and they display great courage and acumen. When they are called rebels, as they sometimes are, I wish there were more rebels of the kind in this House. There would then be less of decadence of this House, and of tyranny of Ministers. It has been said or will be said that every vote given to this Bill is a vote for Home Rule. But that does not frighten me. When we have a score of Parliaments in this Empire I am not to be frightened at the prospect of having another added. I do not minimise the difficulties of such a system of Home Rule as would secure—and that is what I am principally concerned about—the strategic and military safety of this Island. Can that be secured? I do not know, but I believe it is not at all impossible that such a measure of Home Rule might be devised as would secure that and yet satisfy the Irish people. I have another qualification for approval of this Bill, and that is my admiration for and sympathy with the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for Ireland. The right hon. Gentleman is in many respects the most remarkable figure—in some respects he is the only remarkable figure on the Treasury Bench. I cannot but admire the manner in which he has tackled a problem which has baffled generations of statesmen. Whether he will succeed or not is a question, but I have said enough to show that if I think, as I do, the Bill is a measure of very doubtful benefit for both countries it is not because I am deficient in sympathy with its objects, with the people it is intended to benefit, or with the right hon. Gentleman who introduced it. Undoubtedly, Ireland is a saddening spectacle. That beautiful island that ought to be the fairest gem in the English Crown has always been our difficulty and our reproach; and it is hard to know why. I often think of a story told to me by a Spanish priest. St. Iago, the patron saint of Spain, begged

Mr. Gibson Bowles.

from Heaven successive blessings for his country, which were all granted. Spain was granted a most splendid climate, the most beautiful fruits, the finest rivers, the women fair and virtuous, the men courageous, able and imaginative. The last blessing he asked for Spain was good government, but the reply was that this blessing could not be added to the others, because, if it were, the blessed angels themselves would abandon Heaven to live in Spain. That is the case with Ireland. If it is sad for Ireland, it is still more sad for us; and it seems to me a strange thing indeed that we should have had statesman after statesman of the highest eminence, who could manage English affairs, and even withstand the hostile nations of Europe, and who could succeed everywhere except in Ireland. Many honest attempts have been made, one after another, but they have all failed; and at last Ireland has become the grief of the patriot, the amazement of the economist, and the despair of the statesman. Now, another attempt is being made to settle the question. The right hon. Gentleman appears like a beneficent fairy literally waving a golden wand, and we are asked to believe that what has so often been attempted without success is at last to be accomplished, that the patriot is to be consoled, the economist satisfied, and the statesman relieved, that there is to be unanimity once more between the two islands, and that the angel of peace is to spread her wings over both.

It seems ungracious, and yet when I come to look at this measure I have doubts, most serious doubts. The right hon. Gentleman is making a bold attempt, but when I come to look at the measure the prospects of its success seem small to me. The right hon. Gentleman's scheme is, in many respects, ingenious. There is, in some respects, a want of simplicity about it which gives rise to some misapprehension as to many parts of it. These ingenious complications, perhaps not wholly unintentional, are unfortunate. In its essentials, however, it is simple enough. The essential part of the scheme is that there should be an unlimited loan given to Ireland. I think I am right in saying that there is absolutely no limit to the advances under the Bill. An estimate has been made, that it may be

£100,000,000 or it may be £150,000,000 ; but there is no limit. To enable the Irish tenants to buy the land cheap and the landlords to sell it dear, this unlimited loan is to be made, and then an out and out gift of £12,000,000 is to be added, in order to procure the acceptance of the loan. That represents the English view of the transaction. The reception given to the proposals of the right hon. Gentleman has been strange indeed. No sooner was the gift horse led out than all parties began to look it in the mouth, no more so than hon. Gentlemen from Ireland. The hon. Member for Waterford found alarming defects in the Bill and the hon. Member for South Tyrone condemned it root and branch. The Solicitor-General for England has announced that he will give it a minimum of support because he is in office; and the Colonial Secretary has not yet declared himself. Unless he is false to all the traditions of his political history, he will give it not a minimum of support but a maximum of opposition. The First Lord of the Treasury made a speech on the Bill which dealt, not with the Bill, but with his own consistency. I think it can be shown that throughout his whole political life, the right hon. Gentleman has been consistent and faithful to one guiding principle. What that principle is I will not now say. But it is the hon. Members for Stoke and North Islington, to my mind, represent the stupid and amazed British taxpayer with regard to this measure. They were, as it were, out in the fields when they heard the rejoicings over the Bill. They heard the music and the dancing and they came and asked what it was for. They were told that the Irish prodigal son had returned, and that the fatted calf was being killed for him, and they said, "Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment, and yet thou never gavest me a kid that I might make merry with my friends." That is the view of the British taxpayer. It certainly is the view of the British farmer, and I shall listen with great interest to the speech of my right hon. friend the Member for the Sleaford Division when, as I expect him to do, he puts in his claim, not for a kid,

but for the calf itself. As to the Irish Members, their attitude is quite intelligible. They represent, and have represented ably and nobly, in my opinion, a suffering people, a people who in times gone by have been oppressed in the most shameful manner by this country. I recognise all that. Representing as they do, a poor and suffering people, they cannot but receive with pleasure the prospect which the right hon. Gentleman puts before them; and when he dangles the golden apple, although some of them think, and some of them say, it is but a Dead Sea fruit, yet it is only natural that they should grasp at it. So far then as they are concerned, whatever changes may be made in the Bill, still if the unlimited loan and the gift of £12,000,000 remain, hon. Gentlemen from Ireland will accept it. I do not intend to enter now into the question of the finance of the Bill. All I will say is that the method of finance adopted absolutely amazes me. It has been said that no Patagonian can count up to twenty-one; and if I were to describe the finance of this Bill I should call it Patagonian finance. It is not only novel; it is grotesque. I am stating my own opinions, and I hope some of them may prove to be wrong. But if I am right, this is a very serious measure indeed, particularly at a time when we have just concluded the imposition of a debt burden of £220,000,000—the cost of the war and of what follows.

As to the gift of £12,000,000, I will now say nothing. But as to the unlimited loan, it is, as I have said, to be £100,000,000 or £150,000,000, or £300,000,000, or £400,000,000 as the case may demand. There is no limit. The hon. Gentleman who has just spoken said it was safe. I am perfectly sure that it is safe so far as the intention of the hon. and learned Gentleman and of his fellow Members, and the intentions of the tenants and landlords of Ireland are concerned, but that does not absolutely satisfy me. I have a financial mind, and when I hear a thing is safe I look to the security. There are said to be three securities for this loan. There is the land, there is the moral security of the character of the Irish people, and of public opinion in Ireland, and there is

what the Irish Secretary calls the ample absolute cent. per cent. security. Is the land of Ireland security for these stupendous sums? That can scarcely be contended, because if it were the money could be borrowed without the intervention of the State, and this Bill would not be necessary which is to make England the national gombeen man of Ireland. I think the security of the land may be certainly dismissed as inadequate. Now I come to the moral security, and to that I attach more importance than perhaps a financier ought. I attach importance to it because I believe the Irish people desire and intend to pay their debts; but it is impossible to blink the fact that circumstances may arise to make it impossible for the tenants to continue paying the instalments under this scheme. There may be another Irish famine, or successive years of bad harvests, which, entirely independent of the will or intention of those concerned, may make it impossible for them to meet their payments. That is a very serious matter, which vastly impairs the value of the moral security. Then I come to what the right hon. Gentleman called the cent. per cent. security. That is really the most amazing of all. The right hon. Gentleman estimated the payments made to Ireland at £2,548,460 annually. He asks me to lend him £152,000,000. I say I am well disposed to do so, but what "is your security?" He says, "My security is the £2,500,000 that you annually pay me." I say, "But is that a security?" and he says, "Yes, because if you multiply that £2,500,000 by sixty your product is £152,000,000, which is what I ask you to lend." That is what he calls a cent. per cent. security. I venture to think it is nothing of the sort. But supposing it were you can never realise the security supposed to be represented by this, your own payment to Ireland; you can never withhold it. Why are these payments made to Ireland? They are made for different purposes—for the Agricultural Department, for keeping up education, and for local purposes, such as the making of roads and so forth. If I can claim my security, it must be something that I may take. How can I take this? [A VOICE: You can stop the payment of it.] If I stop my payments, the result is either that education is stopped, prisons and lunatic

asylums closed, and roads left unrepaired, or else that Ireland is immediately crushed by extra rates. No, I say, as regards that portion of the security, it is no security at all. The right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury sees indeed no difficulty in this; he says that the English Government would immediately stop the whole of the fund. I see very great difficulty indeed in it. Then the right hon. Gentleman says, "But I have a fourth or supplementary security; I am going to make economies in the administration." I fail to see where the economies are to come in. What I see is that the immediate and direct result of the passing of this Bill will be an enormous increase of expenditure. You have a Land Commission at present. Can you stop that, and are you going to stop it immediately? On the contrary, it must go on and you are to add a new Land Commission to it. It seems to me that for the new Land Commission you will want an enormous staff. The hon. Member has referred to the clerks who will be required to look into titles. I foresee that it will need an enormous staff for that purpose. Until all the land of Ireland is bought and sold, instead of fewer men you certainly will require more, which must lead to a very large increase of expenditure and no economy at all.

But this is not all. When you have made this unlimited loan and contributed this £12,000,000 of money, and when you have sold all this land and got it bought by your peasants, that is not the end of all the expenditure as I will show. You will have to provide capital to work this land in many cases if not in all, and you will have to do other things. I say at once I do not care how many millions I might contribute if I saw a real, complete, and final settlement of this Irish question, but is this to be a real, complete, and final settlement? I fear it is not. We have been especially told that one of the most important parts of the question—the political part—will not be settled at all. We are told that when we have settled the agrarian question, the political question will remain; and that the agitation for Home Rule will not end, but will continue with an increased chance for its success. But will this Bill even settle the Land Question? I have very serious doubts about that. I have here the most interesting report of Mr. Bailey on Irish land

purchase, and while I am struck with the testimony it offers to the honesty of the Irish peasants who have bought, and to the success in a large measure of the land purchases which have taken place under the Ashbourne Acts, I am also struck with the fact that when he comes to look at the vast experiment and project embodied in this Bill he foresees dangers and difficulties which will be most serious when this scheme is carried out. He says—

“Dealing with purchasers who bought with insufficient capital

—and there must be many such in the past and more such in the future—

“we find that their subsequent history is unsatisfactory as a general rule. They struggle along, often with persistency, and working hard, but seldom with much success. Their land, owing to inadequate treatment, diminishes in value, and they finally lose heart and hope.”

Then he goes on to say this—he treats of what he calls the uneconomic holdings purchased by tenants, and these apparently drive him to despair—

“Where the entire estate consists of uneconomic holdings the case is still worse. There is no purchaser who can help his submerged neighbour. All are in the same position. All are equally impoverished. They lose hope and self-respect, become sunk in squalor and idleness, and are worse off than their neighbours under the non-purchase system.”

Let me not be thought to be exaggerating the matter, but that is a future possibility, and indeed a probability, under the too common circumstances shown by Mr. Bailey. Therefore it seems to me that his testimony goes to show that this cannot be a final settlement of the Land Question. But he goes farther and says—

“If the system of purchase by State aid is to be a success in Ireland, some method should be devised for supplying the small purchasers with capital on easy terms.”

So that when you have carried out your scheme you have still to supply further capital on easy terms, and therefore this Bill and this vast contribution cannot finally end the matter. I will not allude further to the town holdings, which are not included in this Bill, and which have been described by the hon. Member opposite, nor to the labourers, who have all been left outside this Bill. But you will have those grievances, as well as those of the congested districts and the evicted tenants to adjust, so that while this Bill will admittedly not settle the

political question, and as I may conclude from Mr. Bailey's report that it will not settle the agrarian question, the position of England will be this. We shall, if my anticipations are correct, find ourselves in a position of not having a settled Ireland, but an unsettled Ireland, with many of its most serious and portentous problems still remaining open. We shall be in the position of an absentee landlord unable to collect our rents in times of dearth and stress, and unable to give those reductions which a personal landlord is able to do. I hold, therefore, that this Bill offers no settlement, political or agrarian; that it will saddle us, not with £100,000,000 *plus* the £12,000,000 which the right hon. Gentleman suggests, not even with the £152,000,000 *plus* the £12,000,000, but with many other millions with, in all probability, not less than £200,000,000—the ransom paid by France to Germany after Germany had conquered her. If that is true this Bill will bring, not peace, but a sword of our own forging, and that being so, Home Rule, even of Mr. Gladstone's pattern, would be better than this. I do not know by what means the Cabinet have arrived, by what process they have been brought to arrive, at the scheme embodied in this Bill. To me it seems a crazy scheme founded on crazed finance. I hope on further examination in Committee I shall be shown to be wrong, but if I am right, and if the scheme has the defects that I believe I see in it, then, instead of diminishing the evils and the estrangement between England and Ireland, it will only provoke greater evils and graver differences than those that have hitherto separated the two islands.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland): I have had the pleasure of hearing the speech of the hon. Gentleman who has just sat down, and what has struck me most in the course of this debate is the strength of the defence of the Bill, and the weakness of the attack. We have had many remarkable speeches on the Bill, and I note the fact that all the speeches of Irish Members, without exception, both from these benches and from those, have been unanimous not merely in praise of the Bill, but also in urging the same Amendments to the Bill in order to make it more complete. I

note the fact that the measure was supported by a most able and eloquent speech by the Leader of the Liberal Party, and I note above all the speech of the Prime Minister. What I put to both sides of the House is this, that nobody can doubt but that the speech of the Prime Minister marked an epoch in Irish history. He pronounces the condemnation of the present system and that condemnation cannot now possibly survive. The speech was the epitaph of the present land system in Ireland. The old system is dead, and you must put something in its place. The alternatives are a great measure of land purchase, or chaos and anarchy. Therefore, when hon. Members criticise the details of the Bill—and there are many details open to criticism—we have a right to ask that they should supplement destructive criticism by an alternative policy. I have never known a Bill to be introduced into this House which could not be torn to pieces. There are some questions which cannot be settled except by something of the national sentiment between all parties, which brings into prominence the voice of statesmanship and drowns the voice of faction. In spite of all that has occurred in Ireland, the unanimity of Irish Members has come, in some respects, as a surprise. There are various sections of Unionist Irish opinion. There are the sections represented by the right hon. and gallant Gentleman the Member for North Armagh and the hon. Member for South Tyrone respectively. There is also a Member who almost represents a political group by himself. The hon. Member for South Antrim was returned, one might say, as a landlords' man, against his opponent who came forward as a tenants' man. Yet we have the remarkable fact that the speech of the "landlords' man" was exactly the same as that of the hon. Member for South Tyrone. Therefore I say that in regard to this Bill we have unanimity not merely as to principles but as to details; not merely as to the measure as it stands, but as to the Amendments that are desired. It is not for me to defend either the consistency of the Tory Party on the question of land purchase or the landlords, but I will say a word on both. If I remember rightly, the very first Amendment moved to the Bill of 1881 was proposed by the right hon.

Mr. T. P. O'Connor.

Gentleman the Member for the Sleaford Division, and its object was to take the second part of the Bill first. The second part dealt with land purchase, and the first with rent, so that the meaning of the Amendment was, that land purchase rather than rent-fixing was the proper settlement of the question. In the Lobby on the Amendment, the right hon. Gentleman was supported by every Member of the Conservative Party and also by every Member who then followed the lead of the late Mr. Parnell.

Much has been said against the Irish landlords. They have a great measure of responsibility for the present state of affairs in Ireland, but the responsibility is not unshared by this House and this country. The landlords have been the enemies of Ireland for a century, but they were not always the enemies of the rights of Ireland. We have a Saunderson here to-day who has opposed every demand for Irish reform, but in the 18th century there was a Saunderson who voted against the Union and defended the principles of Irish nationalism. Therefore I do not find fault with any portion of the Bill that recognises the right of the British or Irish taxpayer to come to the relief of the Irish landlord for the purpose of effecting a great national settlement and ending a great national conflict. I was rather surprised at some of the comments of the hon. Member for King's Lynn. If ever a transaction has been conclusively proved to be beneficent and safe it is land purchase. The Attorney-General told us the other night that £25,000,000 were already invested in Irish land purchase, that £830,000 were being paid by the Irish farmers to the State on account of those transactions, that the arrears amounted to only £3,000, the whole of which was not to be assumed to be lost. When hon. Members talk of the terrible loss the State may sustain, and the great loss that may be inflicted on the Irish rate-payers by the equivalent grants being called upon, they ought to speak with due regard to that fact. It would be a terrible loss if the whole £830,000 were in arrear, but if the amount is £3,000, £6,000 or even £10,000, it is not so gigantic a burden to place upon the people for so beneficent an operation.

The hon. Member for King's Lynn quoted Mr. Bailey's report ; I should like to make a few other quotations. It is well that the House should realise what a peasant proprietary means. Hon. Gentlemen have spoken as if this Bill was to introduce some new and untried experiment into Irish life, that it was a vast leap in the dark, a strange innovation, the result of which nobody could foretell. Peasant proprietary has been tried in Ireland with extraordinary success. Never in the whole course of political experiments has there been so triumphant or so prompt a vindication as that which has attended the experiment of land purchase. Take the question of thrift. The Irish have always been called a thriftless people—usually by those who know nothing about them. As a matter of fact, with the exception of the French, they are the thriftiest people in the world. The whole moral of Mr. Bailey's report is that land purchase has created the best method of thrift, viz., a horror of borrowing.

"If I borrow, the land would not produce enough to pay the instalments, and I would be swamped."

On an estate in Kilkenny—

"Purchasers are averse to borrowing money for any purpose."

In West Meath—

"They seem to have an abhorrence of borrowing at all, even from the Board of Works."

On an estate in Mayo—

"It was quite like old times. The people do not ask for or want credit now ; they pay in cash."

All over Ireland, wherever there is land purchase, we find thrift symbolised in a horror of borrowing. Take the question of better industry. The inspector speaks of seeing the migratory labourer working upon his farm in the middle of winter. Take the question of food. Indian porridge and oatmeal porridge, which in the days of some of us were the universal diet of a portion of the tenantry, have disappeared, and English or Irish bacon has taken their place. Take the question of content. A most important outcome of land purchase is the feeling of contentment it has given to the people. Take the relations of landlord and tenant. In the county of Mayo, says this report, the best possible relations exist between the

purchaser and the landlord. I find in the same report an account of an estate where the inspector of police says that, before the holdings were purchased by the tenants, the police almost slept on the property, but at the present time he did not think a more honest, sober, or self-respecting body of men existed in Ireland. In a parish in Fermanagh the priest said the tenants were more industrious, and the consumption of whiskey had decreased by one-third. With regard to courtesy, Mr. Bailey in his report calls attention to the courtesy shown by the tenant purchasers. This is a rapid and hurried sketch of land purchase in Ireland, although I think it was hardly necessary to remind the House of what land purchase has done. I put it to hon. Members above the Gangway, and to the hon. Member for King's Lynn, that it is better for them to facilitate and accelerate this work of reconciliation in Ireland than to indulge in bursts of brilliant oratory.

I have spoken of the unanimity on this bill amongst the Irish Members. I may say, however, that we are all agreed as to the insufficiency of the Bill in regard to the labourers ; and I think the Chief Secretary for Ireland ought to be encouraged to amend the Bill in this respect by the fact that instead of finding any opposition he will find not only support but enthusiastic support in all parts of the House, and more especially amongst those representing Ireland. There is a far more contentious part of this Bill, upon which, much to my relief, I find the same unanimity. I allude to the question of the evicted tenants. We have yet to hear a single voice raised from Ireland against that great amnesty without which there can be no peace. With regard to the question of the congested districts, that has been entirely removed out of the sphere of party politics. I do not know any hon. Member in this House who does not agree that the state of the congested districts in Ireland is intolerable and should no longer be allowed. If there is one man who feels more strongly than another upon this point I think it is the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary for Ireland. I think, however, that the provisions of this Bill with regard to the congested districts are regarded by everybody who has studied the question

with dissatisfaction, and I might almost say with dismay. This is a problem which is even more urgent than the land problem, and in saying this I believe I am speaking the feelings of Leinster and Munster. I believe that I speak the spirit even of Ulster and of all Ireland when I say it would be better that the prosperity of Ireland should wait than that this urgent and terrible problem should not be dealt with now. It is easy to settle this problem because its features are broad and plain and visible to every eye. On the one side you have congestion and on the other the desolate ranch. There will be scarcely any population at all on the fertile soil until the right hon. Gentleman takes power to divide the untenanted land amongst the people of the congested districts, if necessary by compulsion; and until he asks for such funds as are necessary to deal with this problem everything else he may do for Ireland will be blackened and overshadowed by the misery in the western portion of the country.

There is another point upon which we are all agreed, and that is in regard to the non-judicial rents. I am afraid that the right hon. Gentleman does not take a sound view of that question, for I gather from his speeches that he thinks that the existence of a non-judicial rent is a proof of the goodness of the landlord and of the prosperity of the tenant. I lay down almost the opposite proposition. I think the absence of a judicial rent is in the majority of cases the most convincing proof of the poverty and weakness of the tenants. Proof upon proof will be heaped upon the head of the right hon. Gentleman in this respect to show hardship, arrears, intimidation, want of spirit and want of knowledge, and it will be shown that all these things have kept a large number of tenants out of the Land Courts; and instead of being better rented they are more heavily rented than almost any section of tenants. I believe there are about 50,000 caretakers in Ireland. There are estates all over Ireland where the tenants are in arrears, which arrears the landlords in those particular districts take very good care to maintain. An hon.

friend of mine has shown me an extraordinary receipt which reads as follows:

"Received the 29th day of August, 1902, from Mr. Hurley, the sum of £2. 3s., half-year's rent due the year ending the first day of November, 1897."

This is a receipt given this year for arrears in 1897, leaving the tenant with five years arrears of rent. I think I have now said enough to show that this is a portion of the Bill which requires, at our hands, the most careful scrutiny, and if we are able to prove to the satisfaction of the right hon. Gentleman that he is doing an injustice to a large body of tenants in Ireland, I think he will be willing to meet our views and amend his Bill in that direction.

Now, I come to another portion of the Bill upon which every Irish Member has expressed an equally unanimous opinion, and that is the question of the reduction of the minimum rental. It has been urged that we are not entitled to ask for an Amendment of the Bill in this respect. I take my stand upon the views expressed by the three hon. Members who represented me on the Land Conference. Roughly, it is what may be called the Ashbourne principle as to the number of years paid by the tenants *plus* the bonus that the State might wish to give. As to this bonus I must make this observation—that I am absolutely unable to understand how any English Member who has read the Bill and the speech of the right hon. Gentleman, and the figures of the whole transaction, can say that, as it stands, the British taxpayer is more likely to lose than to gain. This £390,000 is the largest sum per year that the British taxpayer can pay, and he will only have to pay that when practically land purchase in Ireland is complete, which is fifteen years hence. I shall be able to point out how the right hon. Gentleman can considerably curtail that period, but, according to his proposal, it will take fifteen years before the British taxpayer has to pay £390,000. Within a period of five years it is estimated that the British taxpayer will obtain a permanent revenue against this payment of £250,000. That is a permanent reduction. You will have to pay £390,000 a year maximum for something under seventy years, and you have your saving of £250,000 a year, in Government charges, for all time. But long before the seventy

Mr. T. P. O'Connor.

years are over there will be a change in the relations between England and Ireland which will entirely change the position. I speak of the £250,000 as a minimum saving. Is there any man in his senses who would say that the Chief Secretary has gone beyond the lines of the most scrupulous caution in putting down that as the amount of the saving. There may be more people required in the shape of clerks in connection with this transaction, but there will be large savings on the cost of the police, which now amounts to £1,500,000, and law charges and prosecutions which amount to £250,000. Everybody who knows Ireland is aware—and the Chief Secretary was frank enough to state it—that these law costs and police costs are the children of the land war in Ireland. I have not the smallest doubt that before five years have passed away—especially if this Bill leaves the House in such a form that every man in Ireland will be able to advise every tenant in the country to make use of it—the right hon. Gentleman or his successor will be able to show a reduction of considerably more than £250,000 on the present law charges. If the rest of Ireland be transformed after the manner of the holdings which I have described in the words of the official report, if estates where the police almost slept have become the most orderly and law-abiding in the country, I think we can easily see what a saving in the administrative expenditure of Ireland this Bill is likely to secure.

I want the duration of the work of the Bill to be curtailed. I would like the Bill to be in such a form that every leader in Ireland, of whatever Party he may be, would be able to exercise his influence with the people in the way of advising them to take advantage of it. I would like every bishop and every priest to be able to advise the people to take advantage of the Bill. I lay stress on that, for I know that many of the best settlements have been made by the intervention of the Bishops and the priests. How is the right hon. Gentleman going to enlist on his side all that moral police which will be a great deal better than the police on which he has hitherto relied? By removing from the Bill the great blot of fixing the maximum reduction, and the minimum price on the purchase transactions. What is the

attitude of the tenants on this question? They are quite willing that out of their taxes—for this bonus is Irish money—the landlord should get a bonus which probably would not be given to any other class of the community. I think the tenant is entitled to take up the position that if the landlord receives this bonus he has done enough, and that the tenantry should not be further fined. That position, to me, is so much like an axiom in euclid that I am unable to understand that there should be any argument on the other side, though I will keep my mind open on the question. I find that since 1886 the average purchase price has been as low as sixteen years. I will read the figures—Taken in counties, the averages during the years ranged in 1886, from 23·6 to 13·8; in 1887, from 20·6 to 11·5; in 1888, from 19·7 to 12·4; in 1889, from 19·7 to 13·2; in 1890, from 19·8 to 13·2; in 1891, from 19·9 to 13·7; during the period from 22nd August, 1891, to 31st March, 1893, from 20·1 to 10·7; during the years ended 31st March, 1894, from 25·1 to 12·5; 31st March, 1895, from 21·2 to 6·6; 31st March, 1896, from 20·5 to 11·3; 31st March, 1897, from 21·2 to 12·4; 31st March, 1898, from 20·3 to 11·6; 31st March, 1899, from 19·8 to 15·1; 31st March, 1900, from 20·5 to 15·7; 31st March, 1901, from 20·5 to 15·1; 31st March, 1902, from 20·7 to 15·3; and during the nine months ended 31st December, 1902, from 22·1 to 16·1. In view of these figures, I ask the House whether it is rational to try to crush into uniformity such vastly divergent transactions? That is the first objection. My second objection is that eighteen years purchase would not meet the circumstances of the case. That does not tell the whole tale. I would point out that it is eighteen years of depreciated land stock, and am I not right in saying that it is eighteen years purchase with all the law charges that fall on the landlord? Is it tolerable that the Irish tenants should be able to come to their representatives and say that, in addition to helping the landlords to get a bonus out of their money, they are also to be called upon to give them a further bonus in five or six years purchase? I take another report. Here is a letter from the Bishop of Ross, in which he tells

what purchases he was instrumental in carrying out. He says—

“There were second-term tenants among the purchasers who had got sweeping reductions. By my advice those men agreed to pay eighteen years purchase. I explained to them that eighteen years purchase for them was a less price than nine, eleven, fourteen, and fourteen and a half years I had advised the other tenants to offer.”

In these circumstances is it tolerable that a tenant should be asked to give nineteen or twenty years purchase as a minimum? I will now give the report of the landlords themselves. I take this from a very valuable pamphlet called “The Landlords’ Case,” which, I would say, is of especial interest to those who are forcing the landlords’ case. Referring to the tenants, the pamphlet says—

“Only in exceptional cases can they be induced to agree to more than from seventeen to nineteen years purchase of the existing rent. . . . But the trouble does not end here. When the tenant has, in spite of adverse influences, agreed to a sale and purchase even at a figure only equal to eighteen or nineteen times the rent, the Land Commission has come in, as broker for the mortgagee, and, if its inspector took peculiar and pessimistic views of the future value of land, or of the solvency or moral character of the tenant, the advance was refused, or only granted to a less amount.”

I have spoken of the unanimity of the Irish people on this question. I hope we will get equal unanimity on the part of English Members on the question. I put it to hon. Members on the opposite side of the House, who are friends of the Bill, that the interests of the taxpayer and the Irish tenant are exactly the same in this matter. The tenant that gives too many years purchase for his holding becomes a dangerous creditor of the State. I hope that the right hon. Gentleman and his supporters in the House will keep their minds open on this question, and that they will try not only to pass the Bill, but pass it in such a form that it will be accepted cordially and enthusiastically by all Ireland. All Ireland only yearns for the opportunity, and, therefore, our arguments on this question deserve a patient hearing from all parts of the House.

On the question of the security of the State let me say that this Bill—for reasons which I will examine presently and many of which are good—removes certain securities of the State creditor. Under previous Purchase Acts

the Land Commissioners did not bother themselves about the affairs and interests of the tenants and landlords as their primary consideration. They regarded themselves as the trustees of the State, and they regarded the security of the State as their first consideration. I want to say this word of caution. Even if the right hon. Gentleman stated that these limits should be kept in the Bill, and that the tenants were ready to give twenty-two or twenty-three years purchase, that would not be an unanswerable argument in favour of keeping them in. I know that I am expressing the opinion of every man around me when I say that the tenant has to be protected against himself. The land hunger still rages with its old voracity in Ireland, and perhaps that voracity has been increased by the experience of land purchase. The tenants, even if the Bill be not amended, will get a large reduction of their rents, which is an immediate advantage, while the responsibilities are remote; and thrifty as they are, the temptation is great—the sense of ownership, the idea of having something stable in the land, the idea of being rid of the blood, the bailiff and the garrison—those ghosts and spectres of Irish life for centuries—the temptation is great, and the Irish tenant would pay almost any price for the land, and it is the duty of the Irish representatives in this House to stand between him and his fighting soul. Let me say in connection with this, that some hon. Members have spoken of repudiation as a possible danger and a possible policy. I repudiate both the one and the other. It is impossible. There is no Conservative body in the world so conservative as a body of peasant proprietors. They are even more conservative in Ireland than in France, because they hold firmly by great spiritual principles in Ireland which have lost their influence in France. For myself, and on behalf of my friends, I repudiate the idea that the liberation of Ireland is to be got by making Ireland dishonest. I repeat that the tenants want protection from themselves, and the question is “Do they get that protection from the Land Purchase Acts?” Again, I go to the landlords’ case. According to a paper furnished to the Fry Commission by Sir John Franks, it was stated that after the landlords and tenants had

struck their bargains, and after the tenants were ready to pay the money, the Land Commission stepped in and cut down the amount agreed upon under the Act of 1885, between August, 1885 and March, 1897, from £11,361,824 to £9,984,959. That is, that for the protection of the tenants the Land Commission reduced the sum they had consented and were ready to pay, by £1,376,865, or 12 per cent. I have shown that this House is bound, not merely out of regard to the tenants, but of the interests of the British taxpayer to see that these bargains between landlord and tenant are free, and not made on a price artificially inflated by Acts of Parliament. I come back to the question raised more than once, "What will be the political consequences of this measure?" As to that, we are willing to take our chance. I confess that it is worth while having given a quarter of a century of effort to get such a Purchase Bill as this. What was the favourite and popular representation given of us for more than twenty-three years? It was that we were paid agitators, living on lawlessness and disorder, and afraid of all things in the world that an end should be put to that disorder and social warfare. I am surrounded by the captains and the leaders of the land war in Ireland. And there is not one of them who does not hope, who does not pray that, if this Bill, properly amended, should pass into law, there is a parting of the ways in Ireland. The sword will be turned into a ploughshare, and the Grand Army of Irish revolution will be dispersed and disappear. We are ready to accept this peace on honourable terms to both sides; and I beseech the House to help us in that work, to listen to our reasons and arguments, and join us in making this Bill such as to open up a new era for Ireland and the Empire.

MR. GORDON (Londonderry, S.): I cordially join in the sentiments of the concluding sentences of the hon. Gentleman who has just sat down. I think we in Ireland owe a deep debt of gratitude to the right hon. Gentleman, the Chief Secretary, for the courage with which he has faced this question, and for the time he has devoted to framing the measure before us. Of course, as in the case of

every great measure of reform, some of its details require to be considered carefully and amended. I must say that it was highly desirable that the right hon. Gentleman should, at this early stage, know what are the points in which Irish Members are specially interested, in order that he might consider how to deal with them. However, I wish to address myself to what is more relevant to a Second Reading discussion. The unanimity of Members, not only for Ireland, but on all sides of the House is wonderful in general approval of the Bill; and it is curious that only six or seven Members have supported the hon. Gentlemen who moved and seconded its rejection. And when one comes to analyse the arguments of these Gentlemen against the Bill, one can hardly fail to acknowledge their weakness and futility in comparison with the arguments put forward in favour of the Bill. One thing which amazed me was the speech of the hon. Member for King's Lynn, who began by an attack on the Prime Minister, and then went on to express his views on Home Rule. He professed great sympathy with the people of Ireland, but when he came to translate that sympathy into speech, he found nothing but objections to the measure before the House for the benefit of the Irish people. He brought to bear the great knowledge of finance which the hon. Gentleman asserts he possesses, in order to destroy the whole financial framework of the Bill. What is the hon. Gentleman's position, because it illustrates very much what is that of some other Members, and of certain people outside the House, with reference to the measure? The hon. Gentleman said that the method of the finance of the Bill absolutely amazed him. And what was the subject of his amazement? First, the gift of £12,000,000. But there need be no amazement about that. There is no mystery about it. It is a simple business transaction, which, taken at its worst, only means a gift of that sum of money; and there are good reasons to show the necessity for such a gift being made. As the hon. Member who has just sat down demonstrated most forcibly, it would, in the end, not be a gift at all. It would be more than repaid by the saving in the present expenditure on Ireland. What is the other ground of the hon. Gentleman the

Member for King's Lynn, for amazement? It is that the Bill offers to pledge the credit of the State to the two parties in Ireland—the landlords and the tenants—to enable them to get rid of their difficulties and the sources of these difficulties and annoyances, which in many respects are a discredit to the whole British Empire. I was surprised that the hon. Member spoke as if the British Empire were advancing that money on terms that would result in loss, because the Irish Land Commission will pay interest at the rate of $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., while the money can be borrowed at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Instead of that being a loss, it would be a source of gain to the Empire. Then, the hon. Member exclaimed "What is the security?" Well, we are giving the security of the land; but there is another point which has not been taken note of hitherto in the debate. The security will not be the value of the landlords' interest alone, but also the value of the tenants' interest, which is often much greater than that of the landlord. Assuming that the true value of the landlords' interest is £100,000,000, that of the tenants must be something like £200,000,000. Surely that is something tangible and real. Then the hon. Member said that the next security is the moral security. I wonder if the hon. Gentleman has ever considered how much trade and commerce are carried on upon what may be regarded as moral security? Has he ever considered how many Banks in Ireland and this country lend money when the chief security is the character, the business capacity, and the honesty of the men to whom their advances are made? We can judge the future by the past. So far as I can see the financial position of this Bill is safe and secure. The money which will be advanced will be amply secured, and it is idle to talk of any real danger, any real chance of loss to the State by advancing these sums to Ireland. I am not taking into account the power under this Bill to take out of the guarantee fund any deficiency that may arise in the payment of the instalments. I think from a financial point of view the Bill is sound, and can be accepted by the House and the country.

Mr. Gordon.

It has been suggested that under the Bill the tenant can pay too much for his holding. That is a matter to be dealt with in Committee. The assumption is that the way in which the payment is to be made, and the amount to be paid by the tenant, are to be calculated upon the number of annual instalments which he will have to pay. Under the last Purchase Act eighteen years was the average, but the average after this Bill will be twenty-one and a half or twenty-two years. Nevertheless, you will have no greater instalment under this Bill than you had under the eighteen years purchase. The Act of 1881 has done a great deal of good, notwithstanding the delay in giving effect to its provisions, and, whilst fault has been found with its operation, no one has ever proposed its repeal. I do not think there would be any want of security, and I agree that there should not be a minimum price fixed for any holding. Another important matter to be taken into account is that of the necessity for this measure. The process of the Act of 1881 was necessarily slow, because it had to deal with 400,000 tenants in Ireland, and before all their cases could be dealt with we should have to go forward a century. No one either in Ireland or England can desire to see disputes between landlord and tenant prolonged for that period. If by the gift of £12,000,000 and by pledging the credit of the country for £100,000,000 you can put an end to this warfare between landlord and tenant for all time, I think all parties will desire to agree to the loan being made.

Having come to the conclusion that the Bill is necessary, the next thing to consider is, what is to be done. It must be done either by compulsion or inducement to landlords to sell. All parties who understand this question—except the hon. Member for the Launceston Division—seem to think that the occupier ought to become the owner of the land which he rents. The Government from time to time have announced that they are prepared to carry out the principle of inducement, and get rid of dual ownership. We now come to this question. If you are going to offer inducements, you have to consider first what would be a

reasonable inducement to get the landlord to sell, and secondly you have to see that the tenant is not asked to pay too much for his holding. Another point is as to the British taxpayer. No one thinks he is in the slightest danger. The right hon. Gentleman had before him, in fixing the minimum price, a desire to see that the landlord might have a sufficient inducement to sell, but I do think, now that he has heard the universal expression of the House of Commons, he will consider that matter, and that he will not endanger the harmonious working of this Bill. When we come to deal with the question of Amendments I hope hon. Members will show the same spirit of conciliation that has been shown equally, both inside and outside the House, towards the Bill. The principle of inducement having been accepted, there can be no opposition to the Second Reading. But what are the objections that have been offered? One does not like to use strong language, but they do appear to be unreal, unsubstantial, and inappropriate. The mover of the Amendment says that we ought not to pass the Bill because the King is going to visit Ireland in the summer, and a motor-car race is going to be held there, both of which events will cause a heap of money to be spent in the country. What has that to do with the Bill? The hon. Gentleman also asserts that everything shows that Ireland is increasing in prosperity. I must say that Ireland needs any such increase because it is the poorest place in the three kingdoms. Do hon. Members grudge any increase of prosperity? Is it not better for us all, for the British Empire as a whole, to be prosperous? Ireland is still a long way behind England in the matter of prosperity, and of that which she now enjoys a great deal is due to the various pieces of land legislation that we have had, and a great deal is due to the greater interest the tenants have taken in their farms since the Act of 1881.

Another argument advanced against the Bill was that the Unionist Members opposed the Land Purchase Act of 1886, but that was seventeen years ago, and experience shows that under this very Land Act there was increased prosperity to the Irish people. Will the hon. Member say that we are never to depart from the attitude which was taken up, rightly or wrongly, seventeen years ago. There

were various reasons why that attitude was taken up at that time, and I quite agreed with them. It was not a Land Bill framed on lines like this Bill, and suffice it to say that everything was different at that time. We are now dealing with the question under new circumstances, and I sincerely hope that a new attitude will be taken up by Parliament and the country. I am as strongly opposed to Home Rule as any one in this House. One of my strongest claims to election was that I was a strong Unionist, and if I thought the Union was in any danger here, not only would I not support this Bill but I would go much farther, but my belief is that the Union is not in the slightest danger; my belief is that the Union will be strengthened by this Bill rather than weakened, and I believe that a large number of those who, like myself, oppose Home Rule believe that giving the tenants an interest on their holding, and giving them to understand that they will no longer be subject to interference in their holdings or in the cultivation of them, would have a great tendency to prevent them from continuing to contribute to the keeping up of an agitation which is largely based on agrarian discontent. What is the necessity for going to the country upon this matter? I have listened to about forty speeches on this debate, and we have had Members from all sides of the House expressing their opinion, and five-sixths of that opinion is in favour of this Bill. I think the House of Commons is a fair representation of the opinion of the country on this particular measure. The other arguments are equally futile. The hon. and learned Member for South Shields discussed the question of the inconsistency of the Unionist Party. There is no inconsistency; the Prime Minister has explained the position in a way nobody could fail to understand. He has explained that for seventeen years he has been in favour of land purchase. Then we are told that a sum of money was granted to Ireland in 1898 and another last year, but it must be remembered that those were equivalent grants, granted as an equivalent to the money which England got for education; and the only reason why the Board of Agriculture got its portion was because

of the relation of agriculture to education in Ireland. Then there is the argument of the hon. and learned Member for Launceston. In answer to that it is sufficient to say this—that the whole of the tenants of Ireland who are paying rent, and those who represent them, have considered this measure and have come to the conclusion that there is no comparison between the man who pays rent and the man who occupies his holding. No argument has been adduced against this Bill. The hon. Member for King's Lynn said there are other questions in Ireland, but surely we must legislate for matters as they arise, and, having legislated for this matter, if other questions arise afterwards the House will deal with them wisely and justly. The hon. Member seems to think that there is no use in dealing with any question for Ireland unless he gets a pledge of finality.

Now I wish to speak with regard to the Amendments. Might I suggest to the right hon. Gentleman a different mode of dealing with encumbered and unencumbered estates. The unencumbered estates will be the most difficult to get into the market, because the life tenants of those estates would have to invest the money they receive at a lower rate of interest than they now get, whereas the owner of an encumbered property has a ready means of investing his money at once by paying off his encumbrances, and so reducing the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. he now has to pay upon them. He would therefore derive far more benefit from the sale than the owner of an unencumbered property, and if the right hon. Gentleman is to graduate these bonuses at all, I would suggest to him whether it would not be better to graduate them in such a way as to bring in the owners of solvent property. Now I have said all I intend to say about the question of minimum price. I hope that will be dealt with, as all the other questions, in a conciliatory manner, and with a frank desire to make the Act work properly. With regard to Clause 17, I do not think it would be desirable to put an end to the right of tenants to have fair rents fixed until the tenants have become owners. I think this Clause is capable of Amendment, and I think

Mr. Gordon.

it would be most desirable that, if the tenants should be offered their holdings at a price at which three-fourths or five-sixths are willing to buy them, they should be treated as having been purchasers from that time. I think that would get rid of the difficulty that is raised, and it would not be at all an unreasonable coercion to enforce on the minority who might refuse to buy. We are all desirous, and will probably be able to come to some reasonable arrangement. The hon. Member for North Louth has referred to some Amendments which are worthy of being taken into consideration. I think it is an important matter that the Act should be got to work soon, and that everything should be done as rapidly as possible. There is one matter which has been referred to several times, and it is to my disappointment that I found nothing more substantial in the Bill with regard to labourers, and I hope that the Chief Secretary, either this session or next, will bring in a Bill dealing adequately and fairly with this question of labourers. I hope that the Bill before the House will be carried by a large majority on the Second Reading, and that we may look forward with hope and abundant expectation to a friendly passage through Committee, and to the fact that the Bill will emerge a good, useful measure of permanent benefit to the landlords and tenants of Ireland.

*MR. COMPTON RICKETT (Scarborough): I do not wish to interpose for more than a few moments. I merely wish to draw attention to a few of the objections which English Members have to the Bill, although I intend to vote for it. I am glad to see such a step forward towards the solution of political troubles which have struck their roots deep in social questions. My only doubt is the possibility of working this Bill to the satisfaction of those who will come under its operation. The freehold appears to me to be of a very vicarious character. One may feel some impulse of satisfaction that one's grandson or one's great-grandson may come into the freehold of the farm in sixty-eight years time, but the only advantage beyond sentiment coming to the tenant to-day, will be a reduction

of 10 or 15 per cent. in the rent. Such reduction will seem a great boon at the moment, but when we have a leasehold to be converted into a freehold at the end of sixty-eight or seventy years, how can we suppose the value of the land will not change considerably during the next fifteen, twenty, or twenty-five years. As there is no compulsion in the matter, a bargain now may not be a bargain in twenty years time. The landlords may wish for a higher price. On the other hand, the land may decrease in value, and suffer with the whole country in some economic change, and the tenants who have already bought will be unwilling to follow the example of their predecessors. Should either of those circumstances arise, the Act will be arrested and paralysed. To meet the changed circumstances will involve an alteration in the rates already fixed for purchase, which retrospectively will destroy the Bill. There appears to me to be no satisfactory solution apart from a form of compulsion, and that compulsion can hardly be effected by a bargain between the Government of this Empire and the tenant farmers of Ireland. It might be a bargain if there were an authority in Ireland who could covenant with the Government for a scheme of compulsory purchase. Such an authority could control the tenants on the one side, and on the other the landlords would understand the full value of such a bargain and would consider it in coming to terms. If that is not done, I do not see that we are free from the danger of losing our security for the enormous sum it is proposed to advance. We cannot dissociate the question of land from the other Irish question of the government of Ireland on national and popular lines. Those two questions have been wedded in the past; they are connected to-day. It is frankly confessed that this is only a stage in the settlement of Ireland, that it will be received as an instalment, and only as an instalment, and that we must expect the agitation to go on for what Irish representatives consider to be the emancipation of their country. We are bound to remember that present Members of this House will go, and others succeed them, that other farmers will succeed the farmers of

to-day, and that there will be an irresistible temptation to put pressure on the Government of this country to secure more political concessions. It has been shown again and again that the Government could not resist a strike on a large scale against rent. You could not evict a country. Such a course would require a provision on a larger scale than was necessary to meet the Boers in South Africa. But though it might be considered as iniquitous, and stigmatised as a breach of agreement, such a thing is possible. The sums granted in relief of local taxation might be used as a security, had we an authority in Ireland to treat with. But supposing there was a strike for a lower rent in one county, and that in consequence the county allowances were not granted. How could you treat the Council of that county as responsible for the tenant farmers? Large numbers of the community who share in the benefit of these grants would be punished through the Council for no fault of their own. Were the contract with an authority it would be a security, but to stop grants needed for education, the repair of roads, and the maintenance of asylums would be out of the question.

We have also to remember that there are other improvements needed. A vast number of these farmers are very poor. A mere reduction of 15 per cent. in their rent is not sufficient to make them capable farmers, or to bring their land to a cultivatable condition. To suppose that we shall change the condition of the population, and effect a reformation in economic conditions simply by a reduction in rent is surely beyond the conception of any reasonable man. What is required is such an advance as will put the farmers in a position to make their land of real value. That could be done were there an authority in Ireland, and that authority made a grant for the purpose of assisting, on the security of the land, such farmers as they chose so to assist. The prohibition of mortgage really hinders rather than assists the progress of the farmers. There are also larger matters. The country is like a business that has gone down. The whole country needs a great deal of money spent upon

it. It is really like a colony which is not yet in hand. It needs drainage, affecting perhaps hundred of miles of country, canalising of rivers, improved access, and the deepening of harbours. All these things indirectly affect the value of land, and have a reflex effect upon it. But for such there is no provision, and it is not likely that the Government will make further grants to improve the country, and put it on a footing to attract the capital of private investors. These things can be done only by giving powers to some kind of executive—call it any name you please. That is the corollary, the natural consequence of going so far as you are going now in the enfranchisement of the tenant farmers. You cannot stop at this enormous expenditure. More money will have to be spent, and it cannot come out of the funds of the United Kingdom. The question is an economic more than a political one. You are directly fostering a system which promotes patriotism and a persistent movement in favour of an independent Government by tethering the people to the soil. There will be an arrest to emigration. People will stay in Ireland on the chance of getting their share of the land. Others who are away will come home, and as the population gets larger and more active you will foster and increase the idea of Nationalism instead of stifling it. Nationalism will make a great stride forward in the direction of Home Rule. We have in this country patriotism growing more in Imperial directions. Germany has a patriotism finding her fatherland where the German tongue is spoken. In France the peasant holds to the soil with great tenacity from family inheritance; his patriotism is intensely parochial. You are creating the same state of things in Ireland by this Bill, and it is impossible to suppose that you will not have to face such a state of affairs. Better face it now than render yourself liable to greater anomalies by trying to legislate on separate lines. We have to find under this Bill a sum of £12,000,000 for Ireland. On the same ground we cannot refuse similar grants to the farmers of Essex, or to the crofters of Scotland. In the future, if this Bill passes, it will be difficult indeed to resist other grants to landowners in this country,

Mr. Compton Rickett.

or to trades of various kinds which are essential to the welfare of this country. If that be so, why should we, not make this a grant raised upon the security of Irish land and Irish taxation, giving a guarantee for a certain number of years to some authority in Ireland? By doing this we escape from the anomaly and difficulty of voting a sum of money which we are unable to defend in the constituencies of this country.

*MR. BUTCHER (York): So far as I am aware this is the first time in our history in which the representatives of the landlords and tenants in Ireland have come to this House jointly asking for a land reform on which both are agreed. This is a striking and unique fact, and if anyone had ventured, even two years ago, to predict such a result, it would have been looked upon as the dream of a visionary impossible of realisation. But, Sir, it has come true, and for my part I think that this House would be undertaking a grave responsibility if it were to reject, on the Second Reading, a measure which promises so much benefit for Ireland. The hon. Member who has just sat down might, I think, even in his gloomy soul, find some comfort from the fact that the landlords, the tenants, and the whole of Ireland are agreed upon this measure. I gather that the hon. Member would prefer to postpone this measure until the country had been persuaded to grant Home Rule. I do not think it is likely that Ireland would get this money cheaper or better in any financial circles in Europe on the security of the land under Home Rule, than upon the credit of this country. One of the greatest advantages which Ireland derives from its continued connection with this country is that it will be enabled to obtain money for carrying out such beneficial changes as are contemplated by this Bill, by the use of the credit of this country. We are told that this Bill imposes onerous liabilities upon this country. I do not think they will become unduly onerous. But is this country under no obligation to Ireland? Why, Sir, her whole existing land system is the creation of British rule, and if there is one fact more than another upon which hon. Members on both sides of the House are agreed, it is that the present system of land tenure in Ireland is a disastrous and deplorable failure.

No hon. Member has given utterance to that view more strongly than the hon. Member for the Scotland Division of Liverpool, and in that view he is supported, I think, by the whole of his colleagues from Ireland. For twenty-two years these experiments have been tried, and those years have proved that the system must end in ruinous and disastrous failure. It has brought great loss to the landlords: it has not brought contentment to the tenants. It has fastened on Ireland a universal and never ending system of litigation of which both parties are heartily sick. I listened two nights ago to the speech of the hon. and learned Gentleman the late Solicitor-General for Scotland, who seemed to think that in Ireland, at any rate, litigation between poor people was rather a good thing. [An Hon. MEMBER: He never said that.] He said there were worse things than litigation. I venture to say that if he consults the impoverished landlords and the poor tenants, they will not take the same view of this perpetual litigation which accompanies the rent-fixing clauses of the Act of 1881. But there is another objection to the working of that Act. It has rendered impossible the proper cultivation of the soil. There is no inducement to the landlord to advance one single shilling for the improvement of the land, while, on the other hand, there is every inducement to the tenant, during the last two or three years of his judicial term to deteriorate his land in order that he may avoid an increase of rent.

If that is the condition of things, I think we are all agreed that this is an intolerable system, and it is the duty of the Members of this House to discover a remedy. No remedy can be found except that of land purchase. Some of the objections which have been urged against this Bill might have been urged with more force eighteen years ago. They might have been urged at a time when we had no experience of the effect of land purchase by State aid in Ireland. Now we are in a different position. For eighteen years that experiment has been tried, and I will undertake to say that it is the only experiment in the reform of the land system which has ever been a success in Ireland. What has been the result of it? You have had tenants purchasing. They have

the knowledge that everything they put into the land, whether in labour or money, will be their own absolutely. That has stimulated the better cultivation of the land, and all this has been done without litigation, without friction, and, I will add, without any loss to the British Government. There is nothing more remarkable in the working of the land purchase system in Ireland than the fact that in these eighteen years, when large sums have been advanced, the tenants have paid their instalments regularly, without compulsion, without police, and without getting into arrears. I think I am right in saying that it has been accompanied by another remarkable result, namely, that these instalments have been paid almost entirely free of cost to this country. If this purchase system has succeeded so far, what reason is there to suppose that it will not succeed equally well in the future? I maintain that the experience we have had, leads us to believe and hope that it will succeed in future as it has in the past eighteen years.

There are one or two points in the Bill to which I should like to call the attention of the Chief Secretary. First of all, there is the provision about the evicted tenants. Now I believe myself that if this Bill is to be a success in Ireland—and that also means a success in this country—its operations must be conducted with the help and goodwill of everyone in Ireland, and I have come to the decided conclusion that if you treat the evicted tenants generously, by restoring them as far as possible to their holdings, or finding other holdings for them, you will have gone a long way to establish that harmony and goodwill upon which the successful operation of this Act depends. There is also the labourers question, which I also believe will have to be dealt with in a larger spirit than the Bill does in its present form. A question which has caused much difficulty is that of the purchase price to be paid by the tenant. There are limitations in both directions: the Bill specifies the maximum and the minimum instalments the tenant will have to pay. If this were a bargain between a landlord who was the absolute owner of the land on the one hand, and a

tenant who was a purchaser on the other hand, and if no other interest intervened, I cannot see what would be the object of any limitation at all. But that is not the case. In the first place, you have the interest of the State, which is making a large advance, and in the interest of the State it is necessary that there should be some limit on the amount the tenant should pay. I therefore say that there should be a certain minimum reduction. There is much difference of opinion as to the maximum reduction. There was a point mentioned in the course of the debates by my hon. and gallant friend the Member for South Glamorganshire, and that was in regard to the "remainder man." As we all know, most of the owners in Ireland who will be entitled to come and make bargains under the Bill are what you call limited owners. They have only an interest for life, and behind them are their successors, the "remainder men." Now I put this to the House—Would it be reasonable to allow a man who has only an interest for life to come and make a bargain with his tenants behind the back of the man who will come into the estate afterwards and to sell at ten years or six years purchase without considering the interest of his successor? I say it would not be fair to allow him to make that bargain without providing some protection for those who are to come after him. There may be exceptional cases where there ought to be more than 30 per cent. reduction on the existing rents, but these cases might be met by a provision in the Bill empowering the Land Commission to sanction a larger reduction. By that means the interests of all classes requiring protection would be protected. I wish to refer to a class whose co-operation is essential for the proper working of the Act; to the land agents who have a moral claim upon us. They have discharged their duties often under circumstances of great difficulty, and even great danger. It is not their fault that the system of fixing rents under the Act of 1881 has broken down and the present Bill has become necessary. They have a right to come to us and ask us to make some provision for them, and I therefore beg the Chief

Mr. Butcher.

Secretary to consider what he can do in that direction in the interests of the working of the Bill itself. I shall support the Bill as an Irishman ardently desirous of the prosperity of my native country, anxious to do justice to it, and to bring it peace. I shall vote for the Bill because it appears to me to hold out the only hope of putting an end to the hitherto interminable land-war, and of securing to Ireland not merely material progress, but, what to my mind is even more vital and necessary, complete harmony and goodwill amongst all classes who inhabit that island.

MAJOR JAMESON (Clare, W.): I have followed this debate carefully for the last two days, and the matter has been so well discussed that it is quite unnecessary for me to comment on all the vast array of figures and details which must of necessity form part of this great Act and measure of Reform, which is now before the House of Commons, an Act second to none, in my opinion, in importance for securing the peace, the happiness and prosperity, not only of Ireland but of your vast Empire. Before touching on the point I consider of vital importance in the Bill, I should like to congratulate this House on the fact that, with a few exceptions, the speeches delivered from both sides of this House have been characterised by studious moderation and by an earnest desire to forget all the bitterness that has for so many years characterised debates on Irish questions, and an apparent desire to sink passion and prejudice in order to make this Bill a measure of lasting good to Ireland, and a landmark of national and Imperial peace and goodwill. Among those speeches that I regret were made, were the speeches of the hon. Member for Launceston, and the hon. Member for South Shields. The hon. and learned Member for Launceston, who can so ably hold a brief on any subject whether he has a case or not, took a line of his own, founded on the theory that if the Bill of 1881 had been properly worked, dual ownership would have been a success, and a system of land tenure that has failed everywhere else in the world would have been, according to him, found suitable for the Irish people. The hon. Member appeared to have patented the Bill of 1881 in some extraordinary manner, and I fully

expected to see him produce some patent machine into which the Bill of 1881 was put on one side, and on turning a handle wealthy landlords and prosperous tenants would at once emerge from the other. I do not think the hon. and learned Member convinced either the House or himself, and I trust that the repudiation of the way in which he put his case before the House will be sufficient to deter others in following a similar course. Then we had the hon. Member for King's Lynn, who opposed the Bill as a benevolent man. I have seen the right hon. Gentleman in every possible capacity and disguise, but never in that of a benevolent man, and I do not believe that he is benevolently disposed either to the Bill or to Ireland. The hon. Member in posing as a beneficent fairy gives as his sole reason for rejecting the Bill that he desired to make an attack on the Prime Minister. He said he was a friend to Ireland, but if that is so all that I can say is "preserve me from my friends," for the right hon. Gentleman appears to spend his time in picking holes in his friends.

There are some points in this Bill that I should like to say a few words on, and I would plead with the Chief Secretary, with all the earnestness that is at my command, on the subject of the restoration of the evicted tenants, and on the subject of what is known as the "minimum price" in this Bill. As regards the evicted tenants, I should like to point out to the House that during the last twenty-five years some 9,992 tenants have been evicted, and although one of the Ulster Members stated that of evicted tenants there were none, or few, in Ulster, it might surprise him and the Members of this House, to know that Ulster heads the list with 2,657 cases. I would like to point out that 4,090 of these evicted tenants had a rent of under £10, and that in no fewer than 8,318 cases out of a total of 9,992 the rent in no case exceeded £50. As these 8,318 would apparently come under the restoration clauses of the Bill, there would be apparently only about 2,000 excluded from the benefits of this Act. Surely to restore such a large number and to exclude such a small number is absolutely indefensible, and I am certain that the Government will meet the earnest desire of the Irish people by doing all in their power to restore these

evicted tenants, and by giving them the same privileges that are granted to the others. As regards the "minimum price," I will plead most urgently with the Chief Secretary to give this his best consideration in order that a solution satisfactory to this side of the House, may be arrived at, and I hope we shall yet hear that the Solicitor-General for England, himself an Irishman, who promised with so much pathos at Oxford on Saturday, his minimum support to this Bill, will be able, with his great legal knowledge, to eliminate the question of minimum price from it. Notwithstanding all that has been said, it appears to me there is very little between the ideas of the various sections of the Irish community, who have come together for the first time in history, and united together to endeavour to solve the Irish land question, and to bring prosperity to their country. As regards the impression, those who have spoken against the Bill have endeavoured to convey to the House, that England will have to bear the cost of giving effect to this Bill, it has, I think, been demonstrated beyond all doubt to every unprejudiced mind that the cost of the working of this Bill will be borne by Ireland, and not by the British taxpayer, and that the maximum expenditure after several years cannot exceed £390,000 in any year. We have had several speeches from the front Opposition Bench worthy of the best traditions of English statesmanship, and among them I would like to express my gratitude for that of the hon. Baronet the Member for Northumberland. We have also had a speech from the hon. and gallant Member for Glamorgan, who appeared and brought himself to the notice of the House in the new character of a "remainder man." Long may he remain to give vent to the kindly and patriotic sentiments he spoke, and I hope the "remainder man" will insist on getting a share of the bonus. I desire before concluding to say a few words on the subject of rent charge. I think an eighth too much, and I believe that if the rent charge was handed over to an Irish central authority many of the objections to it would fade away. Surely the earmarking of Irish money and "equivalent grants-in-aid," which has met with universal approval, is a precedent for an Irish central authority having control of any rent charge that may

be imposed. I have endeavoured to express my gratitude for speeches made in favour of this Bill from both sides of the House, but in doing so it would be ungenerous of me not to openly express gratitude to the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary for Ireland who has brought this Bill forward at a time when most Ministers would have shrunk from doing so, and whose audacious courage and chivalrous persistency will, I believe, be rewarded by giving peace and prosperity to Ireland, by giving a blessed emancipation to our people, and placing this great Reform Act on the Statute-book of the House of Commons.

And, it being half-past Seven of the Clock, the debate stood adjourned till this evening's sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

IRISH LAND BILL.

Order read, for resuming Adjourned debate on Amendment to Question [4th May], "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Which Amendment was—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Mr. Coghill.*)

Question again proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

Debate resumed.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.): I think the House will realise that the great difficulty of one speaking in favour of this Bill is not to meet the opposition offered to it, but in the fact that all who have spoken upon it have spoken in its favour, and that the real interest is now centred in the Committee stage rather than in the Second Reading of the Bill. Very few Members have spoken in opposition to the Second Reading, but one of the most powerful and vigorous attacks against the Bill was the speech of the hon. and learned Member for Launceston. The hon. and learned Gentleman alleged that all Irish debates were conducted in an atmosphere of passion or sentiment. No measure affecting the welfare of Ireland has ever been debated with less passion than this, and when the hon. and

learned Member talks of passion, I think we might confine the criticism to his own speech, and two or three speeches made by Liberal Members, because the atmosphere of passion has scarcely been stirred from any quarter of the House. The hon. and learned Member for Launceston said that if passion were not present, then there was sentiment. Those are the two charges he brings against the conduct of Irish debates in this House. But sentiment is one of the most powerful, vigorous and practical forces in the Government of a country, and most of all in the Government of a high-spirited and sensitive people like the Irish. I recollect when Lord Curzon was leaving these shores for India, to take up his duties as Viceroy of India, he said two qualities were required for a Viceroy of India, courage and sympathy. If those two qualities are required in a Viceroy of India, they are required still more for the government of Ireland, and it is because those two qualities so permeate the whole measure before the House that it has been so well received, not only by the people of Ireland, but by the people of England and Scotland. I earnestly hope that those who are sanguine enough to believe this will mean the end of the land war in Ireland will be justified in that belief. One thing I can say. The landlords of Ireland have it in their power to make this a final settlement. In the south and west of Ireland I have every hope and confidence that this will prove a final settlement of the land question, but in the north I am not so sure. I fear that in the north, where the tenants have readily paid their rent, and where they are a law-abiding and peace-loving people, the landlords will not be so anxious to sell as they are in the south and west. That, perhaps, explains the reason why this Bill has not been received with the same enthusiasm in the north of Ireland. And this fear that the landlords of the north will not be so willing to sell as those in the south and west, makes it incumbent on those who represent the tenant farmers in the north of Ireland to see that the tenant farmers there shall not be placed in a worse position by this Bill than they were before it was passed. Like every other Unionist and county Member of this House I am a believer in compulsion. There is not a single Unionist Member for Ireland,

Major Jameson.

and I do not except even the Attorney-General, who has not professed his belief in the possible necessity of the ultimate principle of compulsion being brought into the Bill. I do not for a moment believe in the possibility of that principle being brought in at once. I think and hope the generous proposals of this Bill are sufficient to enable us to do without compulsion, and I join in the earnest hope which has been expressed by my colleagues that we may be able to do without the principle of compulsion altogether. If compulsion be applied it must not be one-sided compulsion, it must not be such compulsion as will create a new grievance in the north of Ireland, and which will compel the tenants to be in the position Clause 17 compels them now to be in, by taking away from them the rights and privileges they now have, and putting pressure and compulsion on them, whilst compulsion is not applied to the landlord. I hope on this and other Amendments that have been foreshadowed, such as that dealing with the labourers of Ireland, the Government will, as the Attorney-General has promised it shall, lend a friendly ear. If the voluntary arrangements proposed in this Bill really create a peasant proprietary, and really end the land war that has been carried on for so long, I do not think it is possible to calculate the gain that will come to Ireland in this matter when it is free from the constant and bitter controversies between landlords and tenants. No one who does not know Ireland can calculate the economic gain that will come to Ireland from this measure. These are days when old men are seeing visions and young men are dreaming dreams of a new era of peace, plenty and prosperity for Ireland. We share the hope that those visions and those dreams will be fully realised and join in support of all Irish representatives from every quarter of the House, in believing that this Bill is a great measure of justice and a great message of peace to the people of Ireland.

*MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): In the course of this debate this afternoon we have had a remarkable speech from the hon. and learned Member for Louth, and I wish he were here now that I might express from these Benches the profound sympathy, pleasure and delight

with which we listened to the noble words with which he concluded these broad and generous handling of these questions. The tone and spirit of that speech are the tone and spirit in which I, as an English Member, would wish to approach this Bill. I confess that the line of reasoning which has forced itself upon me since I have considered this measure is something of this kind. What is the Bill which the people of Ireland themselves desire? I have listened to every representative speech delivered by Members who are entitled to speak for Ireland, and I ask is the Bill which they are going to vote for to-night the Bill they wish to vote for? or is it another Bill—an ideal Bill to give a widely different solution of this problem to Ireland. It appears to me that much will depend upon the answer the Chief Secretary will give to-night to the points laid before him. I have endeavoured to examine the provisions of this Bill dispassionately, and the very definite opinion I have formed is based on long consideration of this subject. I agree with the hon. Member for South Tyrone that, to secure agrarian peace in Ireland we can scarcely name the number of millions that it would be to our interest, and that it would be our duty, to devote to that purpose. But what we have to ask ourselves is whether we are really obtaining a final and complete settlement of the land question, or are we attempting to build a temple of peace upon the quicksands, when the winds and waves of human passion and economic laws will inevitably beat it down? Much light has been thrown upon this issue in the course of the debates, and not least by the hon. Member for the Scotland Division of Liverpool, who spoke this afternoon, and urged that everything depended on the price of the land, and that the tenants must be protected against themselves. I might further remind the House that the hon. Member for Cork City, and the leader of the Irish Party himself, in the previous debates both insisted on this point, that the price of the land was absolutely vital to the success of the measure, and that the tenant must be free to make his own bargain and should not be obliged to pay a larger price than had been paid by purchasers in the open market under the

existing Acts. The hon. Member for the Scotland Division of Liverpool had dwelt upon the report of Mr. Bailey. That report is encouraging, as it shows the industry and intelligence of the tenant purchasers and points out that they have put such little capital as they have into the development of the land. But the hon. Member also pointed out that these men had been buying under the old Act at seventeen, sixteen and even nine years purchase, and that it was at that rate of purchase they had been able to look for the successful working of the land. Where you are compelled to buy land at a higher price than its economic value, I ask whether it is possible to look forward to anything like the same future of success as had attended the tenants who have been able to buy in a fair market under the Ashbourne Act, or the Act of 1891. I perfectly agree with what has fallen from many hon. Members for Ireland that we need not look to Ireland or to Irishmen for a policy of repudiation of their debts, or for a policy of veiled or open rebellion against this country, because of the position in which the two countries may be thrown by the operation of economic law; but economic facts are stronger than any other facts you can produce. You cannot draw blood from a stone. To force up artificially the price of the land in the interests of the landowner is to over-capitalise the new venture of the peasant proprietary in Ireland, a policy which reminds me very much of those companies which were floated a few years back by a gentleman whose name is familiar to the House—companies the whole object of which was to secure a vast preliminary profit to the promoters by over-capitalisation and which left the unfortunate shareholders who had invested their money in those concerns to struggle for a profit under absolutely impossible conditions. I have always attached, and I have no doubt many Irishmen attach, great importance to the opinions of our old friend Mr. Michael Davitt, for whom I personally have a deep regard. I deeply regret that he felt himself compelled to withdraw from this House three years ago. I read with considerable interest one of Mr. Michael Davitt's recent speeches on this question, and I feel that some of the

Mr. Channing.

passages of that speech ought to be laid before this House. Mr. Davitt says—

“The total minimum compensation provided for the landlords in Mr. Wyndham's Bill will be fully £50,000,000 above the market value, which will be £17,000,000 over and above all the reductions effected inside and outside of the Land Courts since 1881. In addition to this the landlords have already received a capitalised value, in freedom from poor rate, of some £20,000,000 under the Local Government Act of 1898; so that they stand to receive back again from the tenants and taxpayers every farthing which the Land Act of 1881 took from them, and a neat little bonus of £37,000,000 over and above that amount besides ensuring for themselves another income. . . . Your tenant farmers will have to compete with all the cheap lands of the world in the supply of food to the markets of Great Britain and you are placing upon them, almost in a compulsory form, a bargain which prohibits the possibility of their working the farms at a profit. Purchase on the Wyndham terms would result in three-fourths of the farms of Ireland being thrown upon the hands of the State before a third of the purchase of the debt was liquidated. What is essential to the peace and progress of the country is that this settlement shall be final.”

He thus closes this part of his speech—

“But we must take care that the final act of the landlords and their English backers shall not be the placing of a load of debt on Ireland's shoulders, and a tax upon our chief industry, such as will weigh the country down, so as to fatally hamper her progress during the next seventy years.”

Those are very weighty words. The over-capitalisation of this scheme in Ireland is a tremendous fact with which we have to deal. The Bill attracts the tenants with the hope that it may become universal, but it is certain that it will not be universal, that there will be estates like Lord Clanricarde's as centres of unrest, and the difference between these purchases and those under the former Acts would arouse discontent. The criticism of the Act of 1881 by the Chief Secretary and the First Lord is really—if not discourteous to say so—puerile.

It is easy to say that the Act of 1881 has caused litigation and irritation. But the real problem which caused the agitation and trouble in Ireland for generations past is the problem which was declared sixty years ago by the Devon Commission to be the real issue, the problem of separating

what was the property of the landlord from what was the property of the tenant. Say what you will of the machinery of the Act of 1881, or any irritating quality it had, it could only irritate the landlords—the problem put before the country and before Parliament then by Lord Devon was solved by that great Act. What has been the history of all these Land Purchase proposals? I am strongly in favour of the principle of land purchase in the sense in which John Bright used it thirty years ago. John Bright was in favour of the creation with the aid of Imperial credit of a peasant proprietary in Ireland. But the whole of this policy which was started in 1883, as the First Lord of the Treasury stated on the first day of this debate, has been simply and solely to replace in the pockets of the landlords money which, judicially, does not belong to them. There is no doubt of that proposition. The report of the Conference frankly states that the losses of the landlords, owing to the fixing of fair rents, is one of the motives for legislation on these lines by this House. Lord Donoughmore in 1882 in moving for a Committee said—

“They wanted a Committee to take some steps to check, before it is quite too late, that ‘heavy loss and ruin’ which the Prime Minister himself repudiated and disavowed, but which is being inflicted day by day upon an admittedly guiltless class, the landlords of Ireland.”

And Lord Cairns, then Lord Chancellor, said in the same debate—

“The Land Commission are alienating from one-fourth to one-third of the ownership of those who hitherto held it to those who have never held it at all.”

I well remember the debate in which Mr. Gladstone, in 1882, denounced the action of the Irish Peers for trying to tear up his Fair Rent Bill by the roots before it had fairly got started. The whole of these Acts have, in my opinion, been nothing more nor less than Landlord Compensation Bills. In the Bill before the House we have an extraordinary proposal that we should artificially increase the value of the land in Ireland by some 30, 40, 50, or even 100 per cent. I should like to know where the landlord exists in this country, who, even in the case of a railway arbitration, has received 100 per cent. increase in the value of his land. This is a

monstrous proposition, and what I have to say is that it seems to me, if we are ready to provide a vast sum for compensating Irish landlords, it would be a far more rational proposal for us to say to them, “By all means have your full market value, and, if necessary, let us add what is the equivalent for compulsory expropriation in this country, but do not let us enhance the value of the land to the purchasing tenant by a single penny.” Ireland does deserve the help of the Imperial Exchequer to the fullest extent. If you want £40,000,000 in heaven’s name let us give it for the development of the land, but do not pass the money on into the pockets of the landlords, who are the least deserving class in Ireland. That money ought to be expended in improvements upon the land, and not for the pleasure and gratification of the landlords.

This Bill will throw an enormous burden upon the new peasant proprietors in Ireland. If land purchase is an Imperial matter, then, even as regards the bonus, Ireland is contributing more than her share. The other day I saw an important memorial presented to the Lord Lieutenant from the Christian Brothers and Catholic school headmasters in Ireland, demanding that the equivalent grant for education should be applied to specified types and forms of education in Ireland, and it seems to me that the reply of the Chief Secretary for Ireland the other day on that point was eminently unsatisfactory. He said that the previous equivalent grant had been practically wasted, and this grant could not be applied usefully, because elementary education in Ireland was in such an unsatisfactory condition. That is the very reason why every one of the resources of Ireland should be preserved, and not withdrawn from application for the benefit of the whole people, and handed over as an endowment to a single privileged class. I protest most strongly against that error in the Bill. At the same time I feel that we must look in the broadest spirit of hope to the development of a real and sound principle of peasant proprietary and land purchase in Ireland, on the lines indicated by hon. Members who have laid the general scope of their Amendments before the Government. I

do not myself see how the Government can refuse those Amendments. I shall support those Amendments, and I am satisfied in my own conscience that by giving a vote against this Bill I am protesting against the misapplication of these great funds which ought to be devoted to the development of agricultural industries in Ireland and not handed over to one class in that country.

MR. FLOWER (Bradford, W.): I think the unanimity that prevails upon this question amongst all those who are entitled to speak with authority upon Irish matters, justifies the House in passing the Second Reading of this Bill, in the belief that from the deliberations in Committee will emerge a Bill generally acceptable to the Irish people. I have listened to criticisms from my own side of the House of great interest and importance. I think my hon. friend the Member for Stoke-upon-Trent stated that he was moving the rejection of this Bill because it was a step towards Home Rule. I am not concerned to deny that the passage of this Bill into law will have as its by-product a large extension of local government in Ireland, but I would ask whether it is to be an article of creed amongst us Unionists that local government is not to be extended from time to time to Ireland alone among the countries of the United Kingdom, as political exigencies render it necessary. If that were indeed the policy of the Unionist Party then I confess I do not understand how it is that we are asking the Irish people to become reconciled and friendly to our policy on the ground that this Imperial Parliament is able to remedy their grievances and to redress their legitimate complaints.

MR. COGHILL (Stoke-upon-Trent): Does my hon. friend forget the Irish Local Government Bill?

MR. FLOWER: No, on the contrary, I rejoiced at the Local Government Bill, and I rejoice at this Bill, and I am not at all sure that in future a larger Local Government Bill will not be a necessary consequence of this Bill. There is no finality in Irish politics any more than there is

Mr. Channing.

finality in English self-government. There is another criticism which has been made against this Bill, and it has been made by more than one speaker from the Opposition side of the House. The suggestion seems to be made that under this Bill the Irish landlords are going to get more than they ought to get. Let us just look at that for a moment from an economic point of view. You have in the first place the working of the Ashbourne Acts, and under those Acts, I suppose, a large amount of the landlord's interest in Ireland has been transferred to the tenant, and of that large amount a great deal has been sold by landlords who have been pressed by the exigencies of their circumstances to sell. You have had flocking into the market under these Acts landlords under serious pressure from their tenants. That pressure to sell under the Ashbourne Acts will cease. And it has become an absolute necessity to devise new machinery. I believe that the machinery which the Chief Secretary has proposed in this Bill is one which is admirably calculated to effect that object. I think that the House ought to bear in mind that the policy of the Chief Secretary and the Government is a policy of voluntary purchase and that therefore they have to consider not only the interests of the landlords and tenants and the State, but they have to consider the combined interests of all three, and they have to so combine them as to produce a scheme which is acceptable to each of the three parties to the contract. You might pass through the House of Commons a Bill acceptable to the Irish tenants and acceptable to those who constitute themselves the guardians of the public purse, but if that Bill was one which would not be accepted by the Irish landlords one would be merely adding another to the score of Irish Land Acts, and really effecting nothing in the nature of a permanent settlement of this question. You have to consider the fact that under the Ashbourne Acts, a very large number of those landlords who wish to sell have sold. I do not doubt that under any form in which this Bill passes, a large number of landlords will sell. No doubt you will get rid of the impecunious landlord, but that is not the real object of the Bill, which is intended to provide the lines of

a final transfer of the landlords' interest to the tenants throughout Ireland, and to do that you must pay due economic regard to the interests of the landlords.

There are a great many points in this Bill which have been discussed during this Second Reading debate, and I am not at all sure that that discussion has been very beneficial to the Bill, because I believe when the Bill comes to the Committee stage a spirit of give and take will prevail and we shall be able to arrive at satisfactory conclusions on the points which have been thrown out. I venture to hope that the Chief Secretary in his reply will not commit himself in any one direction. I believe that this Bill, if it is carried through in the spirit in which it was introduced by the right hon. Gentleman, will be of great benefit, and will be a great success, more especially if it emerges from the Committee stage in the same spirit which animated that notable conference which discussed the details of the Irish Land Question in Dublin. It is in that spirit that I hope the subsequent stages of the Bill will be dealt with, because I feel confident that it is only by a general recognition of all the interests involved that we can get a really great measure passed through Parliament. I am very grateful to hon. Gentlemen from the north, south and west of Ireland, who have addressed themselves in language of moderation to this great question. If, in the Committee stage, the same spirit is manifested, and if we have a full and free hand in dealing with it there, I think we shall be able to do a good day's work for Ireland.

MR. JOHN MORLEY (Montrose Burghs): I did not expect to be recalled into the thicket, or, shall I say, the jungle, of the Irish Land Question once more, but I find it difficult during the course of this debate to be perfectly silent. It is a question in which I have taken, for a great many years, a direct, large, personal, and responsible interest. I have listened to the remarks of the hon. Member who preceded me with interest. I observed that the hon. Member, like the hon. Member for King's Lynn, who spoke before the adjournment, says in effect that what he calls, euphemistically, a large

extension of local self-government to Ireland, has no longer the terrors for him that it once had.

MR. FLOWER: As a by-product.

MR. JOHN MORLEY: Oh, he says it is a by-product—that Home Rule is to be a by-product. From that description of the situation I, for one, am not at all inclined to dissent. The hon. Member for King's Lynn used a remarkable expression. He said—

“I confess that Home Rule has no longer any fears for me.”

Therefore, we have to-night, within three or four hours' space of time, two hon. Members of unimpeached Conservative orthodoxy, on that side of the House, admitting that the by-product is not very remote. I venture to dissent from the hon. Member who has just sat down in one particular, a point on which I have not the right to advise the right hon. Gentleman opposite, a point of tactics. He said he hoped the Chief Secretary would not commit himself or the Government at this stage to decisive or specific pronouncements. I venture with great respect to take exactly the opposite view. In my opinion it would save the time of this House, and, it may be, the temper of this House, if the Chief Secretary to-night would tell us, on two or three points, that are really the only serious points of dispute, what his position is and how far he intends to maintain it, and where, on the other hand, he is open to Amendment or to make concessions. I should like to begin with a word or two on the Act of 1881. That is no amusement in the way of historical reminiscence, because we are told every day—it is part of the clap-trap of the discussion going on in the Press and elsewhere, I mean the Ministerial Press, that this large extension, a revolutionary extension as I shall hope to show that it is, is not at all due to the Act of 1881, but it is due to what has been declared by the Prime Minister to be the special policy of the Unionist Government. It is not because the Act of 1881 was passed that you are bringing in this Bill. There is another reason. In consequence of the operation of the Purchase Act you have farmers on one side of a

fence paying rent, and farmers on the other side who have purchased annuities paying much less. It is a complete error on the present occasion to lay the whole blame on the Act of 1881. I am not at all inclined to stop there. It is said constantly, it is a subordinate part of the clap-trap, that Mr. Gladstone in 1881 created dual ownership in Ireland. What he did, no doubt, was to legalise the dual ownership; but, as the Prime Minister himself admitted in his powerful exposition of the views of some of us on this side of the House, and of Gentlemen below the Gangway, there was a natural sentiment of dual ownership; and, after all, what Mr. Gladstone did in 1870 first of all, and afterwards in 1881, was to give the sanction of law to the social conditions and Irish ideas which are called ideas of dual ownership. To test this point, suppose the Act of 1881 had never been passed, suppose that Mr. Gladstone in 1881 had brought in a purchase instead of a tenure Act—I put to you the question—How could you have got a basis for your purchase policy? What you would have done, I suppose, would have been what Parliament did when it passed the Encumbered Estates Act; you would not have separated the improvements of the tenant from the property of the landlord, and, as formerly, the tenants' improvements would have been confiscated, or if the purchase policy had been adopted, without the tenure policy of 1881, you would have had most mischievous results. I understood the Prime Minister the other day to say, very candidly, that he was not at all sure that any of us who might have been responsible for the government of Ireland in 1881 would have found a better course to adopt.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): That goes rather beyond what I said—

MR. JOHN MORLEY: At all events I am sure there would have been no difficulty between the right hon. Gentleman and myself upon this, that in 1881 and 1882 Ireland was in a state practically of social chaos. I myself well remember when I was in Dublin Castle speaking to one of the officials there, a man of enormous experience, who had gone through all the

fire of that revolutionary agrarian war of 1881–82; he said—

“You have no idea what Ireland was like in those days.”

I asked him whether the Ireland with which the right hon. Gentleman had to deal in 1887 was comparable to the Ireland with which Lord Spencer had to deal in 1882—though I certainly had no wish to disparage the right hon. Gentleman. He said—

“There was no comparison, Ireland in 1881–82 was in a state of social dissolution.”

That was his own phrase. Who can pretend for one instant that any of us who were responsible for Ireland in those days could have ventured to come forward with a Bill of purchase? The Chief Secretary the other day said that the Act of 1881 produced litigation, and apparently, I gathered from him, nothing but litigation. But I have heard cases decided in the Land Commission Courts, and I venture to say that of the proceedings before the Land Courts there is not 5 or 10 per cent. that can fairly be called litigation, and the rest is what can be called, and what is, valuation. That may be due, perhaps, to some defects of Irish temperament, but so it is. Now, Sir, why was legislation necessary before the second term rents revision came on? I will tell you why. Legislation was necessary because the courts in Ireland, on which I do not cast any imputation whatever, construed the Act of 1881 differently in various cases, which the Attorney-General for Ireland will remember. Legislation was necessary in order to carry out the intentions of the Act. The right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Trade, to whom, as my hon. and learned friend the Member for Louth said to-night, Ireland owes a great deal, in the Local Government Act and the Act of 1896, made his mark on the Irish situation. But the Act of 1896, passed by you and not by us, showed that legislation was necessary. The right hon. Gentleman the Prime Minister, who spoke with some freedom of the Act of 1881, will not deny that in 1887, when he was first Chief Secretary for Ireland, he had to deal with a rather turbulent and difficult situation. What did he do? He actually extended the Act of 1881 and filled up all the gaps in the Act of 1881 which Mr. Gladstone had unfortunately left in it.

Mr. John Morley.

Yes, the Act of 1887 was quite as revolutionary an Act as the Act of 1881. Why, Sir, I remember very well, I believe the first vote I gave in this House was a vote for a Bill, introduced by Mr. Parnell in 1882, for the purpose of remedying defects in the Act of 1881. I think it was my first vote, and there were, I think, in the same Lobby only about fifty, including Gentlemen from Ireland, and I believe I was alone with five or six English and Scotch Members—against Mr. Gladstone recollect. Mr. Gladstone, for good reasons, for the moment resisted the Bill, but the right hon. Gentleman, when he was pressed by circumstances, did extend the Act of 1881 in the very particulars that Mr. Gladstone himself refused to extend it. Now, Sir, I thought it right that I should embark on this digression in justice to the great men who are gone, and in justice to what I consider a wise and beneficent piece of legislation. For my part, I am not at all sure that when history takes stock of Mr. Gladstone's contributions to effective legislation in this country, the Land Act of 1881 will not be the one chosen as the greatest of them all.

I should like to make a remark on something that fell from my hon. and learned friend the Member for Launceston the other day. He was in favour of the Act of 1881, but he asked, "Why did you not have an automatic scale?" I think my hon. and learned friend cannot have considered the circumstances. All I know is that when I had to bring in the Land Bill of 1895, I consulted all the experts in both countries—and I believe my successor did exactly the same thing in 1896—and it was found hopeless to find anything like a basis for an automatic scale.

Now, Sir, I come to the Bill and to the Amendment; and I think I have some right to ask the indulgence of the House while I say a word or two about the Amendment, because I understood from the speech of the hon. Member for Stoke, who moved the Amendment, that one of his reasons for moving it was that he and others round him had, for over seventeen years, pointed the finger of scorn at me. No doubt, Sir, it is a painful thing, and perhaps justifies an Amendment, that you should have been pointing for seventeen years the finger of scorn at the wrong man. There is no doubt that, the world of Par-

liament being what it is, it is astonishing to think that a Member of Parliament can hold Irish opinions upon Irish questions, that, in the phraseology of this Bill, are worth seventeen years purchase. Sir, in judging this Bill, I believe I happen to occupy rather an impartial position, because I think hon. Gentlemen from Ireland will admit that during the twenty years I have been in the House, years on their part of storm and battle—and I congratulate them on to-night's issue of the battle—I think they will admit that I have been, so far as an Englishman could be, their comrade, and I have no intention of parting company now with their constitutional purposes and objects. On the other hand, I know by experience, not a very long experience, but still what mathematicians would call an adequate and sufficient experience, what the responsibilities and difficulties of Irish Government are, and certainly nothing would induce me to offer any obstacle that I could help to the measure the Chief Secretary has produced—the bold, the courageous, I would almost even call it the daring measure he has introduced in order to turn over a new leaf in the chapter of the relations between Great Britain and Ireland—those relations so sinister, so mournful, I had almost said so demented. Therefore, from me the Chief Secretary will have no opposition that can be reasonably avoided.

The hon. and learned Member for Launceston the other night said the Second Reading of this Bill ought to be discussed without passion and without sentiment. I absolutely agree with him. We shall get to great mischief, and we of this Parliament shall get into the same discredit with our descendants as previous Parliaments have got into with us, unless we keep our eyes fixed on the hard facts of the situation. Let us see what we are doing. What is the principle of this Bill? So far as I can make out, the principle of this Bill is that Parliament is to make a present of twelve millions of money to a certain body of Irishmen in order that they may give us the privilege of lending £120,000,000 to another body of Irishmen. That is the principle of the Bill. Everybody will agree that it is a very extraordinary

principle. Everybody will agree that there must be something of an unparalleled character to justify a Bill of which that can be said. I admit to the full the force of objections that have been raised on this side of the House, and, perhaps, in a less degree, upon the other side of the House, and vigorously urged against the Bill. I think I have never known a Bill brought into this House which could be so riddled with objections if everybody liked to urge all the objections that could be brought against it. I have heard even to-night objections which in themselves cannot be answered. I wonder if a financial paradox in this House ever went farther than in a clause—to which I take no objection—which allows a landlord to sell his demesne at a certain price and then to buy it back again from us at a price that will leave him far better off than he was before. I do not think that financial and political paradox could go much farther. And then there are all the points that the hon. Member for South Tyrone raised under the head of what he well called “the submerged bonus.” Of course, the Bill could be riddled from the view of abstract argument, or argument that is perhaps not entirely abstract, but is a mixture of the abstract and concrete. But we are not in this House to-night arguing—I hope we never will argue—in *vacuo*. We are dealing with one of the most complicated, intricate, inveterate, and abnormal maladies with which any country in Europe was ever afflicted; and that being so, I, for one, am not inclined to shrink, and I hope none of my hon. friends will be inclined to shrink, from a fair consideration of abnormal remedies; and the remedies of this Bill are rather abnormal. You may riddle the Bill unless you recognise that it is the creature, I will not say of a political necessity, but of a social necessity, which goes far deeper than the urgency of social order. That is the point of view from which I shall give my vote on this Bill to-night. I am not going to argue about the objections to it. I am very sceptical—and I commend this scepticism of mine to the Chancellor of the Exchequer—about the promised retrenchment. I know what Ireland is. You have there got a brazen citadel of men of all kinds—of three appointed to do the work of one; of Judges—three to five doing the

work of one, and so on. I have always been convinced that you will never have effective retrenchment in what is the most preposterously extravagant Government in Europe until you make the Irish themselves responsible for the payment of it and give them the power to control it.

A word upon the reserved eighth. When I first saw this in the public prints I was greatly taken by it. I thought it opened a new chapter in Irish land legislation in this country. It is not quite a new chapter, I believe, because I rather understand that a measure, called the Small Holdings Act, thanks to the exertions of my right hon. friend the Member for Bordesley, contained this very principle of the State reserving a fraction to itself. So I am informed. It was not an Act that greatly engaged my attention. I confess that now, upon consideration of a perfectly impartial kind, I do not quite see how the reserved eighth is to effect what you desire to effect in restraining the gombeen man and sub-division. As you have taken powers in your Bill to make sub-division and mortgaging penal—that is to say, the holding will be sold if either of these restrictions is disregarded—I do not quite see that you want it. And then I put this objection. Is it not a very dubious thing to introduce into a great agrarian scheme of this kind an idea which is entirely unfamiliar to the people to whom this scheme is addressed? For my own part, I should be glad if the Government could see their way—although I say it with some regret and even with some doubt—to the removal of this provision.

One feature in the Bill does affect me with misgiving; but I suppose it was inevitable. It is the extension of the time for repayment. I would remind the House that in the first Act by which public money was used for the purpose of land purchase, the term was thirty-two years. Then, in Lord Ashbourne's Act in 1885 the term was extended to forty-nine years. That extension was considerable. But now we are extending it to heaven knows what—to sixty-five, sixty-eight or seventy years. That is a tremendous mortgage of the future. As to the general security, I agree with those who think it is good. The hon. Member for King's Lynn said—“Oh, but if there

was an Irish famine it would be impossible for you, as humane people, to insist upon these annuities being paid."

When Ireland went down in the frightfulabyss of the famine of 1846-47 England came forward, with the greatest generosity, and made great sacrifices; and therefore the remission of the annuity in the case of so horrible a disaster as an appalling famine would be no greater sacrifice than we voluntarily made in 1846-47.

There are two other points to which I wish to refer. The first is a personal point, but a most important point. It was dwelt upon with great force by my hon. friend the Member for North Louth. That is the constitution of the Estates Commission. This is the way things in Ireland always go wrong. You pass excellent measures; then you send them across St. George's Channel, and whether they be Crimes Acts, Purchase Acts, Evicted Tenants Acts, or Arrears Acts, they fall into the hands of men who administer them in an entirely different spirit from that in which Parliament passed them. In reference to the Estates Commission, I have the pleasure of knowing Mr. Wrench very well. I worked with him for three or four years, or more, upon the Congested Districts Board; and no word will ever fall from my lips, and no vote will ever be given by me in any way to indicate a want, on my part, of the highest esteem and regard for Mr. Wrench. But we must look to the position of the other two gentlemen on the Commission. This is not a question of an ordinary Irish appointment, it is a matter upon which will depend largely the success of the Act, for if you, by your conduct, diffuse through Ireland the suspicion that the Estates Commissions are in any degree specially sorted you will do the greatest possible injury to the working of your own policy. What do you do? You draw a line of difference between Mr. Wrench and the other two Commissioners. Mr. Wrench is to have the tenure of a County Court Judge, holding office during good behaviour, and he is to get £3,000 a year from the Consolidated Fund. The other two gentlemen have not the tenure of a County Court Judge; they are not on the Consolidated

Fund, and they are not to get £3,000 a year, but only £2,000, which, in my judgment, is ample—for all Irish salaries are exorbitant, except that of the Attorney-General. See what may happen. Mr. Wrench is entirely removed from the criticism of this House. It is quite true he can be deprived of his office, but only on a solemn address by both Houses of Parliament. The other two gentlemen of the Commission—who ought to be on exactly the same footing as Mr. Wrench—are removable at pleasure. The Lord Lieutenant or the Chief Secretary may remove these men. It may be said that they will be responsible to Parliament for their action. But that blow will have been struck, and after such a blow has been struck by the executive behind the back of Parliament, it is not easy to undo the revocation of an appointment. Therefore I say this is not an ordinary objection. It is an objection which goes to the root of the prospects of success of the Bill. I think the members of the Estates Commission ought to be all on the same footing and have the same authority; and that no ratification of a bargain between landlords or tenants, no rule of the Commission should be valid unless the three Commissioners—or two out of the three, at all events—agree. There is only one other objection. I think it is upon what is called the zones of purchase that the real danger of the Bill will lie. I am not going to repeat what so many speakers have already laid before the House. We have it from the report of Sir John Franks that during the years the Ashbourne Act has been in operation the variation in the number of years purchase has been from forty-five to six. Some estates have sold at forty-five years purchase, and others at six years purchase. As I understand this Bill, a man who bought at six years purchase would not be able to avail himself of its advantages. A man cannot buy under this Bill—as I understand it—except he agrees to twenty or twenty-two years purchase. If the transactions under the Ashbourne Act at six years purchase are good transactions, and the Land Commission has sanctioned the advance of the money upon them, surely that proves that the zone clause of this Bill is a mistake. If the landlords and

tenants agree and sign an agreement together—I am not sure that the House understands all this mystification, I do not say deliberate mystification—well knowing what they are about, yet if the price agreed upon is at a lower figure than that prescribed by the Act, the Estates Commission will have to reject it. I ask the Chief Secretary to tell us plainly and fully what is the secret of that clause. I cannot make out what it is. The Attorney-General for Ireland spoke the other night about protecting the landlord. Protect him against whom? Perhaps the Attorney-General will say. Is it against the tenant or against the Estates Commissioners? Against whom is the landlord to be protected? The transactions are voluntary transactions, and he can please himself. Let me say further that the notion which I gather from conversations which I have had is, that you are dealing with a lot of the bankrupt stock of landlords in Ireland, who are obliged to sell. But that is not so. I am told that the owners of bankrupt stock will be cleared out, and that you are now dealing with landlords who are perfectly well able to protect themselves. I observe it is said, “Ah, but the landlord needs to be protected against irregular and unlawful combinations and conspiracies forcing him to sell.” I should like the Chief Secretary to explain what new motive there is for this provision. Surely, the whole reason for, and the whole principle of, the Bill is that there are landlords who can hold on, and mean to hold on, and to whom, in order to induce them to give up holding on, you are going to give large sums of money. I am quite unable to understand the policy of these clauses. I can imagine these combining tenants going to the landlord and saying, “We are willing to buy from you at a zone price, and we expect you to sell at that price.” That is my opinion of the working of it. You are just as likely to have those combinations under your zone clauses, and more likely, than if you did not have them at all. Sir, this is the way Irish Bills are spoilt. You construct—Liberal Governments and Conservative Governments—an ingenious machine, and then you pour grit into the machine and so pre-

Mr. John Morley.

vent its smooth working. Mr. Gladstone in the Acts of 1870 and 1881, was constrained, as the Chief Secretary is constrained, to spoil the machine he had constructed, and to leave this grit to prevent its smooth operation. One observation I would make to some friends of mine who have spoken against the Bill and are not well inclined to it, and I would also address it to the Chief Secretary himself in view of what I may call, without offence, his landlord provisions. What is the alternative? Let us suppose that this Bill fails. What will happen? There will be no more purchase, because the landlord will not sell at the prices which have hitherto been going, and when he finds dangled before him these high prices and the bonus as well, no landlord will sell for eighteen years' purchase any more when he has had twenty-two years offered to him by a Unionist Government. What will happen to the tenants? They will be thrown back upon the Act of 1881. Landlords ought to consider this as well as any other portion of the House. Then what will happen? You will shortly be within sight, within measurable distance, of a third revision of rents. Therefore, if I were a landlord, I should not quarrel on account of the zone clauses, with such a prospect before me as the rejection of this Bill, perhaps not by this House, but in Ireland, by the measure not operating. If I were a landlord I should consider that if this Bill does not go forward there is nothing for it but one of those accursed revisions of rents. I am not going to stand for more than two or three minutes between the House and the Chief Secretary. To go back to what I have said, I do want the House to know where it stands, and what it is doing. It is all very well to talk of purchase and say this is only a continuation, as the Prime Minister said the other night, of the policy of purchase. There is an absolutely radical difference between what was ever known of purchase before and this Bill.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No, no.

MR. JOHN MORLEY: Let me remind the Prime Minister that the first apostle of purchase was Mr. Bright.

What did he say? Did he say anything about a bonus? In the case of any deserving farmer who could produce one-fourth of the price of his holding Mr. Bright was willing to reward him for his thrift and solvency by advancing him the remaining three-fourths. That was a very sober and safe policy. But it did not go far. I think there were only 6,000 purchasers under the Church Act of 1869. Then came the Act of 1870, and I may mention this—that Mr. Bright entirely detested the Act of 1870, and on the other side Mr. Gladstone thought Mr. Bright's policy would land this country in a lot of land jobbing operations, and he fell back upon a great reform of tenure. Then came the next great revolution, the Ashbourne Act, and an immense revolution it was, where the whole price, for the first time, was advanced by the State. I think under the purchase clauses of the Act of 1870 only about 800 transactions took place, and under the Act of 1881 there were about 600 or 700. They completely failed, for the reason that they did not advance the whole price. Then came the Ashbourne Acts, and the purchases went up to 26,000 in one year, 36,000 in another, and so forth. Therefore, do not let us suppose that purchase always means the same thing. It does not; and it never before meant what it does in this Bill. I was taken to task by the President of the Board of Trade because I called this a revolutionary Bill. For the first time you are compelling the Land Commissioner to deal with estates. Hitherto all Purchase Acts have been Acts dealing with individual transactions between a landlord and one or more of his tenants. What is the significance of this great change? It is that the landlord is to disappear. It is true that he may buy back his demesne at a reduced price, but he buys it back as a tenant; the man with all the official relations around him disappears. It is nothing more nor less than the abolition of landlordism; it is a complete revolution, I think a blessed revolution, of the policy upon which you have governed that country. I listened to the speech of the Prime Minister the other night, which I think is an historic landmark in the history of Ireland and in the

relations between Ireland and this country. I will make no ungenerous recrimination against the Prime Minister, except in a sentence to deplore that during the twenty-five or thirty years he has been in this House he has never until Monday night recognised the fundamental condition of Irish land tenure. [Cries of "Oh, oh,"]

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Often, often.

MR. JOHN MORLEY: I should be very sorry to enter into a controversy with the right hon. Gentleman, but I shall not shrink from it. What did he ever do except borrow the policy of the Act of 1881 and pass the Act of 1887? He has never before said that the land system of Ireland is at every point at variance with the land system of England and Scotland.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have constantly said it. Has the right hon. Gentleman never heard of my Land Act of 1891?

MR. JOHN MORLEY: The Act of 1891 was based on propositions which he himself had never advocated. It was based on what Mr. Gladstone had done by safeguarding the tenants' improvements by the Act of 1881, and after, by the Act of 1870, he had recognised by law the interest of the tenant in his holding—that was what I call admitting the principles which the right hon. Gentleman admitted fully and frankly the other night.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: You will find it in my speech of 1883.

MR. JOHN MORLEY: I read that speech the other day, and I am bound to say that I did not discover in the Act of 1883 a perfect recognition of solving the question by means of purchase. There was, however, no recognition of the historic fact that land tenure in Ireland was at variance in every point with the land systems of England and Scotland.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Oh, yes.

MR. JOHN MORLEY: Then all I can say is this. What are the admissions of

the right hon. Gentleman the other day? To any one who knows anything of what has occurred in Ireland since the history of the Union they are a condemnation of the landlords, a condemnation of his own Party, which resisted every attempt to recognise tenant-right.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No.

MR. JOHN MORLEY: They are a condemnation of the legislation of this united Parliament called into existence by the unfortunate Act of Union. ["Oh, oh!"] Yes. I wonder how many hon. Members are aware of the number of Acts which were passed from the Union until 1870? If they will only tell me of any of those Acts in favour of the tenant I will abandon my proposition. They passed Act after Act, and they were all in favour of the landlord. I will say this of this Bill, however. It marks the collapse—and I am not using any unmeasured words as to the real, deep, far-reaching political significance of the Chief Secretary's Bill—of the system on which this country has governed Ireland ever since the Union. Your whole government was based upon the land system, which the Prime Minister so powerfully exposed the other night. It was based on the idea that the land tenure in Ireland was the same sort of thing as in England and Scotland. That is now abandoned. This Bill plucks up the old land system root and branch, and you are going to pay £12,000,000 down and are going to risk £100,000,000, or £150,000,000, afterwards in order to abolish it. Do not let us deceive ourselves that this is an old-fashioned Purchase Bill. This is a Bill that points to, and will lead to, an immense social revolution. It will require a far bolder man than I am, to attempt to gauge the political and social effects of this Bill. Who will attempt to gauge what sort of an Ireland will rise from the changed foundations which this Bill is most assuredly making? How will it affect the position of the Roman Catholic Church? How will it affect the national demands for self-government? How will the energy of that demand be affected? Only do not let us dream that an Ireland without landlords as such, an Ireland of small owners—whether it be a peaceful and prosperous Ireland, as we all fervently hope, and as I, for one, expect it to be,

Mr. John Morley.

or whether it fall into unseen tribulations—in either case, do not let us dream that the special problems and the special tasks which spring from that new kind of society of peasant proprietors will not offer new burdens to the House if we are to maintain our effective and day-to-day control over it. Is this House well qualified to settle these special problems? I have been in the House during the debate, and I say that no man in it has a more profound respect for the House than I have; but I confess when I see hon. Members trying to probe their way through these discussions, speaking of the prices, the years of purchase, zones, and all the other mystifications of Irish land tenure, I think it is like a sort of listless audience listening to a very dull play performed by actors speaking in an unknown tongue. But be that as it may, whatever happens, the mere production of this Bill has made an enormous change. It has set up for the first time the character of Irishmen, and, of course, I rejoice in that because I believe it will lead if this House remains in the mood of which we have had indications for the last three days, to a permanent general settlement; and, therefore, I, for my part, shall vote heartily for the Second Reading.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE LORD LIEUTENANT OF IRELAND (MR. WYNDHAM, Dover): Before I sit down I shall have to say a few words in reply to the concluding portion of the right hon. Gentleman's speech, which was somewhat oracular. He said that the future would be very different from the past and would include many great events of moment. I agree with him. But the right hon. Gentleman indulged in a few perfunctory partisan parentheses in order to prove that we are guilty of inconsistency. I will go back to that if time permits, but it has very little to do with the great problem on which we are engaged. I will go back to the middle of the right hon. Gentleman's speech, in which he dealt with certain important points raised in the debate; and I will try to make myself intelligible to hon. Members who sit for English constituencies; for I admit that the vocabulary in which the Land Question is couched is very technical and not very easily interpreted.

But I am first obliged very reluctantly to take note of the right hon. Gentleman's opening sentences. Of all the speeches to which we have listened during three days the right hon. Gentleman selected those made by the hon. Member for King's Lynn and the hon. Member for Bradford; and he alleged that these hon. Members had made themselves responsible for the statement that Home Rule must of necessity be a by-product of land purchase. I should not pause to note that speculation were it not that in certain quarters every subject but land purchase is discussed when I make a speech on the matter. And the quarters in which this bogey of Home Rule is raised are precisely those quarters which, from some *vis inertiae* of the brain, think that because they have opposed every other Land Bill they are bound to oppose this Bill. But the quarters in which I am supposed to be a Home Ruler are the same quarters in which the hon. Member for Waterford is supposed to be a Unionist. Although it was not on the programme, the hon. Member was driven at the National Convention in Dublin to state explicitly that he was still a Home Ruler. I am driven by these two speeches, and by the notice which the right hon. Gentleman has taken of them, to state explicitly and in terms that I am a Unionist. Having brought in this Home Rule bogey to our feast, the right hon. Gentleman said that he hoped I would give a decisive pronouncement on certain points which have been raised. I am prepared to discuss them, but I should minimise their importance if I attempted in a Second Reading speech to give a deliberate verdict on every one of them. The latitude we enjoy in Committee, which admits of interruptions and explanations, is necessary in dealing with matters of such importance, and if I attempted to deal with them exhaustively now I should subject myself to a legitimate fusillade of interruptions. The right hon. Gentleman harped upon the Act of 1881. He said that it did not create the sense of co-ownership, but legalised dual ownership; and the right hon. Gentleman tried to draw a great contrast between the attitude of the Conservative Party in 1881 and their attitude now. But when the Act of 1881 was under consideration a Motion was made by the Conservative Opposition of the day to this effect—that the land purchase clauses of the Act

should be taken first, and that the rent-fixing clauses should be adjourned; and the whole of the Tory Party and of the Nationalist Party of the day went into the Lobby in favour of that Motion. I believe that that would have been the truer policy. It may be that it was impossible to adopt that policy then. It does not lie with any Chief Secretary to say what this or that predecessor might have done. We know how great the difficulties are, and that all Irish legislation turns upon occasion. The right hon. Gentleman went on to say that there must be something of an unparalleled character to justify this Bill. I do not quite admit that. If it were worth while I should be prepared to demonstrate the consistency of the Conservative and Unionist Party in prosecuting this policy of land purchase, and to say that it was our answer to the Act of 1881. In 1878, even, a Committee appointed by Mr. Disraeli, and largely composed of Irish landlords, advocated the policy of land purchase. So that something unparalleled is not necessary to explain the character of this Bill. But I agree that something unparalleled is necessary to explain the moment at which it has been brought forward. After a great war, when £250,000,000 have been added to the National Debt, when taxation stands at a higher figure than it has stood since our great struggle with Napoleon—that is not the moment which any Minister, with a due sense of the situation, would have chosen to bring forward a Bill of this kind. Yes, but think of the occasion in Ireland. Has not the tragedy of the past in the relations of the two countries always been that the occasion in Ireland did not synchronise with the occasion in England? Must not great reasons be adduced if we are to let so marked an occasion go by without taking profit by it? Must not those reasons be more overwhelming than any which have so far been adduced in this debate by the hon. Member for Stoke-upon-Trent, by my hon. friend the Member for Islington, who repudiated this Bill, and one or two hon. and learned Gentlemen who supported the Bill but did their best to stab it to death?

Let me touch on those speeches for one moment. Those hon. and

learned Members insisted on the great merits of the Act of 1881. Far be it from me to depart from the attitude taken up by the Prime Minister, who said that although he did not, and I do not, approve of the Act, he would find it very hard to say what another Government would have done at that time. Far be it from me to depart from that standard of charity and good sense. But they praised the Act of 1881 in such a way as to lead the House and the country to suppose that it settled the Irish question; that there was no need for anything more, and that everybody was perfectly happy. There is no necessary contradiction in saying that that Act is prized by Ireland, as hon. Members have said, and in saying at the same time that it affords no final and permanent resting-place for the agricultural community of Ireland. From the very first, as I think I have shown, when I reminded hon. Members that the Nationalists and the Tories went into the Lobby together to demand land purchase, the Act of 1881 was only looked upon as a strategic position from which Irishmen would advance towards their hearts' desire, which was that in Ireland, as in almost every other country which is similarly circumstanced, in almost every other country that is mainly agricultural, the tiller and the occupier of the soil should be the owner of the soil. That was the strategic position lauded by three hon. and learned Members. I hope I have great deference for them. They are my friends—one of them is my friend. I hope I have great deference and respect for the profession which they adorn; but the songs of praise and triumph which they sang over the Act of 1881 will never shake my opinion that, whatever other merits may attach to the law, legal procedure is neither the shortest nor the cheapest method of determining the value of articles which one man has to sell and another man has to buy. I think I found a clue to their philosophy of the Irish situation in an unguarded phrase that fell from one of them—the hon. and learned Member for Hawick. He said—

“There are worse things than litigation.”

If the agrarian situation in Ireland is a strategic position, may we not compare it to a strategic position

occupied during an actual campaign? No one will evacuate that position except upon terms of honourable treatment; but it does not follow that it is a very agreeable resting-place. And if you arrive at a strategic deadlock I should not be very much impressed if three eminent firms of contractors, who supplied the ammunition with which the parties in this strategic position fired into each other, were to say, “Well, after all, there are worse things than a strategic deadlock in a campaign.” What emerges from this three days’ debate is that, after twenty years of strategic deadlock, the two parties in Ireland who have been brought into sharp antagonism with each other, who have suffered much in this warfare—the landlords of Ireland who, rightly or wrongly, and I think rightly, hold that they have been wronged—yes, those who bought under the Encumbered Estates Act, with a Parliamentary title giving them absolute ownership from the surface to the centre of the earth, who were urged to give a larger price for the benefit of the general taxpayer on the explicit plea that rents were low, and that they could put them up—I think that these men—men in business, shopkeepers, professional men in Ireland, who bought land, not out of greed but because they were told that it was the last economic fad of the moment—have some sense of wrong to which I ought to do justice. And those men of the old stock, as they are called, the men who stood the racket of dynastic and religious warfare in Ireland, and to whom the alternative of “Hell or Connaught” was far more generally applied than to any other men in Ireland—those men have suffered as no other aristocracy in the world has suffered. And the descendants of the old stock, and the business men who bought encumbered estates, who have been fighting for twenty years and have seen their incomes reduced by 40 per cent. by enactments of this House—it is these men, who might be embittered and actuated by enmity, who come to us now and say, “We want peace, although we are ready to fight for another thirty years at least.” And who is the other party? The tenants of Ireland, and the representatives of the tenants of Ireland, who also, for historic causes which I do not wish to rake up, have felt, not only

Mr. Wyndham.

the sense of co-ownership, but that, if certain wars had issued in eventualities which did not take place, they would be the owners of the land, and not others. It is these men and their representatives who have struggled, and gone to prison, and broken the law—and when they break the law I hold that they ought to be made amenable to the law—it is these two antagonistic and opposing camps who have come to us during the last three memorable months and have said, “We wish to be united, to bury this ancient feud, to advance together, not only in order to secure the prosperity of agriculture but in order to liberate the initiative of our countrymen in other walks of life, and in order to start industries in Ireland in order to be rid of this nightmare, which has not only impeded us in the prosecution of agriculture but has concentrated all mankind, professional, commercial, and agricultural, upon the barren issue of an endless strife.” Sir, is the tragedy of allowing the occasion in Ireland to pass because the occasion has not yet occurred in England to be repeated? Is it to be repeated in deference to such financial arguments as those which were used by the hon. Member for South Shields?

I would not revert to a speech made forty-eight hours ago were it not for the fact that there is a danger that the £30,000,000 given according to him to one class in Ireland may take root in the popular imagination. Let me now and at once pluck it out. [Laughter, and “Oh!”] I am delighted to hear an interruption of that character, because it explains what at the time surprised me. I listened to that speech aghast, and I was surprised that it seemed to make so slight an impression upon his audience. The explanation is that speeches couched in similar phraseology have educated this House to a certain extent, and the public to a very large extent, into the belief that England is habitually taking sovereigns out of her pocket and handing them over to Irishmen, who may be very good fellows in their way but are always coming and asking for more. There is not a vestige of truth in it. I should like, if I may, to examine this financial argument, because a great deal of the doubt in some men’s minds as to the justice of accepting this Bill turns upon

that and similar financial arguments. The hon. and learned Member instanced the agricultural grant. He put it a little high, but I will take his figure. It is £730,000 a year, calculated upon precisely the same basis as that upon which the English agricultural grant was made. I admit that if you take the doctrine of the equivalent grant Ireland would have got much less; but that would be stretching the view of the union of the two Exchequers to an extravagant point in favour of England. Ireland is mainly an agricultural country, and suffers on that account. Ireland pays the same taxes as we pay for the Army and the Navy, and is now paying the war taxation. I do not suppose it is any easier for an Irish landlord, living on £500 a year, to pay an Income Tax of 1s. 3d. than it is for anybody else, or for an Irish tenant to pay tea, whiskey and other duties than it is for anybody else. I admit that Ireland has a slight advantage on the local taxation account, but was Ireland to be deprived of her chance of local taxation reform because some hon. Members thought that large grants were made by England to Ireland? But when they gave £185,000 to Ireland it was forgotten that £1,400,000 was given to education in England. That was represented as a gift to the Irish landlords. Then the hon. and learned Member capitalised this sum and said—

“There were £30,000,000 given to Ireland—given to Irish landlords—by England, and are we to add another £12,000,000 to it. Was it not time to stop this system?”

The hon. Member went on to speak of £42,000,000 and he took the local taxation account, but he entirely overlooked the large items which were taken for England and Scotland, where the expenditure has increased at a greater pace than in Ireland. I say frankly to hon. Members who sit for English constituencies that on the local taxation account Ireland has an advantage of £280,000 a year. Call that £9,500,000. But, again, the hon. and learned Member seemed to forget the grant made to voluntary schools in 1897 amounting to £620,000, and he also seemed to forget that there was a grant to Board schools in the same year amounting to £180,000, but no equivalent grant was given to Ireland. I do not complain. I am repeating the

argument of the hon. and learned Gentleman; and if I were to capitalise those grants of £800,000 for education might I not say, to paraphrase his words "Here are £27,000,000 which Ireland gives to the national schools of England, so that you may improve your education. You do not seem to carry on your education up to the German standard, so here is this money to enable you to do it." And then it might be added from the Irish point of view, "Have we not reached a point at which we should stop?" What is it that this sum is to be given to Ireland for? The money is to be granted so that Ireland may not miss the opportunity which is presented by these two antagonistic forces being brought together. Surely we should not miss this opportunity of bringing about a settlement which we believe, and hon. Members opposite believe, will have a lasting good effect on Irish life. But some hon. Gentlemen have said, with reference to some remarks which were made in the last debate, that this was not the moment which I should have chosen to introduce a Bill involving a charge of so many millions of money, although I have been careful not to make it at present a burden on the country. I agree that it is a grave matter; and I think that hon. Members who sit for Irish constituencies will see that the Chancellor of the Exchequer and I have done what we could at a moment when it was most inopportune for us, but at a moment when, from all that we know, it was for Ireland most opportune. We saw this conference held, and we saw the amicable feeling which was displayed on both sides, that of the tenants, and that of the landlords, and we could not accept the grave responsibility of allowing such an exceptional chance to slip from us.

I now pass from the £12,000,000 grant to the security for the loan. That is a graver question. Hon. Members have a right to conjure up every conceivable danger with regard to the loan; but is it to be supposed that the Irish tenants would go in for general repudiation of the bargains into which they are to enter if this Bill passes into law? Now may I elaborate that point a little; and here let me refer to what occurred in 1881. Then there was a no rent campaign

carried on by the whole force of a great organisation, but was there any general repudiation then? In 1887 there was the Plan of Campaign, as it was called, supported, though not at first, but after a short time, by the whole of the popular Irish Party. Was there then a general repudiation of rents on the part of the Irish tenants? There was no general repudiation; there was repudiation in some parts of the country, or rather it was not a repudiation: it was a case of saying "only such and such a proportion of the rent will be paid." But was it universal? No. We know that the number of Plan of Campaign estates was something under twenty—thirteen or fourteen, I think, was the number—and the number of tenants evicted from those estates was so small that Irish Members have said that from the financial aspect the question of dealing with these is a mere bagatelle. In a time of great disorder, in a time when the climatic conditions were adverse to Irish industry, at a time when the whole country was roused from end to end with agitation to bring about a general repudiation of bargains objected to, the repudiation was sporadic and insignificant. And now, when the whole people of Ireland, when landlords and tenants, when their representatives on both sides have affirmed what is matter of notoriety, that there is anxious desire to keep up punctual payment under the purchase clauses, I am asked to believe that is possible which all the forces of disorder and of nature arrayed together failed to bring about, a general repudiation of rent. But it is said there is the question of partial failure. Our best security, apart from material security, is our moral security in the desire of the Irish people to become a peasant proprietary, their willingness to make sacrifices for this purpose; and the fact that any one who evaded his responsibility would be regarded not as an object of sympathy but as an enemy of his fellows. But there are other material assets. There is the value of the land. Well, I am told if there is general failure that would be worth nothing. But there are two interests in the land, the landlords' interest and the tenants' interest; it is

the landlords' interest we propose to purchase. For the tenants' interest forty-seven years purchase was given throughout the whole of the Mercers estate the other day; and does anybody believe that, with land hunger creating such a price, the asset of a vacant holding, to which no odium of eviction attached, would not command a price in the market which, I believe, is even dangerously high? If time admitted I should like to correct an impression which may have been created by the hon. Member for King's Lynn by his reading of every reservation he could find in Mr. Bailey's report on the results of land purchase. But that report declares that purchased holdings are largely improved in all parts of Ireland, that new buildings are springing up, and the condition of the houses on the purchased estates shows a marked improvement from what they were before purchase. And these houses and buildings will be material assets in the guarantee fund. It is noted that, far from there having been improvident borrowing, the gombeen man, the usurer, has had to "fold his tent like the Arab and silently steal away." Finally, I would commend to Members for English constituencies, who are racked with anxiety as to our security, the page of the report where it is said that political unrest, which frequently prevailed before the tenants became purchasers, has disappeared, and that their intelligent activities are mainly turned in a direction which they think will materially improve their environment. A letter from a leading solicitor was to the effect that where purchase has been general there is not discontent or agitation, but almost what may be called political lethargy. I have seen a letter written by one who might be called an agitator—at any rate one who has taken great interest in political movements in Ireland—in which he complains of the ingratitude of those who, since they had bought their holding, would not subscribe a sixpence to any political body at all. I have personal knowledge of another

event of a somewhat similar kind. It so happened that a speaker wished to hold a meeting upon a holding about which there had been trouble, and which happened to have a belt of purchased holdings all round. The speakers had to be imported, and what I wish the House to take from me is that the audience had to be imported too. There is not a man who had purchased his holding who would have walked 200 yards to listen to a speech from Demosthenes.

Let me pass to the second line of security. The moral desire of the whole of Ireland to support this system is, in my opinion, the real security in this case. Let me pass to the second line of security—to the cash security. Hon. Members who have criticised the Bill have spoken as if the security could not be enforced without stopping the local administrative work for which the money is required. The Exchequer contribution from this country to Ireland amounts to more than £3,000,000 in any one year. But that does not all go to the lunatic asylum, or the payment of the school teacher. The guarantee fund is divided into two portions—a cash portion and a contingent portion. The cash portion is money which is immediately available. Out of the guarantee fund the total amount of the cash portion would cover advances amounting to £35,776,000. Therefore, you have got to assume failure or repudiation covering an advance of £35,000,000 before you come to your lunatics, education, and the rest of it. That can be got out of money which is there for very desirable purposes, I admit, but for purposes which frequently are not yet sufficiently mature to warrant the expenditure of that money, because, taking the existing guarantee fund without the new additions that have been made to it, and taking the cash portion of that fund, I find that we have balances in hand of £78,670. There is no claim at all for them. The total balances in hand that you can use to-morrow, which

cannot be allocated to any of the purposes for which they exist, amount to £173,000. What has been our experience in the past? Seventy-three thousand purchasers have completed their bargains. They pay regularly to the State £840,000 a year. The question of punctuality arises. There was a sum of £8,000 not paid on the very day. Of that sum £5,000 has been paid within six weeks. Among the 73,000 purchasers only three are eighteen months' late. In twelve years of transactions of that volume there have only been two irrecoverable debts. Is it not fantastic to impeach the security of this operation? I do not know as much as some hon. Members do about business; but I should suppose that a great firm which collected £840,000 a year from its customers, and found only £8,000 of arrears during some six or seven weeks, with only three of its customers eighteen months late in their payments, and two irrecoverable debts in connection with transactions involving £25,000,000, would be quite prepared to go into the market. Those who have suggested that this is a risky financial operation would tumble over one another to buy the ordinary shares of such a company. That is not all. We are asked to believe that the Irish tenant purchaser will select this operation of land purchase in order to illustrate his dislike of the Union by a general repudiation. Why should he? An hon. Member referred to the fact that we collect a great many millions of taxation in Ireland. Let me take other loans. The total of loans quite irrespective of land purchase, of advances for certain purposes, drainage schemes, and so forth, on the security of land, is £9,940,000. That is for the last half century. I am not taking into account, for I wish to be perfectly fair, sums

Mr. Wyndham.

that we remitted, four millions odd of famine loan which were remitted, and properly remitted. Someone has spoken of our generosity in remitting that loan. It was explicitly remitted as a set-off to the imposition of Income Tax in Ireland. I thought it right to tell hon. Members for English constituencies that nearly £5,000,000 was written off for the famine loan and more than £1,000,000 in respect of some drainage schemes which failed to achieve the objects for which they were undertaken. But, if I except these remissions, the amount written off, not remitted, and never collected on that £10,000,000, is only £40,000. Then we take advances on the rates. Hon. Members seem to think it is fantastic for a Unionist Government to lend money to Ireland. Why, our great claim and vindication of the Union is that the credit of the common Exchequer is available for every part of the United Kingdom. And, as a matter of fact, in every year we lend in Ireland, on the security of the rates, quite apart from land purchase, more than half a million of money. Last year we lent £520,000. That was a year when, my right hon. friend would tell us, there was not much money to spare; and in other years the amount has often been £600,000. The total outstanding amount to be repaid on these loans was on March 31st of last year nearly £5,000,000, and the arrears were £1,100. Well, if Irishmen are going to repudiate their debts as a protest in order to enforce constitutional views on which we differ, why are they to begin on these land purchase loans, which are dear to everybody in Ireland, when they pay up on the nail in respect of £500,000 a year? Let me take another illustration. Hon.

Members were shocked to find how much money was lent to Ireland. For seed potato loans, made in time of dire distress—loans made to the poorest people and people on the very edge of starvation—£863,000 has been advanced. Every penny has been paid back, with the exception of £10,000, or less than $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.; and the whole of that default is accounted for by people who died of starvation or left the country. I find that I have been led away to speak at far greater length than I had intended [Cries of "No."] upon the financial aspects of this Bill; but almost every one in this House has spoken in favour of the Second Reading of the Bill, and every representative of Ireland has spoken in favour of the Second Reading. The Leader of the Opposition and the right hon. Baronet the Member for Berwick in a notable speech—all have spoken in favour of the Second Reading. If that is so, was it not my duty to dwell rather upon the only objection which, in my own mind, can legitimately be raised against reading such a Bill a second time now—the objection that this is not the moment which any Government would willingly have chosen for adding to the credit obligation or the cash obligation of this country? I admit that that objection may be raised; and I have thought that the best way to answer it was to insist, in the first place, on the marked and signal character of the occasion in Ireland, and, in the second place, on the security, the moral, material, and financial security, which, in my opinion, makes such an operation not only legitimate, but eminently desirable at such a moment as this.

I have but seventeen minutes left in which to speak. I had hoped to deal with the points which have been raised in the course of this debate. I do not

minimise the importance of those points, and I am repeating what I said at the outset if I say that they are Committee points. That is to say, they are points which must be carefully discussed, and upon which, for my own part, I would not for the world offer a decisive opinion to-night until I have heard all that can be urged. Time, certainly, does not admit of my dealing with those points now. I have them very present to my mind. The question of prices, the limitation, particularly of the reduction, the question of the evicted tenants, the question of dealing with congestion, and the question of either dealing adequately with the labourers or else excluding that section from this Bill and bringing in another—all those points are present to my mind. I have weighed carefully all that has been said; and I do not despair of this Bill going through the House of Commons without any damage being inflicted, not only upon the Bill but upon the consequences that we can anticipate from its passage in Ireland. But the occasion which alone justifies our bringing in this Bill does consist in the peace which has been made between the two parties in Ireland. It can only be maintained if the spirit which actuated the representatives of the landlords and the tenants at the Dunraven Conference is also maintained during the whole course of our debates in Committee. I hope hon. Members will not think that I have designedly evaded discussion of these points. I wish I could speak for another hour, and I should be prepared to go into every one of them; but I want the latitude of Committee discussion in order to bring them to a proper issue, and in order to say exactly what we feel. But let me say this. If the conclusions at which we have arrived

on any of these points seem from any point of view to be illogical or inadequate, I would beg hon. Members who are conversant with this question to accept it from me that we have arrived at those decisions in view of three considerations which we hold to be essential. We must deal adequately with congestion in Ireland and non-economic holdings. We must avoid in the future the delay and the cost which attaches to judicial or quasi-judicial procedure. And we must have regard to the obligations, whether of cash or of credit, which are placed on the general taxpayer. Those three conditions to a certain extent must modify an ideal solution of any one of the many complicated features of this problem. But I see nothing in those three conditions which forces me to say now that I anticipate any risk to the passage of this Bill, or any risk to the continuation in Ireland after this Bill has been passed of the good feeling which has been evinced at the Land Conference and during the last three months in that country. We are not so arrogant as to claim that we have arrived in every case at an ideal solution; and I do say honestly and candidly, and without mental reservation of any kind or description, that I shall discuss the first clause in counsel with hon. Members representing all the interests of this House, and not with any predetermined view to pass it in the shape in which it is now. But more than that I cannot say. I could not discuss the five great points raised by the hon. and learned Member, re-echoed by the hon. Member for East Mayo, supported in almost every speech to which we have listened, without speaking at very

Mr. Wyndham.

great length. If I attempted to be short I should mislead the House, and I should defeat the very object which I have at heart, which is that the great occasion which has happened in Ireland should not be lost.

In bringing in a Bill of this magnitude, a Bill which imposes a great obligation on the credit of the Empire, and which imposes a considerable burden on the taxpayers, I am deeply sensible of the kind of criticism to which any attempt to pass remedial legislation for Ireland is always exposed. We are asked whether this will settle the Irish land question. We are taunted with inconsistencies. It is pointed out by some that less than a year ago there was trouble in Ireland, although now there is peace, and that we who then felt it our duty to take steps to vindicate the law are now coming forward to assist some, at any rate, of the objects which were aimed at by those who broke the law. Well, that is a common phase of Irish politics. If hon. Members would take the situation in Ireland as it is, there would be no need to rake up the bitter histories of the past. But they do not take it as it is. Speech after speech was made by hon. and learned Members on the opposite side, which, if they had any meaning at all, meant that the agrarian situation in Ireland is precisely on all fours with the agrarian situation in England—which meant, I suppose, that the history of Ireland is analogous to the history of England. Well, I do not wish to go at great length into the past. We, as in the case of every country in Europe, have had our ages of warfare, dynastic and religious; but is there any country in Europe, save and except Ireland, which has been ravaged without intermission for century after century by dynastic and religious

war? Those wars ended with the Treaty of Limerick towards the end of the seventeenth century, and two sinister heritages were bequeathed—the Catholic question, as it is called, and the Land Question, as we now call it. When I listened to some of the arguments which have been urged against this Bill, some of the gibes and taunts which have been thrown against the Government for bringing it in, there arose melancholy reflections. It was but a hundred years ago that the Catholic question, as it was called, the claim that Irish Catholics should have equal civil and political rights, was the term in which the Irish Question was discussed, when Tory statesman after Tory statesman claimed the right to denounce the Catholic Association, claimed the right to proclaim it, claimed the right to prosecute and imprison those who in the cause of the Catholic claims were guilty of what are, in our opinion, crimes against the law. Yet those Tory statesmen at the same time, some of them, urged that there must be political and civil equality between the Catholics and Protestants in Ireland. And now it is the land. We are asked, “Will you settle the Land Question, will you settle the Irish Question? Sir, I do not know. I have my own view, which may differ from that of the hon. and learned Member for Waterford; but of this I am certain, that, just as we had to settle the Catholic question, so we have to settle the Land Question; and till both those questions, left over at the end of the long period of civil war in Ireland, have been settled there can be no settlement of the Irish question. How long are we to be about it? At the beginning and during the first quarter of the last-

century the Catholic question was debated; it took thirty years. There was an excuse; the answer, given with great force by apologists, pointed to the illness of an aged Sovereign, and to popular passion; and no one can honestly say that equal civil and political rights could have been given much sooner than the date at which those rights were given. We, also, on both sides of the House, since the year 1870, have been trying our hands at the land question, and the same arguments are used. The question will be the same, the verdict will be the same. History will ask—Why did not you do it thirty years before?” We shall have our answer. We shall point to the divisions and the sharp animosities which have rent and poisoned social life in Ireland, and the misgivings which these divisions and these animosities have, not unnaturally, aroused in English minds here. But after this year, after 1903, after the memorable months through which we have passed, after the occasion offered by the Land Conference, apologists for British statesmen in this respect will seek in vain for defence, explanation, or excuse. They will see that the divisions are closing up, that for the social venom an antidote has been found in the general good feeling and in the unity of purpose actuating all by the hope that they may increase the prosperity of their common native land. In view of all these conditions, un hoped for but decisive, the load of responsibility will be heavy upon the head of any man who through timidity or callousness or an undue insistence upon some one feature of this many-faceted problem tries to impair an opportunity, pregnant, as in my conscience I believe it to be, with the best

possibilities for that portion of the United Kingdom from which hope and enterprise, the child of hope, have been banished for so long.

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 443 ; Noes, 26. (Division List No. 76.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (*Cork, N.E.*)
 Abraham, William (*Rhondda*)
 Allhusen, Aug. Henry Eden
 Ambrose, Robert
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Arkwright, John Stanhope
 Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
 Arrol, Sir William
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
 Atherley-Jones, L.
 Atkinson, Right Hon. John
 Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
 Austin, Sir John
 Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
 Bailey, James (*Walsworth*)
 Bain, Colonel James Robert
 Baird, John George Alexander
 Balcarres, Lord
 Baldwin, Alfred
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Man'r*)
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*)
 Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch.*)
 Barran, Rowland First
 Barry, E. (*Cork, S.*)
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.
 Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
 Beckett, Ernest William
 Bell, Richard
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Bhowanagree, Sir M. M.
 Bignold, Arthur
 Bigwood, James
 Bill, Charles
 Blake, Edward
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Boland, John
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
 Bowles, Lt.-Col. H. F. (*Middlesex*)
 Brassey, Albert
 Brigg, John
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brotherton, Edward Allen
 Brown, George M. (*Edinburgh*)
 Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Brymer, William Ernest
 Burdett-Coutts, W.
 Burke, E. Haviland-
 Burns, John
 Burt, Thomas
 Butcher, John George
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Robert
 Campbell, J. H. M. (*Dublin Univ.*)
 Campbell, John (*Armagh, S.*)
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Carew, James Lawrence
 Carlile, William Walter
 Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
 Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
 Causton, Richard Knight

Cautley, Henry Strother
 Cavendish, R. F. (*N. Lincs.*)
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbysh.*)
 Cawley, Frederick
 Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (*Birm*)
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A. (*Worc*)
 Chaplin, Right Hon. Henry
 Chapman, Edward
 Charrington, Spencer
 Churchill, Winston Spencer
 Clancy, John Joseph
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Clive, Captain Percy A.
 Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
 Cogan, Denis J.
 Collings, Right Hon. Jesse
 Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Condon, Thomas Joseph
 Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
 Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
 Craig, Charles C. (*Antrim, S.*)
 Craig, Robert Hunter (*Lanark*)
 Cranborne, Lord
 Crean, Eugene
 Cremer, William Randal
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Crombie, John William
 Cross, H. Shepherd (*Bolton*)
 Crossley, Sir Savile
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Cullinan, J.
 Cust, Henry John C.
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Davenport, William Bromley-
 Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
 Davies, Sir Horatio D. (*Chatham*)
 Delany, William
 Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (*Galway*)
 Dewar, John A. (*Inverness-sh.*)
 Dewar, Sir T. R. (*Tr. Ham'ts*)
 Dickinson, Robert Edmond
 Dickson, Charles Scott
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir J. E.
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
 Doxford, Sir William Theodore
 Duffy, William J.
 Duke, Henry Edward
 Duncan, J. Hastings
 Dunn, Sir William
 Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
 Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Emmott, Alfred

Esmonde, Sir Thomas
 Evans, Sir Francis H. (*Maidstone*)
 Faber, Edmund B. (*Hants, W.*)
 Faber, George Denison (*York*)
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Fenwick, Charles
 Ferguson, R. C. Munro (*Leith*)
 Ffrench, Peter
 Field, William
 Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
 Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
 Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Flavin, Michael Joseph
 Flower, Ernest
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Forster, Henry William
 Foster, Sir Michael (*Lond. Univ.*)
 Foster, P. S. (*Warwick, S.W.*)
 Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Fuller, J. M. F.
 Fyler, John Arthur
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Gardner, Ernest
 Garfit, William
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (*City of Lond*)
 Gilhooly, James
 Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
 Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
 Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nairn*)
 Gordon, J. (*Londonderry, S.*)
 Gordon, Maj. Evans- (*Tr. Ham'ts*)
 Gore, Hn. G. R. C. Ormsby (*Salop*)
 Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby- (*Lincs.*)
 Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Greene, Hy. D. (*Shrewsbury*)
 Grenfell, William Henry
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E. (*Berwick*)
 Groves, James Grimble
 Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
 Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
 Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
 Hall, Edward Marshall
 Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
 Hamilton Rt. Hn. Lord G. (*Midd'x*)
 Hamilton, Marq. of (*Londondy*)
 Hammond, John
 Hardie, J. Keir (*Merthyr Tyd*)
 Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashfd*)
 Harmsworth, R. Leicester
 Harrington, Timothy
 Harris, Frederick Leverton
 Harwood, George
 Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
 Haslett, Sir James Horner
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick G.
 Hay, Hon. Claude George
 Hayden, John Patrick

Mr. Wyndham.

Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
 Healy, Timothy Michael
 Heath, Arthur H. (*Hanley*)
 Heath, James (*Staffs., N. W.*)
 Helder, Augustus
 Helme, Norval Watson
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
 Henderson, Sir Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
 Hoare, Sir Samuel
 Hobhouse, Rt. Hon. H. (*Somerset*)
 Hope, John Deans (*Fife, West*)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Houlth, Joseph
 Houston, Robert Paterson
 Howard, J. (*Kent, Faversham*)
 Hudson, George Bickersteth
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (*Morley*)
 Hutton, John (*Yorks., N. E.*)
 Jameson, Major J. Eustace
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred
 Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
 Jones, David B. (*Swansea*)
 Jones, Wm. (*Carnarvonshire*)
 Jordan, Jeremiah
 Joyce, Michael
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kemp, Lieut.-Colonel George
 Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
 Kennedy, Patrick James
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*)
 Keswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Knowles, Lees
 Lambton, Hon. Fredk. Wm.
 Law, Hugh Alex. (*Donegal, W.*)
 Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks. N.E.*)
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Leamy, Edward
 Lees, Sir Elliot (*Birkenhead*)
 Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
 Leigh, Sir Joseph
 Leng, Sir John
 Levy, Maurice
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Llewellyn, Evan Henry
 Lockie, John
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Chas. W. (*Evesham*)
 Long, Rt. Hon. W. (*Bristol, S.*)
 Lough, Thomas
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowther, C. (*Cumb. Eskdale*)
 Lucas, Reg'd J. (*Portsmouth*)
 London, W.
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Macdona, John Cumming
 MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
 MacIver, David (*Liverpool*)
 Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 Maconochie, A. W.
 MacVeagh, Jeremiah
 M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
 M'Calmont, Colonel James
 M'Fadden, Edward
 M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W.*)
 M'Kean, John
 M'Killop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)

M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
 M'Laren, Sir Charles Benj.
 Manners, Lord Cecil
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Mather, Sir William
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Meysie-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Middlemore, John Throgmorton
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Minch, Matthew
 Mitchell, Edw. (*Fermanagh, N.*)
 Mitchell, William (*Burnley*)
 Molesworth, Sir Lewis
 Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
 Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (*Hants.*)
 Mooney, John J.
 More, Robt. Jasper (*Shropshire*)
 Morgan, David J. (*Walshamst w*)
 Morley, Charles (*Breconshire*)
 Morley, Rt. Hon. John (*Montrose*)
 Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
 Moss, Samuel
 Mount, William Arthur
 Muntz, Sir Philip A.
 Murphy, John
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (*Bute*)
 Murray, Chas. J. (*Coventry*)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
 Nannetti, Joseph P.
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Nolan, Col. John P. (*Galway N.*)
 Nolan, Joseph (*Louth, S.*)
 Norman, Henry
 O'Brien, James F. X. (*Cork*)
 O'Brien, K. (*Tipperary, Mid*)
 O'Brien, Patrick (*Kilkenny*)
 O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)
 O'Brien, William (*Cork*)
 O'Connor, Jas. (*Wicklow, W.*)
 O'Connor, T. P. (*Liverpool*)
 O'Doherty, William
 O'Donnell, John (*Mayo, S.*)
 O'Donnell, T. (*Kerry, W.*)
 O'Dowd, John
 O'Kelly, Conor (*Mayo, N.*)
 O'Kelly, J. (*Roscommon, N.*)
 O'Malley, William
 O'Mara, James
 O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
 O'Shee, James John
 Palmer, Walter (*Salisbury*)
 Partington, Oswald
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
 Peel, Hn. Wm. R. Wellesley
 Pemberton, John S. G.
 Percy, Earl
 Perks, Robert William
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Pretzman, Ernest George
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
 Randles, John S.
 Rattigan, Sir William Henry
 Reddy, M.
 Redmond, Jn. E. (*Waterford*)
 Redmond, William (*Glare*)
 Reid, James (*Greenock*)
 Reid, Sir R. Threshie (*Dumfries*)

Remnant, James Farquharson
 Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
 Renwick, George
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
 Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
 Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
 Roche, John
 Roe, Sir Thomas
 Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
 Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
 Rose, Charles Day
 Rothschild, Hon. L. Walter
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Runciman, Walter
 Russell, T. W.
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
 Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
 Samuel, Harry S. (*Lincoln*)
 Samuel, Herbt. L. (*Cleveland*)
 Samuel, S. M. (*Whitechapel*)
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Scott, Sir S. (*Marplebone, W.*)
 Seely, Charles Hilton (*Lincoln*)
 Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (*Isle of Wight*)
 Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
 Shackleton, David James
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Shaw, Thomas (*Hawick, B.*)
 Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*)
 Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
 Shipman, Dr. John G.
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
 Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Sloan, Thomas Henry
 Smith, H. C. (*Northum. Tyneside*)
 Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks*)
 Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Spear, John Ward
 Spencer, Rt. Hon. C. R. (*Nothants*)
 Stanley, Edward Jas. (*Somerset*)
 Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
 Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Stroyan, John
 Sturt, Hn. Humphrey Napier
 Sullivan, Donal
 Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
 Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (*Oxford Univ.*)
 Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
 Taylor, Theo. C. (*Radcliffe*)
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, Sir A. (*Glam., E.*)
 Thomas, F. Freeman (*Hastings*)
 Thompson, Dr. E. C. (*Monagh n N*)
 Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomkinson, James
 Toulmin, George
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
 Ure, Alexander
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Sir Edgar (*Exeter*)
 Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir William H.
 Walton, J. Lawson (*Leeds, S.*)
 Walton, Joseph (*Barnsley*)
 Wanklyn, James Leslie

Warde, Colonel C. E.
 Wason, J. Cathcart (*Orkney*)
 Weir, James Galloway
 Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (*Taunton*)
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. J. Lloyd
 Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
 Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Colonel R. (*Dorset*)
 Wilson, F. W. (*Norfolk, Mid*)

Wilson, John (*Durham, Mid*)
 Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
 Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)
 Wilson-Todd, W. H. (*Yorks.*)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (*Bath*)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wood, James
 Worsley-Taylor, Hry. Wilson
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
 Wrightson, Sir Thomas

Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Yerburch, Robt. Armstrong
 Young, Samuel
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir Alexander Acland-
 Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allen, Charles P. (*Glouc., Stroud*)
 Banbury, Sir Frederick George
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Elibank, Master of
 Grant, Corrie
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
 Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristol, E*)

Lambert, George
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
 Mansfield, Horace Rendall
 Markham, Arthur Basil
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*)
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Philipps, John Wynford
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Reckitt, Harold James
 Robson, William Snowdon

Soares, Ernest J.
 Stanley, Hon. Arthur (*Ormskirk*)
 Strachey, Sir Edward
 Thomas, David Alfred (*Merthyr*)
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Coghill and Sir
 George Bartley.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed
 for Monday next.

SOUTH AFRICAN LOAN AND WAR CONTRIBUTION [GUARANTEE.]

Resolution reported, "That it is expedient to authorise the Treasury to guarantee on the security of the Consolidated Fund the interest of a loan to be raised by the Transvaal not exceeding in the aggregate an amount sufficient to raise thirty-five million pounds, and the principal of any such loan by means of the guarantee of Sinking Fund payments, and to provide for the application of any sums paid by the Transvaal or Orange River Colony in respect of expenses incurred in or incidental to the prosecution of the late war in South Africa."

Resolution agreed to.

Bill ordered to be brought in upon the said Resolution by the Chairman of Ways and Means, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Secretary Chamberlain, Sir Alexander Acland-Hood, and Mr. Arthur Elliot.

SOUTH AFRICAN LOAN AND WAR CONTRIBUTION BILL.

"To authorise the Treasury to guarantee the payment of a loan to be raised by the Transvaal, and to provide for the application of any sums paid by that Colony or the Orange River Colony towards the expenses incurred by His Majesty's Government in or incidental to the prosecution of the late War in South Africa," presented accordingly, and read the first time.

To be read a second time upon Tuesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 189.]

Adjourned at twenty minutes
 after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS

Friday, 8th May, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

South Lancashire Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Tramways Bill [H.L.]; North Cheshire Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Manchester Southern Tramways (Lancashire) Bill [H.L.]; Manchester Southern Tramways (Cheshire) Bill [H.L.]. Report from the Committee of Selection. That the Lord Carysfort (*E. Carysfort*) be proposed to the House as a member of the Select Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Lord Barrymore; read, and agreed to.

Sutton Coldfield Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Rickmansworth Gas Bill [H.L.]. Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Great Western Railway (Pension Fund) Bill; Dublin Improvement (Bull Alley Area) Bill. Read 3^a, and passed.

Great Central Railway Bill; London County Council (General Powers) Bill Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; and referred to the Examiners.

Queensland Investment and Land Mortgage Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments: The said Amendments considered, and agreed to.

PETITIONS.

DECLARATION OF THE SOVEREIGN AGAINST TRANSUBSTANTIATION.

Petition for abrogation of; of Roman Catholics residing in Southwark; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND.)

Report for the year 1902, by the Director, on the Edinburgh Museum of Science and Art.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS.

Report of proceedings as regards Ireland, for the year 1902.

TRADE.

Annual Statement of the trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions, 1902, compared with the four preceding years. Volume I.

SIGHT TESTS.

Report on the sight tests used in the mercantile marine, for the year ended 31st December, 1902, (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper [Cd. 1140.]).

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

No. 2969, China (Hankow); No. 2970, Turkey (Aleppo and Adana).

Presented [by Command] and ordered to lie on the Table.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP (SPECIAL EXCEPTION; NIGHT WORK).

Order, dated 4th May, 1903, made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in pursuance of section 54 (4) of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, amending and consolidating the Orders of the 16th November, 1895, and the 22nd August 1902, with regard to the employment at night of male young persons of the age of sixteen years and upwards; Laid before the House [pursuant to Act], and ordered to lie on the Table.

ARUNDEL POST.

Account and report for 1902-1903; Delivered [pursuant to Act], and ordered to lie on the Table.

OUT-DOOR RELIEF (FRIENDLY SOCIETIES) (No. 2) BILL, 1900.

Report made to the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, dated 13th February, 1900, on the Out-door Relief (Friendly Societies) (No. 2) Bill, 1900: Ordered to be laid before the House—(*The Earl of Morley*, for the *Earl of Northbrook*).

NEW BILLS.

MUSICAL COPYRIGHT BILL [H.L.]

A Bill to amend the law relating to Musical Copyright—Was presented by the Earl of Lytton; read 1^a; and to be printed. (No. 59.)

BISHOPRIC OF BRISTOL BILL [H.L.]

House in Committee (according to Order): Bill reported without Amendment: Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3^a on Monday next.

PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN (AMENDMENT) BILL [H.L.]

Report from the Select Committee (with Proceedings of the Committee), made, and to be printed (No. 57.) Bill reported with Amendments; and committed to a Committee of the Whole House; and to be printed as amended. (No. 58.)

NAVAL TRAINING.

*THE EARL OF GLASGOW, who had given notice "to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty if steps have been taken to ascertain the general opinion held in the American Navy as to the success or otherwise of the system now in use in that service for the training of young naval officers, which system is very similar to that set forth in the Memorandum presented by the First Lord to both Houses of Parliament in December last; and, if such report exists, whether he would lay it on the Table," said: My Lords, I put the Question standing in my name on the Paper, with the object of drawing attention to the new naval training scheme published in the Memorandum of December last. I did not do so without giving the noble Lord private notice of my intention, and as he very kindly assured me that nothing would give him greater pleasure than a debate on the subject, and that he welcomed criticism, I was encouraged to persevere in what I felt to be a very difficult task. To criticise adversely a scheme which has been brought out under the auspices of the noble Lord, which has had such an enthusiastic welcome from the public Press headed by *The Times*, and which has at least the tacit approval of the country, not to speak of the support of a majority in another place, is to speak under great disadvantages, more

especially as it is plain that nothing will now prevent the Admiralty from going on with the scheme. Still, as it is confessedly a tentative one, I am not without hope that this discussion may lead to some modification.

Having the honour of being President of the Institution of Naval Architects, I feel that I should announce that I am speaking to-day simply in my own private capacity and not as a member of that institution. I shall speak as one who has the welfare of the service in which he spent the best years of his life at heart, and who gives his views because he knows that they are also the views of the great majority of the executive officers on the Active List of position and experience, whose lips are closed by their loyalty to their chiefs, and who are thus debarred from making their views known. The new training scheme is to come into operation at midsummer, and I wish to point out that the Memorandum does not allege any real necessity for making such a momentous alteration in naval training. One would have thought that we would have been told what are the shortcomings in the old mode of training, but from beginning to end not one word is to be found hinting at any fault with existing methods. It lays stress, indeed, upon more naval engineering knowledge being necessary for the future executive officers, but there is not even an attempt to prove that this cannot be gained under the present system. Yet the careers of the future young officers of the service are flung into the melting pot with a spirit of cheerful optimism which is truly wonderful. The only approach to a reason is to be found in the following paragraph—

"The strength which its unity gives to the service can hardly be over-estimated, yet in respect of this very matter a strangely anomalous condition of affairs exists. The executive, the engineer, and the marine officers are all necessary for the efficiency of the Fleet; they all have to serve side by side throughout their career; their unity of sentiment is essential to the welfare of the Navy; yet they all enter the service under different regulations, and they have nothing in common in their early training. The result is that the executive officer, unless he is a gunnery or a torpedo specialist, has been taught but a limited amount of engineering, although the ship on which he serves is one huge box of engines; that the engineer officer has never had any training in executive duties; that from lack of early sea training the Marine officer is

compelled, sorely against his will, to remain comparatively idle on board ship when every one else is full of work; and that the spirit of unity has not yet been carried to its full development."

I submit that this sentence lays itself largely open to criticism. I do not quite see where the unity of the service comes in. Did it ever possess this quality, and, if so, when did it disappear? I will only say that during my service at sea I never heard about "unity," and, what is more, I do not think we would have heard anything about it now if it had not been for the desire to weld the executive officers, the engineers, and the marine officers into "one harmonious whole." No, my Lords, unity was never heard of in those days. "Duty" was, and is still, the watchword of the Navy. Devotion to duty produced efficiency: what unity is expected to do I, for one, do not know. This is the only sentence in the Memorandum which can be called any approach to a reason for the new training scheme. What has led to the issue of this Memorandum? The Admiralty have for years been straining every nerve to increase the *personnel* in proportion to the enormous increase of late years in *matériel*, and it says volumes for the energy and ability of their Lordships that they have been so far successful. They have been yearly adding to our Naval forces, which fifteen years ago only amounted to 60,000 men, until they now amount to, I think, 127,000, and this year I understand provision is being made in the Estimates for 4,500 more. I regret to say that it has been no secret that among a section of the engineers of the Navy there has been discontent for some time past. As the great increase of officers and men of all ranks took place, the Admiralty's difficulty in getting the number of engineers required became the opportunity of the malcontents. I believe they then began an agitation, if it had not been started before, which was carried on outside their own body, and they succeeded in enlisting the sympathies of several very distinguished members of some of the great engineering institutions, and other prominent men. The result was that on July 16th, 1901, a deputation of these gentlemen waited on the First Lord of the Admiralty to lay before him the alleged grievances of the naval engineers. According to the Press reports of the interview the noble Earl did not appear to be much impressed by what he heard,

and, as far as I am aware, nothing further was made public on the question until the issue, in December, 1902, of the Memorandum dealing with the entry, training, and employment of officers and men of the Royal Navy and of the Royal Marines. Can it be that the deputation of 1901 and the Memorandum of 1902 stand to each other in the relative positions of cause and effect?

Why have I made this statement to your Lordships? It is not because the engineers have got nearly all they asked for, and probably more than they expected, but because this new training scheme appears to be drawn up to some extent in their interests, and in such a manner as to affect the future combatant officers. Your Lordships will also observe that while the engineers laid their grievances, through their friends, before the First Lord of the Admiralty, the opinion of the executive officers has not, as far as I am aware, been ascertained. It is possible that some officers have been consulted, but it is certain that many most distinguished officers—the very heads of the profession—upon whose opinion the country sets a high value, have never been consulted, and although the noble Lord has every right, by virtue of his high office, to act without consulting anyone, yet I do submit that upon an occasion of such transcendent importance, when a step is being taken which will affect for good or evil the future well-being of the Navy—a step the future success of which is most problematical—the noble Lord might well have taken into his counsels those eminent naval officers whose whole lives have been spent in the service, whose devotion to it is well known, and whose opinions could not fail to have the very greatest weight.

I must now refer to the Memorandum, to which it is difficult to do justice within a small compass. Let me first allude to those parts of it on which all are agreed. First, the return to the early age of twelve to thirteen for entry as a cadet. I think this alteration is absolutely necessary. There is so much to learn that it is felt that the sooner the boys begin the better. The other parts which are generally approved are those dealing with the training of warrant officers, petty officers and men, and also that dealing with promotion to lieutenants from warrant rank. I also approve of

the idea of utilising the services of marine officers on board ship to a larger extent than has been the custom hitherto. These are the only portions of the Memorandum, I am sorry to say, which appear to me to merit unqualified approval. The introduction to the Memorandum gives a brief sketch of the changes which have taken place in the Navy since early times, emphasising the necessity for the executive officers of the present day possessing a more extensive knowledge of naval engines, machinery, and engineering than has hitherto been the case, as to the propriety of which there cannot be two opinions. I will now read the first paragraph under the head of "New Scheme—

"It has been decided that henceforth—

"1. All Officers for the Executive and Engineer branches of the Navy and for the Royal Marines shall enter the service as Naval Cadets under exactly the same conditions between the ages of twelve and thirteen.

"8. That these Cadets shall all be trained on exactly the same system until they shall have passed for the rank of Sub-Lieutenant between the ages of nineteen and twenty.

"3. That at about the age of twenty these Sub-Lieutenants shall be distributed between the three branches of the service which are essential to the fighting efficiency of the Fleet—the Executive, the Engineer, and the Marine,

"The result aimed at is, to a certain point community of knowledge and lifelong community of sentiment. The only machinery which can produce this result is early companionship and community of instruction. These opportunities will be secured by a policy of—

"One System of Supply.

"One System of Entry.

"One System of Training."

These sentences place the scheme in a very attractive light, and I read them in order that you may be reminded of the scope of the proposals. Without going into details, I will just point out that for the first four years the cadets are to be trained at the naval college, and that they then go to sea to keep watch on deck, all three branches, for the next three years. At the end of these seven years, when they have passed out of the college at Portsmouth as sub-lieutenants, their careers for the first time begin to diverge, and they will be posted to the Executive, the Engineers, or to the Royal Marines, and, as far as possible, will choose their own branch, subject to the provision that all branches are satisfactorily filled. It is from studying this

part of the Memorandum, dealing with the future training of the three different branches of young officers, that one observes how tentative the whole scheme is. And when we turn to the conclusion we for the first time notice its full significance—

"The cardinal feature of the scheme is the homogeneous training of Executive, Engineer, and Marine Officers. The policy of the Board is to create a body of young officers who at the moment of mobilisation for war will be equally available for all the general duties of the Fleet and to consolidate into one harmonious whole the fighting officers of the Navy."

So we now see that this system of possible interchangeability of officers from one to the other is the policy at which this Memorandum aims.

My Lords, the scheme stands condemned, in my mind, because it is directly contrary to the verdict of modern experience, which desiderates specialists in every branch of scientific work. Yet it is proposed that, after specialising our young officers, we are to expect them to be able to take up any one of three different branches of naval duties, at the shortest notice, and to perform them equally well. Has any one of our great steamship companies ever dreamed of making their captains and chief engineers, their deck officers and engineers interchangeable? I lately put that question to the chairman of one great Transatlantic company, and he replied very shortly to the effect that the idea was fundamentally absurd. And yet that is the idea underlying the naval training scheme. With regard to the specialisation of young officers, the Memorandum proposes to allow them to choose their particular branch of the service so long as they are all satisfactorily filled. But will not this be what will take place? When they have passed for sub-lieutenants, will not the Admiralty take those who have passed the best examinations into the Executive line? I know that it has been answered that so many names are down for nominations that the Admiralty are not prepared to take any who are not willing to join any branch to which they are posted. But if those who pass best are chosen for the Executive branch, which will be doubtless the most popular, will it tend to give able engineers and Marines? Of course, I am

The Earl of Glasgow.

well aware that many will wish to join those branches from the first, but I can also understand young officers going into them against their will, and, if so, they would then be anxious to leave the service. I know that it is intended to allow young officers to choose their line if possible, but suppose all the branches are not satisfactorily filled? I cannot help thinking that if this part of the scheme is persevered in the Admiralty are laying up a very unpleasant future for themselves and their successors.

Now that I have shown what the Memorandum means, I ask—Did I exaggerate when I said a few minutes ago that the subject is one of the most transcendent importance? Am I using inappropriate language when I call it a most unfortunate proposal? My Lords, I believe the general opinion in the service about the new training scheme coincides with my own. I think, in the first place, that it is unnecessary in the interests of the service. In the second place, I think that it will not be workable; and, thirdly, if it does prove to be workable, I think that the result will be less efficient officers of all three branches than we have at present. Up till the present time we have had a sound system of training in the Navy which has produced our present admirable officers, and which only wants a little development from time to time as may be found necessary. For instance, now that the First Lord of the Admiralty has decreed the extinction of masts, yards, and sails in the service, the cadets' seamanship studies have approached the vanishing point, and they will have a little spare time to devote to attaining a greater knowledge of engineering, engines, and machinery, which is very necessary, and nothing more is required, in the interests of the service. What is most strongly objected to is the interchangeability of officers, the possibility of which pervades the Memorandum. It is felt strongly that the attempt to educate officers to such a pitch that they will be expected to be equally proficient in duties on deck and in the engine room cannot succeed among the average cadets, and that to enforce it will not make for efficiency.

In a speech which the noble Lord made on March 17, at a banquet given by the Institute of Civil Engineers, he laid it down that we can no longer

afford to divide our officers into what he called "watertight compartments." I confess I think the noble Lord's metaphor, on this occasion, was not a happy one. Watertight compartments are a source of strength and safety to a ship, and the abolition of them means at least a higher rate of insurance, if not disaster. I believe that, in the same way, interchangeability of officers—that is, the abolition of the watertight compartments which the noble Lord so desires—is an unnecessary and dangerous innovation, which might lead to want of efficiency. But there is another sort of watertight compartment which I do not think the noble Lord has taken into sufficient account. I allude to the head of the ordinary naval cadet. If all the future young officers in the Navy had the ability of the noble Earl, there would be no difficulty in carrying out the interchangeable scheme, but we must be guided by the average ability of the cadets, and the general conclusion is that average ability is not sufficient to make the scheme a workable one. You are going to enter a large number of lads into the Naval College between the ages of twelve and thirteen; you are then going to subject them to a thorough system of education; but, in my humble belief, you are expecting too much. The success or otherwise of the new proposals depends, not upon what the cleverest boys can do, but upon what the average boys are able to learn. With regard to what I have just said, let me quote from a letter written to me lately by a most distinguished officer, now retired, who has had much to do with naval education. He writes—

"As regards making the future lieutenant a sailor, soldier, and engineer all in one, no one who has learnt the holding capacity of a midshipman's head regards the thing as possible. I have no theories on such a subject. I know it is impossible. To know is one thing, to prove is another. The proof must be obtained by experience. Then it will be too late."

With regard to the Marines I think it unfortunate that they are included in this scheme. There are no finer troops under the Crown. They number 20,000 of the finest soldiers in the world. They are proud of their officers, and their officers of them. We do not hear that officers in the Army are ordered to learn

seamanship, or astronomy, or geology. It is considered that if they study their profession thoroughly they have a life's work before them. Why should Marine officers have different treatment? Simply because the Admiralty cannot leave well alone.

There is an excellent proposal in the Memorandum, however, that the services of the present Marine officers on board ship should be utilised to a greater extent than they are at present. But why should this not be the case with future Marine officers as well? They all go through a gunnery training and could be placed in charge of divisions of guns and be otherwise made useful on board. Just thirty-nine years ago I was first-lieutenant of a corvette which had no gunnery lieutenant, but there was a smart young lieutenant of Marine artillery on board. I asked the captain to assign to him the gunnery lieutenant's duties, which he performed all the time the ship was in commission with much pleasure to himself and to the entire satisfaction of the captain. Why it has not continued to be the custom since I do not know. The idea of utilising the services of the Marine officers on board ship meets with every one's approval, but to put a soldier to do a sailor's duty on deck does not find any favour. Formerly, in jest, Marines used to be called the amphibious corps, but now they will be said to be neither fish, flesh, nor good red herring. I hope this part of the scheme may yet be reconsidered, and the future Marine will then be able to study his own duties.

With regard to the future of the engineers' branch, it appears evident that what is contemplated is the gradual abolition of the engineers in the Navy as they are at present, and as they have been ever since there were engineers at all. I am afraid that the result of the agitation which has existed among a section of their number has been this—that they have engineered themselves out of the service. If that is so I greatly regret it. They have always been considered the finest specimens of their class in the world, but they will now vanish and their place will be taken by a new class, accepted in the first place by nomination, and educated from twelve up to nineteen with the executive branch

and the Marines. Whatever social class they may come from, I am afraid they will be the inferiors of the present officers in practical knowledge of their profession. They will, I understand, have more of a theoretical and less of a practical training. The result will be that the engine-room artificers and mechanics (who will be drawn from the same class as our present engineers come from) will be better practical workmen than their superior officers, which will be apt to produce friction. I admit that something may have been necessary to meet the engineers' claims; possibly the proposal to make them into a Royal corps, with their own designations. But it is, I think, a matter for regret that the designations or titles which were up till now indicative of the executive officers of a ship should now be used for a purpose for which they were not originally intended. Every one knew what the ranks of admiral, captain, commander, and lieutenant meant. The captain was the captain of the ship, the lieutenant was his deputy, and so on; now these titles are put to other uses. Time was when titles were given to indicate the duties of the holders, but now they appear to be given to conceal them. And now this concession is made to the engineers. I can only say that if I were an officer in either of those two fine professions, the medical or the engineers, I should be very unwilling to adopt a designation which might possibly confuse me with another branch of the service to which I did not belong.

My Lords, I am positively assured that a large majority of the engineers do not want this change in their titles. But what I do most particularly take exception to is what I must call the flagrant misuse of the rank and title of Rear-Admiral as now bestowed on chief inspectors of machinery. I have as much respect for those distinguished officers as anyone. I would like to see them receive as high relative rank as they may be found entitled to, and as much consideration as possible. But just conceive, my Lords, the title of Admiral—that glorious appellation which is inseparably connected in the mind of the country with the command of our squadrons and fleets, that title which is so bound up with all the glorious memories of the past, which our departed naval

heroes were proud to bear, and on which they bestowed such lustre—just conceive that title being bestowed upon the senior officers of any other class, no matter how meritorious, how distinguished! There is a good deal of allusion to sentiment and harmony in the noble Lord's Memorandum, but I hardly think a greater outrage on the traditions of the service could be devised than this.

I now leave this most painful and humiliating subject. Let me just put shortly what must always be the relative positions on board a man-of-war of the executive officers and the engineers, when on duty. The man on the bridge is the man who fights the ship; he controls the movements of the ship, and therefore of the man in charge of the engines. All the circumlocution in the world cannot alter that fact, and I am sure that no one knows it better than the engineers themselves. Yet I cannot help thinking that their friends may have pressed this interchangeable scheme on the Admiralty in the hope that it will improve their position by giving them sometimes the duty on the bridge. I feel quite certain that it will not work. If the terms insisted on by the friends of the engineers have brought about the momentous change contained in the Memorandum, then upon them all will fall the most tremendous responsibility that ever rested on any one, for it will not succeed, and if it does not succeed it will be the ruin of the service, unless it is modified. My argument is that it is practically impossible to have officers equally efficient on deck and in the engine-room. It is too much for the average lad to undertake. Whatever may be the future status of the engineer officer the combatant officer's position must be the highest, and the engineers will not be able to disguise that fact by annexing the combatant officers' titles.

I now ask leave to summarise very briefly the suggestions which I take the liberty of making to the noble Lord. The first is, that specialisation should take place when the cadets leave the Naval College after their four years course there, that the future deck officers should then go to sea for three years, the engineers to Keyham College, and the marine officers to the Naval College at Greenwich, as at present, for

the studies for which their previous training will have qualified them. It is believed that the three branches of young officers will find they will then have a full curriculum of study, amply sufficient to occupy them until they are ready to pass their next examination; and it is certain that if the young engineers do not begin the study of their own profession till they are nineteen they will never become engineers at all. Secondly, it is hoped that interchangeability will not be resorted to after they leave the Naval College. Thirdly, I think that it would be a distinct improvement to the scheme from the noble Lord's own point of view if the Marine officers were left out of it, after their training in the Naval College. I submit that the advice which, according to the Memorandum, Marine officers are to be authorised to give with respect to landing parties and operations on shore would be more valuable if it came from officers who were able to turn their whole attention to military subjects.

I have now come to the end of my criticism of the new Admiralty training scheme, and I can sincerely say that the more I study it the more I regret its introduction. I think that it is the most unfortunate proposal that has ever been made with respect to the Navy. It is not, and cannot come to, good. It is a gratuitous change called for by no one and satisfying none. It is tearing up by the roots the traditions of the service for I know not what doubtful benefit. It is like swapping tried horses for untried ones in a stream of which you cannot see the other side; it is quitting a sound, tried system of naval education which has been justified by experience for one of which you can only say that you do not know how it will turn out. The Navy has had to face many dangers during its history. The greatest, I think, were the mutinies off the Nore and at Spithead, which threatened for a brief time its very existence, and it was through the courage and conduct of the gallant officers then commanding our fleets that they were so thoroughly quelled, that, shortly after, the Battle of Camperdown was fought and won by the same brave seamen who had so lately been misled into rising against their officers. My Lords, is it possible that a more formidable

danger now menaces it? Can it be that in the future the naval authorities may have to fight against trades unionism? It will be an unhappy day for Great Britain if ever the amalgamated societies attempt to dictate to the heads of the naval and military services of the King. In making these remarks I must be allowed to say that nothing can be more painful to me than to have to question the propriety of any measure of the noble Lord, feeling as I do the highest admiration for the manner in which the Board of Admiralty is doing the rest of its great work, and I trust that nothing has fallen from me to which the noble Lord can take exception, though I may have said much with which he does not agree.

I now come to the Question of which I have given notice. As I do not expect that the noble Lord can lay on the Table the Papers I ask for, I may state that it is commonly reported that in the year 1900 the Admiral on the North American and West Indian stations sent to the Admiralty more than one report obtained by officers of the squadron as to the general opinion in the United States Navy of the results of the new training system in that service. I have not personally had communication with any of the officers who were concerned in the inquiry, but it is currently reported that in a large majority of cases, if not in all, the replies were unsatisfactory. It is said that the captains had no confidence in the young engineer lieutenants when on the bridge, and that the chief engineers had equally little confidence in the lieutenants sent down from the deck to the engine-room; and the opinion was expressed that the system tended to make "Jacks of all trades and masters of none" rather than competent officers. I have even heard, but I know not with what truth, that the American inventor of the scheme was no longer enamoured of it himself. The American scheme is not precisely similar to that of the Memorandum of December last. For one thing, the Marines are not included in it, but the general tendency is the same, and the object of each is, in the words of the noble Lord's Memorandum, to—

"Create a body of young officers who at the moment of mobilisation for war will be equally available for all the general duties of the Fleet."

The Earl of Glasgow.

The report of the Vice-Admiral in the West Indies was made three years ago, and I gave notice of this Question partly because it was possible that since that date the noble Lord might have heard more favourable reports of the working of the similar system in America, in which case he would be glad to have this opportunity of making the fact known. But from information which I have received lately I have learned that even those American officers who favour the new United States scheme admit that its success is not yet assured. If this is the case, there is all the more reason for profound astonishment that such an unprecedented and revolutionary system of training should be introduced into our naval service, on the efficiency of which depends the very existence of this country. My Lords, I thank you for the patience with which you have listened to me and I beg to ask the Question.

*EARL SPENCER, who also had a notice on the Paper to call attention to the Memorandum and to move for Papers, said:—My Lords, I think it would be for the convenience of the House if I, who have another notice on the same subject, should follow at once instead of allowing the First Lord of the Admiralty to make an immediate reply to the noble and gallant Earl. I have not had the experience in the Navy which the noble Earl who drew attention to this subject has had, and though I have had the honour of being at the head of the Admiralty Board, a considerable interval has since elapsed. I am, therefore, at a great disadvantage in following the noble Earl. I am afraid I was not able to follow conclusively all the arguments he used, and I shall leave it to the First Lord of the Admiralty to answer them. Though I cannot go the length of calling these changes a revolution, I do agree that they are of transcendent importance, and must have a great influence for good or evil on the Navy. I do not take the same view as the noble and gallant Earl. I think there is reason to change a great deal and to introduce a large number of reforms such as those which are included in the able Memorandum which came out on Christmas Day. Our Navy has never been under a rule that no

change should be made in its administration. The progress of science has made enormous changes in many departments of life, and especially in the Navy, yet the Navy to-day remains as efficient as it was 100 years ago. The reason is that Administrations and Boards of Admiralty one after another have not stood still but have kept up with the changes that are going on. I have seen it suggested that possibly the present changes have been brought about owing to trade unionism. But although trade unionism, in my experience, tried to interfere with the dockyard workmen, I never knew any interference of trade unionism with the complements of what were then Her Majesty's ships. I should hardly think that there has been any change in that respect. I know, however, that we are changing very much in this country in regard to the force of public opinion, and the feeling of independence which exists among every class; if there is a grievance it is at once taken up and agitated in the papers, considerable pressure may be brought to bear on the Admiralty, difficulties may ensue, and, what is far worse, real discontent may arise among the men and complements. I think the First Lord and his Board have dealt very comprehensively with many of these matters in a way which I think must benefit all those concerned.

I have been referring more especially to the engineers. As to the position in which the Marine officers are placed, that is perhaps a very delicate matter, and one on which very strong feeling has existed in the Navy. I always thought there was considerable injustice with regard to the place of that noble force the Marines. For instance, if there was a Court-martial on one of their body, by the statute which regulates these matters no Marine officer was allowed to sit on that Court-martial. That appeared to me to be very unjust and to require changing. I am not for a moment saying anything against the imperative necessity that the executive officers on board should have supreme command. But one of the reasons why this scheme seems to me to be very far-reaching and wise is because, by putting the officers of all the three branches of

the Navy on exactly the same status, with the same education, such changes as that to which I have just referred must almost inevitably follow. In the old days there were military admirals; we have got seamen admirals, and now we require also engineer admirals.

The noble Earl the First Lord of the Admiralty states in his Memorandum that the modern battleship or cruiser is a huge box of engines. That is very true, and when I was at the Admiralty and visited the ships of the Fleet, I remember being struck by the number of engines there were on a man-of-war. As an example I would take one of the latest type of battleships, the King Edward VII. The machinery carried by that ship may be grouped under the following heads—1. Propelling, and other steam machinery; 2. Hydraulic machinery; 3. Electric machinery. Under the first head falls all the machinery used for the propulsion of the ship, steam pumping engines for the hydraulic service for the guns and boat-hoisting gear, air compressing machinery for the torpedo service, and the steam engines driving the dynamos and the steam boats. For the propulsion of the ship, besides the main engines, other separate auxiliary engines are necessary for various services, such as circulating engines, air pumps, feed engines, fire and bilge pumps, turning engine, ventilating fans for stokeholds, distilling machinery, injectors, hot well pumps, etc.; so that the complete installation in the machinery spaces of the ship totals up to forty-two separate steam engines. Adding to these the steam engine required for steering gear, capstans, ice-making machinery, those required for the gun and torpedo services, and those carried in the boats we obtain a grand total of sixty separate engines driven by steam. I now come to the second head—hydraulic machinery. Hydraulic machinery is used for working the 12-inch and 9·2-inch guns, and for boat-hoisting machinery. In connection with the 12-inch and 9·2-inch guns, separate machines are provided for turning the barbettes, elevating and depressing the guns, taking the recoil of the guns, for rammers and buffers, and for the complete working of the shell and cordite from the bays of the shell rooms and magazines up to the guns. For

opening and closing the breech, and for washing out the guns after firing, other separate hydraulic machines are fitted, and the total number of such machines for the 12-inch is sixty, and for the 9·2-inch guns twenty-eight. The boat-hoisting derrick is worked by two large hydraulic machines. The total number of separate machines worked by hydraulic power in the ship is, therefore, ninety. Under the head of electric machinery is included the dynamos and all motors provided for working the ammunition to 6-inch and 12-pounder guns, for the ventilation of the ship and engine-rooms, for driving the workshop machinery, the after capstan, and for the working of coaling whips. The number of electric machines required for these purposes totals fifty-five.

Under these three heads there are thus 205 separate engines in a ship of the "King Edward VII." class. Besides these engines there is a mass of mechanism contained in the ship, some of which is of a highly complex nature, and generally it may be said that the whole of the fittings of a modern battleship require mechanical knowledge for their proper understanding and use. The modern battleship or cruiser is an elaborate museum of intricate mechanical inventions. It would be quite impossible for any officer of 100 years ago, or of the period when steam first came in, to control such a ship. And the whole fighting power of the ships really depends on the effective management of the engine-rooms and their complements. Masts and sails have now disappeared from the Navy, and that is another reason why at this moment a great change should have taken place. There are two aspects of this question. There is the question of the entry and of the status of officers, and there are the educational changes. It is needless for me to say that if you enter boys for the Navy at the early age of twelve or thirteen it is impossible to enter them by open competition. I very heartily approve of the change as to age, because I believe the experience of all the great officers of the past who were sent into the Navy at this early age, was that to come under naval influences and to be connected with naval objects from the

very beginning was a very important incident in their education, and one which tended to make excellent officers. I am quite aware that when the noble Lord the predecessor of the noble Earl, Viscount Goschen, who I am sorry is not in his place to-night, was at the Admiralty he raised the age of boys going into the "Britannia." He did that with the hope, I think, that boys would come direct from the public schools. That, unfortunately, has not been the case, and therefore the great object which Viscount Goschen had in view has not been realised. What will happen under the new system? As I understand it, the boys will enter under the same terms as they entered before, though that is not very clear. Perhaps the noble Earl will explain that when he comes to reply. I am also not very clear on this; but as I understand it all the younger boys will go to Osborne, and the older boys will go to Dartmouth, and, after two years, or two years and a half, at Osborne, those boys will go on to the "Britannia," and continue to the same age as those who are now going to Dartmouth.

We come now to the question of education. It has been said that to have boys at this naval college at so young an age will have a bad effect on their general education, and that their education will be specialised too early. I cannot see that that necessarily follows from the arrangements proposed by the Board of Admiralty. It entirely depends on those who have the regulation of the education; and I do not myself see any difficulty in giving special facilities for the acquisition of knowledge of all that is mixed up with their profession without in any way interfering with, or destroying the imparting of, a general education. I feel very strongly as to the next stage in the education of these boys. It is left rather vaguely in the Memorandum of the First Lord of the Admiralty. Are the boys, after four years at the schools, to be sent to take their places in a man-of-war at sea, or are they to go to a training-ship? I sincerely trust that these boys may get the immense benefit which always has been got from becoming part of the officers of a great battleship. They will learn more in that way than they are ever likely to learn,

Earl Spencer.

crowded as they must be to a certain extent, in the training vessels. What you want to ensure is that they shall acquire the habits of command, self-reliance, fertility of resource, and fearlessness of all responsibility. Those qualities are developed very much more on board a man-of-war than they would be in any other ship.

I at once admit that there are considerable difficulties attendant upon the changes, and I desire very much to hear what the First Lord of the Admiralty will say with regard to them. We are told, for instance, that there will not be many candidates coming forward for cadetships in the naval schools in consequence of these changes. I suppose by this time the First Lord has had a great many applications for nomination to the naval schools, and I should like to know whether in practice this difficulty has been found to exist. Then there is the question of competition. I have expressed my regret that the competition which now exists for entrance to the Keyham College of Engineers has to be done away with, because I should be sorry to think that a class of men who had done very well may be entirely precluded from becoming engineers or officers in the Navy in the future. It has been broadly said that this is class legislation—that it prevents a great many men from being able to enter the Navy. I have always been in favour of competition. It not only relieves the heads of departments of what is a most onerous task—namely, that of patronage and selection—but it also does away with the possibility of anything like favouritism being shown to one class or to particular individuals. At the same time competition has its weaknesses and defects, and I am afraid that in many cases it comes to the power of the purse. We find this power of the purse protruding into many relations of life, and I wish it could be more absent with regard to those who are anxious, by open competition, to get into the Service. I am afraid it almost invariably happens that, unless one is assisted with the generosity and enlightenment of a rich friend, those who have a long purse succeed best. I hope the noble Earl and his colleagues at the Board of Admiralty will meet this objection as far as they

possibly can. I notice that there is some scheme of allowing certain young men, an account of the poverty of their parents, to come in at a lower rate than the others. I am very glad to see that, and shall hope to see it further extended.

I come to another point, which I think is a very difficult one indeed—I mean the question of interchangeability. Are the engineers in the future to be interchanged with executive officers exactly in the same way in which special gunnery officers, torpedo officers, and navigation officers are now? Some people say that when a young man enters the engine-room he will always remain there, that he cannot be removed to the deck or the bridge. Other people say they cannot see why there should not be this interchangeability—why, after some years in the engine-room, an officer should not obtain the experience of the deck and the bridge. Of course, under the old system, this interchangeability between the officers of the three branches of the service would have been difficult, if not impossible; but in future all the young officers will receive the same education up to the age of nineteen; they will all be fused into one body, animated by the same ideas; and under these circumstances the success of the proposed interchangeability will depend on whether it is a feasible working scheme. That is a point upon which I should like to hear the views of the First Lord of the Admiralty. I should like to know what the noble Earl thinks will take place when the young men arrive at the age at which they will have to choose their branch of the service. Those of us who are landmen, who know nothing of life in the Navy from personal experience, may naturally think it very undesirable indeed to live in the engine-room instead of on the deck or on the bridge. For myself, I think I should feel reluctant always to be on duty in the engine-room. It may therefore happen that young men trained together for the Navy under the same conditions, imbued with the same ideas, animated by the same ambition to serve their country, may be reluctant to serve in the engine-room rather than on the deck or on the bridge. However, I trust that this great scheme—for it is a

great scheme—will have the effect not only of satisfactorily removing many of the grievances which exist in the different branches of the Navy but will add considerably not only to the greater intelligence of officers but greatly increase the number of officers capable of discharging the many duties which fall upon officers of the Navy. At this moment the Navy is hundreds short of the number of officers it may eventually require in war. But when this scheme comes into force 1,500 men will be available for any service that may be required of officers. Nothing would give me more satisfaction than to learn that this scheme has not only maintained but increased the efficiency and power of the great Navy of which we are all so justly proud.

*THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (The Earl of SELBORNE): My Lords, the noble Earl who introduced this subject to-night is a staunch opponent of the scheme. The noble Earl who spoke last is a friend. I am equally obliged to them both for the courtesy and kindness of manner in which they have framed their criticisms. I doubt if the noble Earl who introduced this subject thoroughly realises himself how far his admissions carry him. He agrees with the change back to the early age of entry, and he agrees that the executive officers ought to be taught much more engineering.

*THE EARL OF GLASGOW: And I said it could be done under the present system of training.

*THE EARL OF SELBORNE: And the noble Earl agrees that the Marines should be more used. Those are three fundamental principles of the scheme; and although the noble Earl may object to their application, yet it is going very far that he should be obliged to express his assent to three of its main principles, even as a preliminary to his condemnation of the scheme. He asked what I meant in my Memorandum by laying stress on the value of the unity of the Navy. It is a strange, and yet not a strange, question to ask; because when the noble Earl was serving in the Navy he took the unity of the Navy in the same matter of course as the air he breathed; and it perhaps never struck

him what was undoubtedly the fact, that one of the great glories of the Navy, its main source of strength, is that it is one indivisible service. It is differentiated absolutely from the Army in that respect. The soldier never speaks of his allegiance to the Army; he speaks of his regiment or his corps. With the sailor it is his service. That is a fact which carries more consequences than is generally understood or allowed. You cannot exaggerate the value of that unity, though it has not been carried as yet to the fullest development of which it is capable. I hope that one of the main results of this scheme in the years to come will be that that unity will be carried to a greater extent, to a wider radius, than obtained even in the days when the noble Earl went to sea. The noble Earl said that changes so momentous ought not to have been made by me without consulting the senior officers of the Navy. My Lords, these changes are not my changes. I am proud to have the main responsibility for them, but they are the changes of the Board of Admiralty—a Board, which, I believe, never has contained naval officers who more commanded the respect of the Service than those who now sit on it. The noble Earl asked if I could lay on the Table a report of the amalgamation scheme in the United States Navy. I could lay on the Table very strong reports as to the admirable effects of that scheme. Some of them, already at my disposal, I could give, but as to the others I should first have to ask permission before I could publish them. I do not think anything would be gained by doing so, because I could also lay on the Table strongly adverse opinions of that amalgamation. The United States Navy is divided on this subject, as naval officers are here over the scheme of the Admiralty, but I must say there is a steady change coming over the reports that we are receiving as to the way that amalgamation scheme is working. At first those reports were almost all unfavourable, and now every one that I see is more favourable than the last. But it is no slight thing, no accidental consequence, that the United States, France, and Great Britain should be discussing simultaneously such changes as are being made in our Navy. It indicates the existence of real forces and facts

which have to be dealt with. It shows that it is no mere whim, no mere eccentricity of the administrators of this great service that this great question has been dealt with in our Navy.

I am on my defence to-night for the scheme of the Board of Admiralty; and I am glad the occasion has come. I ask you and the country what is the most important thing on board a battleship to-day? The machinery. I defy any one to give any other answer. Lord Spencer has enumerated the quantity of that machinery, giving some faint idea of the extent and complexity of the engines. I should like to supplement what the noble Earl said by reading a description written by a distinguished captain in the Navy. These are his words—

"Everything in the modern Fleet is done by machinery, be it steam, hydraulic, compressed air, electricity, to which will probably be added, in the near future, explosive oil and liquid air. Not only are the ships propelled solely by machinery, but they are steered by machinery. Their principal arms—gun and torpedo—are worked by machinery. They are lit by machinery; the water used by those on board for drinking, cooking, and washing is produced by machinery; messages which were formerly transmitted by voice-pipe, now go by telephone. The orders which the Admiral wishes to give to the Fleet could formerly only be made by flags in the day, and by lamps at night; they are now made by electricity, that is, wireless telegraphy and electric flashing lamps. Orders which were formerly written out by hand are now produced by the typewriter or by the printing machine. Formerly the Admiral visited another ship in his pulling barge; now he goes in a steam-boat which has been hoisted out by means of a steam-engine. The anchor, formerly hove up by hand, is now worked by an engine. The live bullocks which were formerly taken to sea are now replaced by frozen carcasses maintained in that condition by machinery. If a fire breaks out in the ship the steam pumps drown it. If the ship springs a leak, steam pumps keep down the water. The very air that those on board between decks breathe is provided by a fan driven by machinery."

I say, therefore, my Lords, that it is an indisputable proposition that the most important things on board a ship are the machinery. Who are the most important officers on board ship? I do not say the most important officer. He is, of course, the captain, from whom all orders must be taken. The captain must always be the most important officer. The most important officers are those who are going to be the captains and the admirals of the future. Is it right that

the most important officers should have to depend upon others for a general knowledge of the most important things on board ship? Is that right or possible as a permanent system?

*THE EARL OF GLASGOW: I beg the noble Earl's pardon for interrupting him. I stated very distinctly that I thought the captains and lieutenants of the future should be better instructed in machinery than at present, and that that could be done under the present system.

*THE EARL OF SELBORNE: What is the advantage of having two sets of officers do the same thing? The noble Earl admits the whole of my premise, but he denies my conclusion. My conclusion is that, therefore these most important officers must obviously be trained to understand these things. The noble Earl agrees with that, but he wishes to keep up two classes of officers, both trained in the same thing.

*THE EARL OF GLASGOW: I am afraid I am not understood. I do not admit the whole of the noble Earl's premise.

*THE EARL OF SELBORNE: Perhaps the noble Earl will let me develop my argument in my own way. I say that these officers must therefore be trained to understand these things. It is so now in respect of navigation, gunnery, and torpedoes. Every one of the arguments used by the noble Earl was used against instructing the executive officers in navigation, for there was a time when the executive officer was not trained in navigation. There have been occasions when His Majesty's ships could not leave port because the special navigating officer was ill. Is there any one who will now contend that it was a mistake to train the executive officer in navigation? We are only applying the same principle now; and I say it is just as wrong as a permanent system that he should not be trained in engineering, as it was in the old days that he should not be trained in navigation. It is quite true that it would not be correct to say that.

no executive officer knows anything about engineering. Very many of them have acquired an excellent knowledge of engineering, but that has been through their own efforts, and no thanks to the Admiralty. If these officers are to be trained in gunnery, torpedoes, and navigation, why are engines only to be excluded? Why is their training to be stopped there? If my arguments have been sound up to now that all officers hereafter must be taught engineering, just as they are taught navigation, gunnery, and torpedoes, I say it follows absolutely, though the noble Earl does not admit it, that they must be trained and entered together. So much for the engineering side of the case.

I now come to the Royal Marines. The noble Earl, up to a certain point, admits the truth of some of my contentions in respect of the engineers; but I think he differs from me altogether with regard to the Royal Marines. He said, "Why should the Royal Marines be taught things that nobody thinks of teaching to a soldier?" Well, because the Royal Marine is not a soldier, and because he is a Royal Marine. The Royal Marine is an integral part of the naval service, and will have to work and fight nine-tenths of his life on board ship, and not on the land.

*THE EARL OF GLASGOW: I should be sorry to tell a Royal Marine that he was not a soldier.

*THE EARL OF SELBORNE: He is not a soldier in the sense that the soldier who fights only on land is a soldier. He is a soldier and a sailor too, as one of our national poets has told us. The present position of the Royal Marine officer on board ship is very unsatisfactory to himself and indefensible on the most elementary business principles. It is unsatisfactory to himself because I can imagine nothing so heartbreaking to a young, willing Marine officer than that he should find his work restricted as it is now. He has no training in naval duties; all that is forbidden to him. When all others are overburdened with work he may be practically doing nothing. It cannot be good for him, it cannot be good for the service

that that state of things should continue. The Navy Estimates have reached a total of nearly £35,000,000, and there will be an ever-increasing demand in the future for more naval lieutenants, and yet at the same moment, with the demand for naval lieutenants increasing every year we have a body of nearly 500 officers who are unavailable for naval duties, and who have a great deal of time and leisure at their disposal. The principle is absolutely indefensible—that you should have so much wasted energy on the one hand and so much demand for increased strength on the other. It is the duty of the Admiralty to find a remedy for both evils at the same time by so training the Royal Marine officer that he may be available for these naval duties as well. Will this early naval training be a cause of deterioration in the officer of Royal Marines in his more strictly military duties? Will he be the worse for seven years of naval training in the place of a similar period of training at some school or "crammer's." If anybody thinks that, I do not share the opinion, and I would point to a rather singular coincidence. The number of officers in the Army who have commenced life as sailors is very small compared to the total number of military officers, and yet there are at this moment to my own knowledge no less than three of our most distinguished generals who were trained as boys in the Navy. The remedy, therefore, my Lords, in the one case is the same as in the other—it is to enter and train these boys together. It is said that it is all very well to theorise on this subject, but it cannot be done; that there will be too much to learn, and that all the classes of officers—Executive, Engineer, and Marine—will be equally spoiled. That is a matter of opinion. I can only say that I absolutely differ. After all, what has been the glory of the naval officer? He has been known as "the handy man." Why is he to be unhandy only in respect to the most important things in a ship? The whole of the work of navigation under masts and sails has gone with all its elaborate training. Nobody ever thought it absurd that a naval officer should be trained in gunnery, torpedo practice, or navigation, and also have a complete knowledge of the motive power of a ship when that motive power was wind; why, then, should it be considered absurd that

he should be trained on exactly the same principle when the motive power is steam? Why, in fact, should his education be arrested at a certain point, and why should that development which has been constant in the history of the Navy suddenly come to an end in his case. Again I would ask the House to allow me to read the words of the naval captain I have already quoted on this subject. He said—and Lord Spencer alluded to the same point—

“The Admirals of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries were not so much ‘*Seamen Admirals*’ as ‘*Military Admirals*.’ They did the fighting, whilst the sailing or seamanship part was done by specialists. They gradually became Seamen Admirals, and continued so throughout the great wars of the eighteenth and beginning of the nineteenth centuries. As the nineteenth century advanced they had to deal more and more with steam. Now and henceforth they are essentially ‘*Steam Admirals*.’”

It has been said that these engineer duties which it is proposed to teach executive officers are not really duties for combatant officers. Brushing technicalities aside, who are the combatant officers? I say that every officer is a combatant officer who is essential to the fighting of a ship. It would be very unfortunate for a ship, but if you landed every doctor, every surgeon, every naval instructor, every officer of the accountant branch, and the chaplains before action, the ship could be fought just as well as if they were on board; but if you landed the seamen, Marines, and their officers the ship would be helpless, and she would be equally helpless if you landed the engine-room *personnel*. Therefore I say, that so far from it being derogatory to an executive officer to learn engine-room work, he is only completing the education necessary for a combatant officer.

*THE EARL OF GLASGOW: I never meant to say that there was anything derogatory in an executive officer learning engine-room work. What I contend is that the combatant officers of a ship must be superior to those who work the engines.

*THE EARL OF SELBORNE: The noble Earl seems to think it perfectly impossible that the officer who works the engines should be a combatant officer. That is where we must

agree to differ. I have been asked some questions by Lord Spencer as to what is to be done when the time comes for these young officers to choose the particular branch into which they will go, and a fear has been expressed that enough young officers will not be found to volunteer for all branches. That for the present must remain a matter of opinion. If there is any difficulty, it is the business of the Admiralty to offer sufficient attractions to secure the filling of each branch. One of the attractions to a great number of young men is the whole science of the glorious profession of engineering; and I can conceive no more attractive form of engineering than that which is a combination of naval officer and engineer. In the same way the corps of Royal Marines has special attraction; and though I maintain absolutely that Marines are not soldiers in the sense that men are soldiers who are under the War Office, yet, of course, there is a special military side to their career not enjoyed by the naval officer. Therefore there are attractions which will, I do not doubt, be felt by a sufficient number of these young cadets. This liability to serve in one branch or the other has not been in the least degree deterrent to applicants for nominations. I admit it was to a certain extent experimental how many boys would be tempted by the new scheme, but the number of applications has exceeded my wildest expectations. There will not be the slightest necessity even to consider the application of any boy who has not volunteered for all three branches. The field of choice will then be so large that it will be a matter of the greatest difficulty to make a proper selection. Again there has been anxiety lest the engineer officer in the future may not be so good in his particular work as he has been in the past. This is really a simple question of training. These boys will begin to be taught their work as engineers while children, from the moment they go to the college, they will begin to handle engineer's tools at the age of twelve, and there will be no period up to the time when they select the engineering branch as their permanent sphere when they will not be developing their education as engineer officers. I

would say of engineering what I say of gunnery and the use of torpedoes—you do not want every officer to be educated to the highest possible extent in gunnery, you want a large body of gunnery lieutenants who know exactly how to manipulate guns, train men, keep the guns in order, and shoot straight, but you only want a few scientifically-trained artillerists to fill staff appointments in the Admiralty of the future and to make those experiments and developments we so much need. So in the case of the engineer, the bulk of the officers must thoroughly understand how to use machinery and keep it in repair; we only want a small proportion so highly trained that they may be called designers or architects of naval machinery. The whole of the education from the Royal College at Osborne up to the course at Keyham for those who choose engineering, and the further course at Greenwich for those who are selected from Keyham to receive the highest training possible, will give us a body of officers graduated in engineering knowledge and, I believe, of equal, if not greater, merit professionally than any engineers we have yet had. This is not only my opinion, it is also that of those engineers we have consulted, naval and civil.

Now, my Lords, I come to what I quite agree is one of the most interesting and important points in the whole scheme. I will take the engineers first. Are the officers who have taken the engineering branch to be interchangeable with the executive branch? As the scheme now stands they will not be interchangeable; that was specially laid down for this reason—it was not essential to decide the matter now. If it had been decided that they were to be interchangeable, and the cadets had come into the college on that understanding, no Board of Admiralty could have gone back on that decision. If, on the other hand, in the scheme under which the cadets entered they were not interchangeable, then the Board of Admiralty would be absolutely free on further consideration to make them interchangeable. There is no doubt how the scheme stands at present. I fully believe and hope that they will be made interchangeable, and that engineers as a special branch will disappear altogether, and that specialised engineer lieutenants will be only known by the letter E after their name.

The Earl of Selborne.

The noble Earl asked how it is possible for an officer who has spent his years in the engine-room to be fit to command a squadron. Now, I should say that depends very much on the work he has been put to, and the exact story of his life from the moment he has been specialised as an engineer officer. But surely, even if you accept the fact that it will be impossible for him to keep up his acquaintance with duties on deck, that does not dispose of the question. Are all admirals on the flag list equally capable of the same work? Is there no diversity of gifts among flag officers? The duty and responsibility rests on the Admiralty to appoint the best man for any job on hand. There are on the flag list, as every sailor knows, officers fitted in the highest degree to command a fleet at sea, but who might not be so well fitted to administer the Navy on land. There are others, born administrators, but not born seamen. There are others who are the greatest authorities on gunnery, electricity, and navigation. In fact, you can pick out half-a-dozen different special lines of qualification at the present moment. No Board of Admiralty would think of sending to command a fleet at sea an officer whose special gift was notoriously to do office work on shore. So it will be in the future, after, as I hope, the engineer branch is amalgamated with the executive. If an officer who has passed on to the flag list after specialising as an engineer is not qualified to command squadrons at sea the Admiralty will not select him to do so.

The case of the Royal Marines, I agree, is different. The object of the Board of Admiralty must be to open an adequate career right to the end for the able and ambitious officer. The difficulty will be no greater in the future than it is now, and I think it should be capable of solution. Already I would ask your Lordships to notice how largely the scheme of the Board of Admiralty has enlarged the scope and utility of the Marine officer, and what fresh fields of employment it has already thrown open to him. Both the noble Earls who have already spoken have agreed in approving of the alteration of the age of entry. But there is a large quantity of capable opinion, not naval chiefly, but to

a large extent Parliamentary, that is opposed to that alteration, and says that the movement ought to be the other way, and that cadets should be entered to the Navy at the ages of eighteen or nineteen. The service, however, is almost unanimous in favour of going back to the early age of entry, and I have a specially interesting expression of opinion on this subject that I would like to read to your Lordships. It is the educational authorities generally who advocate the older age of entry. It is not often that there is a combination of a distinguished professor at Oxford and a naval captain in the same man, but Professor Montagu Burrows, Emeritus Professor of Modern History at Oxford, was a captain in the Royal Navy, and he still retains his affection for and interest in the service. He writes to me—I may say his letter was written some time before this scheme was published, and, so far as I know, he was not aware that we were considering any changes of the nature dealt with in the scheme, as follows—

“Finally, I may, perhaps, be allowed to say that I trust the system of taking boys into the service may never be exchanged for a system of competition amongst older youths. We can make what we like out of boys, if we only have perfectly efficient men at the helm.”

I think that opinion, coming from a man of great ability who knows the educational world and also the Navy, is of great interest and importance. These boys can be taught what they have to learn, and it will be the fault of the Board of Admiralty if we do not make our colleges at Osborne and afterwards at Dartmouth the best secondary schools in the country existing for a special definite object.

The noble Earl asked me what kind of education we are going to give. I will not describe it at length, but without pledging myself to exact detail I will give a general sketch of the kind of education that will be given. It includes not only that special education for which the school will exist, but that general education which every officer and gentleman ought to have. History, geography, physical geography, English, and French will be taught. I do not say that other modern languages will not be taught. Mathematics, algebra, arithmetic, trigonometry, mechanics, physics, laboratory work, seamanship,

drill, and engineering will be taught. There will be laboratories and workshops in which the boys will be accustomed to the use of tools from the very commencement. There will be vessels of all sorts for use and demonstration, from a steam launch to a battleship, and generally an effort will be made, while not neglecting the general education of the boys, to start them from the moment of their entering the college on the education of a naval officer. Mr. Robertson, I think it was, said in the House of Commons that there is no necessity to bring in the boys so young or to train them like this at the colleges. You only have, he said, to tell the public schools what you want, and they will produce you the article at eighteen or nineteen years of age. Public schools could not do it. How could public schools provide launches or cruisers or battleships, or workshops and laboratories in sufficient quantity? How could they give the boys that flavour of naval education which is essential? Although Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman says he does not believe in it, I do believe in it, and am convinced that if we want to get the finest article we must take the boy young and give him the naval flavour from the commencement. Of course this proposal raises the difficult question of competitive examination. Those words have been invested with a halo of infallibility and democracy which I do not think they in the least deserve. Competitive examination for boys at the age or twelve or thirteen would be altogether out of place and perfectly disastrous, and I do not think anyone seriously proposes it. But I deny, even if it were possible, that a competitive examination of boys between twelve and thirteen, or even of a greater age, would give you any indication of what kind of men they would be at the age of twenty-three. I also say I can think of no less democratic instrument than competitive examination, because, as Lord Spencer so well put it, the boy who succeeds in a competitive examination is the boy who has had the best teaching, and the richer the parent, the better the teaching he can afford to give his son. I want to take this opportunity of pointing out a fact which I think is too seldom remembered. You have the opportunity of testing the two systems. The executive officers of the Navy have never been entered by open

competition, but always by strictly limited competition. The officers of the Army are entered by open competition. The officers of the present engineer branch of the Navy are entered by open competition. Can anyone say that naval officers as a whole are richer men than military officers? They certainly are not, and therefore the system of limited competition has not favoured the richer classes at the expense of the poorer. Can anyone say that the naval executive officer is a less able or capable man than either his engineer shipmate or the military officer? It is perfectly impossible to maintain that, and that, I contend, disproves the contention that the competitive examination is the surest way of getting the best men.

If you do not have competitive examination you must fall back on the development of the system of nomination. With one or two exceptions it is the First Lord of the Admiralty who will be responsible for nominations. It would be nothing less than a scandal which would very soon terminate the system if that patronage were used with the slightest suspicion of jobbery. I think there is great advantage in retaining that nomination in the hands of the First Lord, because he is a person who can be brought to book in Parliament. As to the principles on which he should act in giving nominations, I have not the slightest doubt that his sole object should be to get those boys who would afterwards make the most competent officers, and in making his selection he should know no other guide of conduct than that. I have been thinking very carefully what steps I can take so as to surround myself with the most efficient and sure machinery for ascertaining which of the numerous boys who apply for nomination are really likely to make the most competent officers. I have some hope that I may succeed but not on any account by the introduction of anything in the nature of competitive examination. When the nominations are made the boys who receive them will have to pass a qualifying examination. If they do not pass that examination they will not enter the Navy. Any boy who passes will enter the Navy; but, once entered, the process of elimination will begin, though without the slightest stigma or reproach. When we are assured that a boy is not

The Earl of Selborne.

up to the proper standard of naval efficiency, or has not got sufficient ability or those qualities essential for naval officers, he will have to leave; but it will be while he is still young and able to receive education elsewhere and take to other occupations. As to the effects of competition on boys at too early an age, I have very strong information, even in respect of the present competition, that it has had a bad effect on the boys, and that much of the sickness that unfortunately prevails in the "Britannia" arises from the fact that the boys have been weakened in their constitution by the previous excessive cramming to which they have been subjected.

The noble Earl asked whether Osborne and Dartmouth Colleges are to be arranged as two separate colleges in which a boy will spend the whole of his four years, or whether they are to be worked as one institution, the younger boys being first sent to Osborne, and then passing on for their last two years to Dartmouth. Either of those plans has much to recommend it. At present we propose to work them as one college; the younger boys will go to Osborne and pass on for the second part of their training to Dartmouth. When they go to sea the noble Earl expressed a strong hope that they would go into ordinary sea-going ships and not special training ships. That is a point we have not settled. I appreciate what the noble Earl said as to the great advantages of the boys serving as midshipmen in ordinarily commissioned battleships and cruisers; but since he was at the Admiralty we have had some experience which I think will interest him greatly. We have now had for the best part of a year the "Isis" as a sea-going training ship for the boys of the "Britannia" in their last term of training, carrying from sixty to seventy. Now we have had to commission a second ship, the "Aurora," for the same purpose. So far the experiment has been so extraordinarily successful, the reports on the boys on these ships have been so excellent, that I am not prepared to pledge myself in advance that the system may not be continued in future, and that from the college the boys will not pass first of all to a sea-going training ship and then to a ship in ordinary commission.

I have no time to deal at length with that part of the Memorandum which

dealt with the lower deck ; all I can say is that we are endeavouring to deal with the training of the boys and men of the Fleet on the same principles as in the case of the officers—that is to say, all useless knowledge is to be eliminated from their training, and they are to be taught all those branches of work which the future seaman must know, not only ordinary seamanship, gunnery and torpedo work, but every man who in future is rated A.B. will have to possess an elementary knowledge of the use of tools as a mechanic, and also an elementary knowledge of engine-room and stoke-hole duty. We have paid special attention to the engine-room ratings. We have given increased advantages, especially to the stokers ; and I am sure your Lordships will be glad of that, because the value of that great body of naval ratings cannot be exaggerated. I am particularly glad that the Board of Admiralty have been able to open the commissioned ranks of the Navy to the lower deck by promoting sixty of the warrant officers to be lieutenants, and more promotions will follow in due course. This scheme has been subjected to great criticism, and that is quite natural ; but I maintain that, although there have been many expressions of opinion, nobody has yet hit on a cardinal defect in the scheme, and everybody who criticises it makes admissions, as did the noble Earl, that largely destroy the strength of that criticism. More than that, nobody who has dealt with this subject has suggested anything in the nature of an alternative. There is a school which says, “ let things alone ; ” but things, when they are great forces, will not let you alone ; and it is not my idea of the functions of the Board of Admiralty that it should sit still and be moved in spite of itself, by forces which it did not recognise until it was overwhelmed by them. Again, I am told that everything that is given to any other officer is so much detracted from the value of the executive officer's position. That is base coin, and it exasperates me when I hear it jar on the counter. The naval officer is loved and trusted by his countrymen because he is what he is, not because somebody is or is not something else.

There are those critics who dislike all change ; I sympathise with them greatly ; it is very natural when you have come to love an institution in all its details to be averse to a change in it. But I summarise the functions of the Board of Admiralty as follows—To venerate the past, to guard the present, and to live for the future. It is with a sense of our responsibility for the future that we have conceived this scheme. One argument that is brought forward I have not yet mentioned. At present, if we were to mobilise for war we might have a surplusage of young executive officers and a dearth of young engineer officers, or a surplusage of young Marine officers and a dearth of young executive officers. In neither case could the surplusage be utilised to make good the deficiency. But when this scheme is in full operation, at the moment of mobilisation for war, as at any other moment, there will be hundreds of young officers of from seventeen to twenty-two years of age who could be utilised, so far as young officers can be utilised, wherever they are wanted by the Board of Admiralty, whether in the engine-room, in the Marines, or as executive officers. And the importance cannot be over-estimated of having, at that supreme moment in a nation's history, hundreds, almost thousands, of officers, not shut up in watertight compartments, but available where they are most wanted. And yet a friend of mine, an officer of great experience, whose dislike to the scheme is founded, not on ignorance, but on a careful study of it, summarised his objections to the scheme by putting this, in his opinion, appalling dilemma to a friend the other day. He said—

“ Why, at a time of war I might be ordered to commission a ship and I would find no officers in the barracks and in the dépôt except officers who, under this new scheme, had become engineers or marines. What could I do then ? ”

He put that as a final argument against the scheme. Why, my Lords, he really presented a strong argument for the scheme. The situation is improbable, almost impossible. It would, however, be no more probable when the new scheme is in operation than it would be to-day. But if he found himself with orders to commission a ship to-day and had nothing but

engineer and Marine officers, he could not commission that ship at all; under the new scheme he could.

*THE EARL OF GLASGOW: My Lords, even if it were in order I do not propose to make another speech. But I maintain that the noble Earl has not proved that interchangeability of officers will be a success. I trust he will be so kind as to consider the three suggestions I threw out, and that some means may be found for modifying that part of the scheme.

BOARD OF TRADE EXAMINER AT LIVERPOOL.

THE DUKE OF MANCHESTER: In the absence of my noble friend Lord Muskerry I beg to put the Question standing in his name, viz:—"To ask His Majesty's Government who was the successful candidate for the recent Board of Trade examinership at Liverpool; what was his age; his total service in merchant ships; for how long was he acting in the capacities of master and chief officer in the Merchant Service; and whether His Majesty's Government exercise supervision in such matters, so that the candidates for Board of Trade certificates shall be examined by thoroughly qualified examiners having proper experience at sea in the highest capacities."

LORD WOLVERTON: The name of the successful candidate for the post of third examiner of masters and mates at Liverpool is, I am informed, Lieut. Joseph Douglas Keatinge, R.N.R., and he is nearly 29 years of age. His total service in merchant ships extends over a period of seven years and four months, and he has acted in the capacity of chief officer for one year and ten months. He also served for nearly three years as cadet on the training ship "Conway," and two years and ten months as sub-lieutenant, acting lieutenant, and lieutenant in the Royal Navy. He has had no service as master, but has held a Board of Trade extra master's certificate of competency—an honours certificate, and the highest certificate that the Board of Trade has the power to confer—since January, 1897. Under the provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, the appointment of examiners of masters and mates rests with the local Marine Boards

at the ports where the vacancies occur, but no examiner can be appointed unless he holds a certificate of qualification granted by the Board of Trade, and candidates have to satisfy the Board of Trade and the Civil Service Commissioners as regards their age, health, character, and fitness for the appointment. Lieutenant Keatinge passed the usual examination in technical subjects to the satisfaction of the Board, showing that he was fully qualified to examine candidates for master's and mate's certificates, including the extra master's certificates.

House adjourned at five minutes past Seven o'clock to Monday next, at a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 8th May, 1903.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO OR COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz:—

Mersey Docks and Harbour Board Bill [Lords]; Cleveland and Durham County Electric Power Bill [Lords]. Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERE-TO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz:—

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill. Ordered,

That the Bills be read a second time upon Monday next.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (NO STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz. :—

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill. Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time upon Monday next.

Commercial Gas Bill, as amended, considered; Bill to be read the third time.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply Bill, as amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time.

Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill; Land Drainage Provisional Order Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill, read the third time and passed.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill, as amended, considered; to be read the third time upon Monday next.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10), Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Ashton-under-Lyne, Darwen, Newton-in-Makerfield, Prestwich, and Vaynor and Penderyn, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Grant Lawson and Mr. Walter Long.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11), Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Ashbourne, the Guildford, Godalming and Woking, and the South Shields (Rural) and Southwick-on-Wear Joint Hospital Districts, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Grant Lawson and Mr. Walter Long.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill: "To confirm certain provisional orders of the Local Government

Board relating to Ashton-under-Lyne, Darwen, Newton-in-Makerfield, Prestwich, and Vaynor and Penderyn," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. (Bill 190.)

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11) Bill: "To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the Ashbourne, the Guildford, Godalming and Woking, and the South Shields (Rural) and Southwick-on-Wear Joint Hospital Districts," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. (Bill 191.)

Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Bill; Great Southern and Western Railway Bill; Lancashire and Yorkshire and London and North Western Railways (Steam Vessels) Bill.

Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP No. 8.)

Sir SAMUEL HOARE: Reported from the Committee on Group No. 8 of Railway Bills; That the parties promoting the South Shields, Sunderland and District Tramways Bill had stated that the evidence of William Laidler Robertson, 15, Laygate Terrace, South Shields; James H. Rennoldson, solicitor, King Street, South Shields; Robert Redhead, South Garth, Westoe, South Shields; W. E. O. Scott, Belle Vue, Harton, near South Shields; John Bowman, Westoe, South Shields; James Muir Smith, 7, Kensington Terrace, South Shields; J. B. Hodgson, newspaper proprietor, South Shields, was essential to their case; and, it having been proved that their attendance could not be procured without the intervention of the House, he had been instructed to move that the said William Laidler Robertson, James H. Rennoldson, Robert Redhead, W. E. O. Scott, John Bowman, James Muir Smith, and J. B. Hodgson do attend the said Committee upon Wednesday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

Ordered, that William Laidler Robertson, James H. Rennoldson, Robert Redhead, W. E. O. Scott, John Bowman, James Muir Smith, and J. B. Hodgson

do attend the Committee on Group No. 8 of Railway Bills upon Wednesday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP No. 5).

Sir LEWIS MACIVER reported from the Committee on Group No. 5 of Railway Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned until Thursday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

CRYSTAL PALACE DISTRICT GAS BILL.

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table.

HAINAULT FOREST BILL.

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP C).

Sir JOHN BRUNNER reported from the Committee on Group C of Private Bills; That they had adjourned until Tuesday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act for incorporating and conferring powers on the Wellington (Salop) Gas Company; and for other purposes." [Wellington (Salop) Gas Bill [Lords.]]

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the District Council for the urban district of Frinton-on-Sea, in the county of Essex, to construct and maintain sea walls and other works at Frinton-on-Sea, and to improve and regulate the sea front of the said district; and for other purposes." (Frinton-on-Sea Sea Defences Bill [Lords]).

WELLINGTON (SALOP) GAS BILL [LORDS.]

FRINTON-ON-SEA SEA DEFENCES BILL [LORDS.]

Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

PETITIONS.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE BILL.

Petition from Brighton, against; to lie upon the Table.

COAL MINES REGULATION BILL.

Petitions in favour: from Adlington; Deep Pit, Hanley; No. 3, Racecourse; Hanley; Grange, Burslem; Hanley (No. 5); Sandbach, Coleridge; Sneyd, Burslem; Old Hill; Quarry Bank; Netherton (two); Brynn Hall; Eccleston Hall; Langwith; Netherburn; Gornal Wood; Fauldhouse; Lidgett; Barrow Hematite, Barnsley; Backwood; Vivian; Blaina; Tredegar; and, Abertillery Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

DETENTION OF POOR PERSONS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour: from Cathcart; Cortachy and Clova; and, Premnay; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Petition from Strathbungo, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Petition from Glasgow, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FRANCHISE AND REPRESENTATION (EXTENSION TO COMPANIES) BILL.

Petition from Huddersfield, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

LONDON EDUCATION BILL.

Petition from Bethnal Green, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Petition against: from Brighton; Lower Gornal; and, Tenterden; to lie upon the Table.

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL.

Petitions in favour: from Frome; Wick and Pulteneytown; Denholme; Weston-super-Mare; Bingley; Basingstoke; Felling; Kilbarchan; Diss; Crossland Moor; Huddersfield; Leicester; Kettering; Stockport; Hadfield; Burton Latimer; Pollokshaws; Nelson; Pegswood; Great Wigston; and Glasgow; to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC HOUSES (HOURS OF CLOSING) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Glasgow, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Petition from Grays Thurrock, for alteration of law ; to lie upon the Table.

STEAM ENGINES AND BOILERS
(PERSONS IN CHARGE) BILL.

Petition from Huddersfield, against ; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE DISPUTES BILL.

Petition of the Mining Association of Great Britain, against ; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE DISPUTES BILL.

Petitions in favour : from Adlington ; Deep Pit, Hanley ; No. 3 Racecourse ; Hanley ; Grange, Burslem ; Hanley (No. 5) ; Sandbach, Coleridge ; Sneyd, Burslem ; Old Hill ; Quarry Bank ; Netherton (two) ; Brynn Hall ; Eccleston Hall ; Langwith ; Netherburn ; Tower and Aberdare Merthyr ; Tunnel ; Aberaman ; Duffryn Isaf ; Blaengwawr ; Sguborwen ; Cwmaman ; Padell y Bwlch ; Lletty Shenkin ; Fforchaman ; Dulas ; Bwlfa ; Cwmneol ; Blaenant ; Treaman ; Gornal Wood ; Fauldhouse ; Mynydd Newydd ; Blackwood ; Vivian ; Blaina ; Tredegar ; Abertillery ; Lidgett ; and Barrow Hematite, Barnsley Collieries ; to lie upon the Table.

TRAMWAYS (HOURS OF LABOUR) BILL.

Petition from Glasgow, in favour ; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

NATIONAL DEBT.

Copy presented, of Return showing (1) the Aggregate Gross Liabilities of the State as represented by the Nominal Funded Debt, Estimated Capital Liability in respect of Terminable Annuities, Unfunded Debt, and other Liabilities in respect of Debt, the Estimated Assets, and the Exchequer Balances at the close of each financial year from 1835-6 to 1902-3, both inclusive ; and (2) the Gross and Net Expenditure charged annually during that period against the Public Revenue on account of the National Debt, and other payments connected with Capital Liabilities (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper (C. 1,222) of Session 1902) [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

EAST INDIA (FINANCIAL STATEMENT).

Return presented, relative thereto [Address 5th May ; *Sir Henry Fowler*] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 151.)

TRADE (FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND
BRITISH POSSESSIONS).

Copy presented, of Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions for 1902. Volume I. [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT.

Copy presented, of Report of Proceedings by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, under the Diseases of Animals Acts, for the year 1902 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

COUNTY COUNCILS (IRELAND)
(SALARIES).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 2nd March ; *Mr. McGovern*] ; to lie upon the Table.

EDINBURGH MUSEUM OF SCIENCE
AND ART.

Copy presented, of Report by the Director on the Edinburgh Museum of Science and Art for the year 1902 by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS
(SPECIAL EXCEPTION—NIGHT WORK).

Copy presented, of Order, dated 4th May, 1903, made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department in pursuance of Section 54 (4) of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, amending and consolidating the Orders of the 16th November, 1895, and 22nd August, 1902, with regard to the employment at night of male young persons of the age of sixteen years and upwards [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table.

ARMY (MILITARY WORKS).

Copy presented, of Approximate Estimate of Expenditure under the Military Works Acts, 1897, 1899, and 1901 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

ARMY (CANTEENS, ETC.).

Copy presented, of Evidence taken before the Committee on Canteens and Regimental Institutes [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

ARMY (COMMISSIONS).

Return presented, relative thereto [Address 30th April; *Mr. Pirie*]; to lie upon the Table.

VOLUNTEERS.

Return presented, relative thereto [Address 30th April; *Mr. Churchill*]; to lie upon the Table.

MILITARY WORKS AND STORES.

Return presented, relative thereto [Address 30th April; *Mr. Churchill*]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2969 and 2970 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House:—

ARUNDEL PORT.

Copy of Annual Report and General Account of the Commissioners of Arundel Port for period from 25th March, 1902, to 25th March, 1903 [by Act].

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

H.M.S. "Crescent"—Delay in Execution of Repairs.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he will explain why the repairs on the "Crescent," which for the last five weeks has been in the wet dock at Victoria Docks, have not yet been begun.

(*Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.*) Instructions were given on the 30th April to proceed with the work on the "Crescent." It appears that owing to pressure of work there was a slight delay in completing the particulars of the repairs to be undertaken on the ship, and before these were received operations could not be commenced. The delay is to be regretted, but work will now proceed without interference.

Disturbances at Liverpool.

MR. CULLINAN (Tipperary, S.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that disorder has been caused in the streets of

Liverpool by a body known as Wiseites who, at their meetings, used provocative language towards a section of their fellow citizens; and whether, seeing that on the 25th April Chief Superintendent Smith and some of his officers and men were assaulted, and that a committee of the city council has given permission to this body to hold meetings in Lime and William Brown Streets, he will take steps to prevent a recurrence of disorder.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas.*) The preservation of order in the streets of Liverpool is a matter for the local authorities, and I have no reason to suppose that they are showing any remissness in dealing with it.

Licensed Vivisectors at London University College.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY (Camberwell, Peckham): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will state under what certificate the operation on a brown dog was performed at University College Hospital on 2nd February last; and whether, seeing that a second operation was performed upon this animal before the wounds caused by the first operation had healed, he proposes to take any action in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas.*) The operation to which I understand the hon. Member refers was performed under Certificate C. It is true that at the time there was an unhealed wound in the body of the dog. This was an incision made very shortly before by another licensee for the purpose of examining the condition of an organ upon which he had previously carried out an operation, from which the animal suffered no ill effects. Previously to the making of the incision the animal was placed under anæsthetics, and while still in that condition was brought into the theatre for the purpose of the experiment under Certificate C. During the whole of the latter the animal continued under anæsthetics, and was eventually taken away and killed before it recovered consciousness. In these circumstances there appears to be no action which I am called upon to take.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Departments if he will state the number

of persons holding certificates to practice vivisection at London University College, the qualifications of the operators, the nature of the certificates which they respectively hold, and the source from which they obtain the dogs on which they experiment.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas.*) The information asked for, with the exception of the last item, is contained in the Annual Return of Experiments on Living Animals, of which the volume for the year 1902 will be issued very shortly. I have no information as to the source from which the animals are obtained.

Licences Refused—Grounds of Refusal.

SIR WILLIAM HOULDSWORTH (Manchester, N.W.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will give the total number of public house licences refused this year after appeal, distinguishing those refused because not required, those refused because not required and on other grounds, and those refused on other grounds.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas.*) Yes, Sir; as soon as the information can be obtained.

Government Vaccine.

MR. WEIR: To ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will state the number of tubes of glycerinated calf lymph which were produced, not issued, during the year 1901-2 at the Local Government Board vaccine station.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) I am unable to state the number of tubes produced. The lymph is only placed in tubes with a view to immediate issue.

Expenses of Elementary Schools—Proposed Legislation.

SIR BRAMPTON GURDON (Norfolk, N.): To ask the President of the Local Government Board when he will introduce his proposed measure to enable County Councils to raise temporary loans in order to meet the immediate expenses of elementary schools.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) I introduced the Education (Borrowing) Bill on the 23rd April.

Reduction of the Royal Irish Constabulary.

SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state how it is proposed to reduce the number of the Royal Irish Constabulary, whether by stopping entry or by discharges; and, if by discharges, whether it is intended to discharge men qualified to receive pensions, or to dismiss men who are not yet entitled to pensions but who would in due course become entitled to pensions were their services not so terminated.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) It has already been stated that the strength of the force will be reduced mainly by the suspension of recruiting. The power conferred by statute of requiring the retirement of men who have qualified for pension, but who are no longer efficient members of the force, will continue to be exercised in the future as it has been in the past.

Candidates for the Royal Irish Constabulary.

SIR JOHN COLOMB: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the number of candidates for the Royal Irish Constabulary now on the list for entry who have been found physically fit, qualified by excellence of character, and who have passed, either in the first or second class, the examinations; whether all these men are Irishmen; and, if not, what proportion are Irishmen.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) There are 867 candidates on the list. Of these 651 are on the first and 216 on the second class list. All are Irishmen.

Interference of Members of Royal Irish Constabulary in Civil Actions outside their Districts.

MR. HUGH LAW (Donegal, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if his attention has been drawn to the evidence of Sergeant Patrick Kilgannon, Royal Irish Constabulary, Gweedore, in the civil action of Patrick Gallagher *versus* Pauling and Co., tried at last Lifford Assizes, County Donegal; and whether, seeing that this sergeant volunteered evidence on behalf of the defendants in the case

which arose outside his district, instructions will be given to his superior officers that he is not in future to interfere in cases outside his district.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) My attention has not been specially drawn to the evidence in this case. The sergeant attended upon a subpoena issued at the instance of the defendants, and the matter in dispute arose within his district.

Home Service for the 2nd Dublin Fusiliers.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for War why the Dublin Fusiliers, Second Battalion, after nearly fifteen years foreign service, and fighting during the late war from its commencement, were sent to Aden from South Africa in February, 1902, while regiments with much less war service or foreign service have been allowed home long since; is there any fighting to be done at Aden; and if not, will the Dublin Fusiliers soon be replaced there by some other regiment.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) This battalion, which was due home in the 1902-3 trooping season, has been temporarily detained at Aden owing to military exigencies. This battalion, like many others, has unfortunately had its foreign service prolonged by the war and the subsequent detention of a large force in South Africa.

Cheap Ammunition for Rifle Clubs.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether ammunition used by recognised rifle clubs can be supplied at the same price to them as it is to the Volunteers.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) Volunteers can obtain a supply not exceeding ten rounds per man at a fixed price of £4 per 1,000. For any supplies beyond this they pay at the vocabulary rate of £4 15s. per 1,000. Rifle clubs can obtain supplies at the latter rate.

Infectious Diseases in the Guards' Hospital, Westminster.

CAPTAIN JESSEL (St. Pancras, S.): To ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state how many cases of

infectious disease are being treated in A Block of the Guards' Hospital, Rochester Row, Westminster; and whether, as the hospital is in close proximity to the sleeping rooms of the boys of the Newport Market Army Training School, Coburg Row, Rochester Row, he will take measures to remove the patients elsewhere.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The mild varieties only of infectious diseases, which do not require notification under the Infectious Diseases Act, are treated at Rochester Row Hospital, such as measles and mumps. There is considered to be no danger of infection being spread to the boys of the school mentioned.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to —
Naval Forces Bill,
Berwickshire County Town Bill, with-
out Amendment.

TRADE DISPUTES BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order for Second Reading read.

MR. SHACKLETON (Lancashire, Clitheroe) said that in asking the House to read this Bill a second time, he desired with the indulgence of the House to state briefly a few reasons why this Bill had become necessary. He did not propose to go at any length into the history of trade unions and their position before the law, he would only briefly say that in the reign of Edward III. Parliament enacted that:—

“Every person able in body, under the age of sixty years, not having means to live on, and being required, shall be bound to serve him that doth require him, or else be committed to the gaol until he find surety to serve; and if a workman or servant left his service before the time agreed upon he should be imprisoned.”

In the time of Elizabeth they found Statutes of Apprentices and Statutes of Labourers containing provisions equally infringing on freedom of contract. A master was fined 40s., the labourer was liable to imprisonment for the same offence. Before the passing of the Master and Servants Act, the employer could proceed by way of a warrant, but the workman must proceed by way of a summons; so that the law before it was altered in 1867, was in this state. The remedy against the employer was entirely

civil, but the remedy against a workman was entirely criminal. In the year 1871 they had the Trade Union Act, which legalised for the first time the objects of trade unions. That Act, with the amending Act of 1875, became the charter of trade unions; and for the first time an approach was made in the direction of equality at law as between employer and workman. For more than twenty years the law was administered according to the intentions of Parliament. The opinions of employers and workmen, and also of the legal profession, were at one in regard to what actions were legal and what were illegal. Then to the surprise of trade unionists, and he might say to the legal profession, decisions were given in every case limiting the power and action of trade unions. What were the reasons for this change of opinion they were at a loss to know. That it was a great change no one could deny, and that it put a serious limit on the actions of trade unionists was admitted on all sides. That brought him to the first Clause of the Bill, which sought to re-establish the law of picketing as it was understood to be, after the passing of the Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act, 1875. He noticed that the Employers' Parliamentary Council, in a circular dated 29th April, stated that their object was—

“To legalise intimidation when trades disputes are in contemplation, or during the continuance.”

This view of their position he entirely denied. The words of the clause clearly declared their intentions on this matter, and definitely stated their claims. But he thought another part of this circular clearly set forth what were the intentions of the employers. They state that the Court of Appeal decided on 20th December, 1898, that the words—

“To obtain or communicate information are to be understood in their ordinary and natural sense, and do not cover the totally different procedure of argument and persuasion.”

Exactly, that was just their point; and it was because they thought that Parliament intended they should have the right to argue and persuade that they pressed for a re-establishment of that right, and it was because the employers desired to prevent them having that right that they were

so jubilant at the decision in the case *Lyons v. Wilkins*. Now what were the intentions of Parliament when it passed the 1875 Act? The Home Secretary of the day, Mr. Cross (now Lord Cross), quoted the remarks of Mr. Russell Gurney, Q.C., at that time Recorder of London, and who, in charging the grand jury in the case *the Queen v. Hibbert*, said—

“Among the acts forbidden by the Act of 1871 was this: The molesting or obstructing any person by watching or besetting any place where his business was carried on with a view to *coerce* such person to alter his mode of carrying on his business. The question was not whether they had endeavoured to cause them to alter their mode by themselves refusing to work, or by persuading others not to work; that they had a perfect right to do. The more important object that the workers had in view was to inform all comers who, for instance, might have been brought by advertisement of the existence of a strike, and to endeavour to persuade them to join it. All that was lawful so long as it was done peacefully.”

Mr. Cross endorsed this statement as to the intentions of the Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act of 1875, not only so, but he afterwards had Mr. Gurney's full address printed and distributed to Judges and magistrates to show them how the Act should be interpreted. So clearly has this contention been impressed on the minds of legal gentlemen, that they had the hon. Gentleman the Attorney-General stating in this House last year that he—

“Defied any man to show that peaceful persuasion by itself imposed any liability, either civil or criminal. The statute of 1859 provided that peaceful persuasion by itself should not impose any penalty, and that the law as declared by that Statute still exists.”

The only difference between the right hon. Gentleman and the advocates of the Bill was that he said that his construction of law did exist, and they said it ought to exist. Unfortunately for them the hon. Gentleman did not hold the position which gave him the power to decide what the law was. He would quote another Gentleman whose opinion had great weight at present, because he had the power to make that opinion law. He referred to Lord Justice Kay. This was what he said in his judgment in the case *Lyons v. Wilkins*—

“I hold distinctly that it is illegal to picket the works or place of business of a man by persons who are distributed there for the

purpose of trying by persuasion to induce the workmen not to work for him any longer, or to induce people who want to work for him to abstain from entering into an agreement with him to do so."

There was nothing there about "intimidation," "threats," or "violence."

He desired to give a few instances which arose on this question of peaceful persuasion which came under his own observation. He had in his mind a very important case in the cotton trade. A dispute occurred which was not about wages. They tried, as they always did, to settle the dispute by amicable arrangement. Several joint meetings were held, and ultimately the dispute developed, and the usual advertisements were issued. The advertisements stated that there was no dispute about wages, and that the standard rates were paid, with the result that persons desiring work naturally applied for it. But what were the facts? There were conditions which reduced the wages below the standard rates. It was necessary for the men to be able to meet the people applying for work, and to point out to them that, while it was perfectly true that there was no difficulty about the standard rates of wages, there were conditions which would reduce the wages below the wages paid in the district. That was a reasonable position for the operatives to take up. There was another case in which the employer refused to pay the rate of wages agreed upon by the two associations. A dispute arose, in circumstances in which the employers' association could not blame the operatives. The result was that almost all the cotton weavers came out on strike. The overlookers were the fathers of some of the girls who had struck. Next day those men were sent for and the employer asked, "Where are your children?" The reply was, "They are out on strike with the rest." "Bring them back to-morrow morning or leave yourselves" was the reply. Should employers be allowed to use persuasion of that kind because employees will not bring their children in to work? There was another case of a dispute in which the employer sent agents into Lancashire, Yorkshire, and the adjoining counties and offered workpeople from 5 per cent. to

10 per cent. better terms than were offered to the workers immediately concerned, and were the employers to be allowed to offer such inducements? These were illustrations of what occurred in many, if not all, their trade disputes. They did not object to this, but on the other hand, they claimed the right to put their side of the case before these workmen, and to induce them by all peaceable means to come on their side.

He now came to the second Clause of the Bill, which dealt with the subject of conspiracy. The clause in the 1875 Act dealing with this matter was as follows—

"An agreement or combination by two or more persons to do, or procure to be done, any act in contemplation of, or furtherance of, a trade dispute between employers and workmen, shall not be indictable as a conspiracy if such act committed by one person would not be punishable as a crime."

This clause was understood to give to trades unions a position which made the right of combination a reality—

"The right conferred on two or more to do in combination what it is right for one to do."

That was the bed-rock of their position. The sacrifice of this principle would mean that the word "union" would be a misnomer, and the rights conferred upon them by Act of Parliament a hollow sham. Again he would call the attention of the House to the intention of Parliament. He would call again as his witness Mr. Cross, who was the responsible Minister of the Government for the Bill of 1875. He said, referring to a Report of the Commissioners.

"The ruling of Baron Pollock was also brought before the Commissioners. He is reported to have directed the jury that if several workmen combined not to work with a particular person and refused to work for an employer unless he dismissed that workman, that would amount to a conspiracy at Common Law, a doctrine which would equally apply to masters agreeing not to employ a particular workman unless he left a particular society or union. The Commissioners did not choose to enter into the question whether that is a true interpretation of the law, but say if it is it ought to be changed, and with that opinion we, *i.e.*, the Government, entirely agree."

[An HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!] An hon. Member cheered that. How did it work out? He would give an instance within his own personal knowledge. He had occasion one night to be up nearly

all night owing to sickness at home. He should have been at his work at six a.m.; he was a quarter of an hour late, and was informed that his services were no longer required. He had been an active worker in the trades union movement for fifteen years, but his employer did not tell him that that was the reason why he was discharged. That was typical of scores of cases; the employers were not so foolish as to give reasons why they discharged their men. He did not say it was as common to-day as it was fifteen or twenty years ago.

Was it seriously contended that workmen had not a right to terminate their contracts for any reason which might seem to them justifiable? If so, what was the meaning of the great lock-out of the engineers a few years ago? The workmen did not question the right of the employers on that occasion: why, then, should their right be questioned? It was said that the object of the workmen was to maliciously injure their employer. He denied that. The slightest acquaintance with the facts would disprove that contention. Workmen knew that strikes could only be entered upon as a last resort, and every means were tried before that extreme action was taken, and of all the strikes one might be connected with, certainly one brought about for the purpose of injuring an employer seemed to him to be the most suicidal, and he could not conceive of any set of workmen proposing such a strike, much less any official supporting it. No, Sir. The object of all strikes was to obtain an improvement in the wages or conditions of labour for the workmen, or to resist an attempt to reduce wages or put them in a worse position. Why should it be contended that what was known as a sympathetic strike was illegal? What occurred when an employer endeavoured to keep his machinery going during a dispute? He would give the House a case—the (Hyde) Winders case. The employer there was getting material from another firm. If the employer had a right to supply this material to another employer and thus help to defeat the workmen on strike, surely the workmen making this material had an equal right to say, either individually or collectively, “We refuse to assist you to defeat our fellow-workmen,” and

to cease work if such action was found necessary, and the trade union also ought to be allowed to put the facts of the case before these workmen, and to ask them to cease work in defence of their fellows. In doing this their object was not to injure the employer, but to do exactly what the employer had done, namely, to get help from other sources. That help might be in the form of money grants, or in secession of work, whichever at the time was the most valuable. This action was said to be conspiracy. But how was this argument applied when dealing with cases which are not disputes between employers and workmen? Let them take the Mogul Steamship Company's case, the particulars of which were well known to the House. That Company sought by a rebate system to crush out all who were outside their “ring.” Lord Herschell said in this case—

“The very object of the defendants was to induce shippers to contract with them and not to contract with the plaintiffs, and thus to benefit themselves at the expense of the plaintiffs, and to injure them by preventing them from getting a share of the carrying trade.”

Lord James—on the same case, said—

“Yet it was held by this House, [the House of Lords] that no action could be maintained, for the acts done were not unlawful, and the combination (or ring) was not a criminal conspiracy.”

How did this agree with the injunction granted by the Court of Appeal in the case *Lyons v. Wilkins*? One part of the terms of the injunction was—

“And also from preventing Schventhal or other persons from working for the plaintiffs by withdrawing his or their workmen from their employment respectively.”

Here they had it laid down that it was illegal to withdraw workmen from a firm who were assisting another firm, which was in dispute with its workmen. In the same case Lord Justice A. L. Smith said—

“If there had been a trade dispute between Mr. Schventhal's workmen and himself, I apprehend that the trade union might have done as regards Mr. Schventhal exactly that which they did as regards Messrs. Lyons, and they might have called his men out. ‘There was no dispute between Mr. Schventhal and his men; what the union did was not in furtherance of a trade dispute between him and his men.’ That strike of the trade union against Schventhal was illegal.”

But that action was in furtherance of a trade dispute, and that employer was.

acting in support of another employer; and it was easy to see that if the workmen lost their right to institute what was known as a sympathetic strike, one set of members might be used to defeat the legal and just objects of another set, who might be members of the same union. In regard to the Motion down on the Paper in the name of the hon. Member for South-West Manchester, he had only to say that they looked upon it as a hostile Motion. It was put down originally on account of the Taff Vale case. In regard to the clauses in this Bill he did not admit that there was any necessity for the enquiry suggested. They held on the contrary that Parliament dealt with them twenty-eight years ago, and all that they required at the present time was that Parliament should re-state in clear terms the intentions of law as expressed by the responsible Minister of the Crown in 1875.

In conclusion he had to thank the House for the patient hearing they had given him, and to express the hope that His Majesty's Government would give their support to this very moderate and reasonable request. They desired this alteration of the law, in the interest of the good government of the country. The recent decisions had left in the minds of workmen a feeling that the law was unfair and unjust. The feeling roused by these decisions in the country could only be fully realised by those veterans in their movement who, like his two hon. friends the Members for Morpeth and Leicester, were amongst those who led the men in the struggle which obtained for them those rights which during the past six years had been whittled away.

*MR. BELL (Derby) said he rose to support the hon. Member who had so ably moved the Second Reading of the Bill. The historical account given of the laws of combination showed how unfairly and prejudicially they applied against labour in older days, and how in the years 1871 and 1875 this House conferred on trades unions in the country what were then thought to be equal rights with the employers. Until very recent years the employers, the workmen, and the most able lawyers were all of one opinion upon that subject, and it was left for him and the society he represented to be made the first victims

of the interpretation of the law by the highest Court in the land. As to the position of trades unions, what was most strange to him was that the law should have taken thirty years to determine whether the trades unions were liable in the manner they were now said to be. All they asked in this Bill was that trades unions should be allowed to picket. It was obvious to everybody that in many cases the picket of three or five was not so much a picket as a deputation. He had been a member of the deputation to the Home Secretary, and he did not notice that the right hon. Gentleman was at all frightened because that deputation consisted of more than one. The employers themselves would not listen to a single individual in the same way as they would to a deputation of a greater number who came with greater force and influence, and in all cases a picket was a deputation. Only the other day the right hon. Gentleman the Prime Minister met a deputation of 200 or 300 brewers. He could not say whether it was peaceful persuasion or intimidation that they resorted to, to extract from the right hon. Gentleman what he said in reply, but he did not believe that it was by intimidation, but by peaceful means, that they successfully persuaded him to give the reply which he had made. That was the real object of this Bill. There were many men who were unable to put forward their own case. That was one of the chief reasons why the employers of labour would not recognise the officials of trades unions, as they were skilled men who could put the matter forward, while if the matter was left to the employee himself the employer knew that from various reasons his workman was unable to put forward his own case. It was the same with a picket; where a number of men were imported into a dispute, one may not be able to persuade men so much as another. He was as honest as any hon. Member of the House, and would not ask for labour anything he was not prepared to concede to the employers, but they found themselves in this position—that acts which were illegal according to the judges when committed by the workmen were legal when done by the employer in the course of his business.

In the case of the Taff Vale strike the employers employed agents—the

agent was the secretary of the Free Labour Association. That agent himself went through all the public-houses of the East End of London collecting men, watched the prison doors and picked them up from there and took them down to Cardiff. They chartered two railway saloons and sent them down. He was advised that they were coming; met them at the station and spoke to them through the window. It was not suggested that he had said anything objectionable or wrong on that occasion, but he persuaded them not to take the places of the men who were out on strike. He told them of the strike and explained the cause of it, and successfully persuaded them not to work. The men replied to him and said their fares had been paid and their expenses had been found, and if they did not work they could not get back to London. He replied that if they decided not to work he would see that their fares were paid to London and their expenses paid for them. Twenty-eight men came out of the saloons owing to his peaceful persuasion, and he chartered the same saloon from the railway as brought them down, and gave them the balance over their fare which went to make a sovereign a-piece. That was said to be a criminal offence that he had committed, and his society was mulcted in thousands of pounds. If the railway people had a right to persuade men to come down to work, he contended that he had an equal right to persuade them not to work. He would give another illustration. An employer objected to workmen because they were members of a union. He had a perfect right to do so. If he did not like to employ union men, so long as he gave them proper notice, he had a right to discharge them, but a trades union man might say, "I will not work with a non-unionist"; and if an employer had 100 men, of whom 90 were trades unionists, who knew that by their union and their organisation their condition had been improved, and they said, "We are not going to work with non-union men," they advised the employer of his having ten non-union men there, and he could please himself whether he got rid of those non-union men or whether the trades union men

should cease to work. He submitted that they had a perfect right to do that, but it had been held to be illegal, because it had been alleged that it was doing the ten men an injury, whereas it had only been done to improve their own position.

Then there was the sympathetic strike. A sympathetic strike was illegal because, one section of men working with an employer, those men belonging to a trade union had approached their employer for some change in the condition and terms of their service. Not being successful, possibly a strike had taken place. Their fellows in another department, feeling that they are likely to lose the struggle, also go out on strike in the interests of their own trades union men. Such a strike was illegal, but there was nothing to prevent the employers locking out men when they found one or two other employers whose men were out on strike were not likely to turn the battle against their workmen. Thus when they came to compare the rights of the employers on the one hand, and those of the workmen on the other, the comparison was highly disadvantageous to the trades unions. A firm near Manchester found that a number of their men had joined a union, and notice was given to them that they must leave the union or be discharged. The result was that a number of the men left the union, but others refused; those who refused received notice to leave, and were prevented from obtaining employment elsewhere. If that right was conceded to the employers, surely the workmen should not be deprived of it. The workmen ought to have the same privileges as the employers, and to ensure that they should have them was the only object of the Bill. The Attorney-General had stated—

"Peaceable persuasion is perfectly innocent in itself, but it is not so meritorious as to afford relief from the consequences of other wrongs which you do at the same time."

All the trades unions desired was that when by peaceable persuasion they succeeded in getting a man to refuse to work for an employer, they should not be held guilty of any criminal offence. Violence or intimidation was sufficiently provided against in the Conspiracy Act. In 1901 the Employers' Parliamentary Council issued a pamphlet in which they urged that the Conspiracy Act of 1875 should be strengthened by the word

"street" in Clause 7 being held to include any harbour, railway station, canal, dépôt, wharf, towing-path, public path, lake, common, or sea beach down to low water mark. Their modesty was shown by the fact that they stopped at low water mark, but the object was undoubtedly to render absolutely useless the efforts of trades unionists in disputes. If the employers would join hands with the labour representatives and endeavour to arrive at an understanding by which to put an end to disputes, great good might result, but instead of that, both sides spent their time, energy and money in devising schemes to fight each other. That was not in the interests of the trade and commerce of the country, nor was it in the interests of either employer or employed. Labour representatives desired to find some means by which these troubles should be prevented, but if it was necessary to fight them out to the bitter end, and the Employers' Parliamentary Council endeavoured to frame schemes by which the employers would have the upper hand, then the men would have to adopt precisely the same course. What a deplorable state of things it was that both sides should devote their energies to such a purpose! But that was not the object of the promoters of the Bill. They simply asked that they should have the same rights and privileges as the employers in conducting disputes, and he begged to second the Motion for the Second Reading.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."—(*Mr. Shackleton*).

MR. GALLOWAY (Manchester, S.W.) asked for the indulgence of the House, not because he doubted the wisdom of the Motion he was about to make, but because he recognised the difficulty and intricacy of the subject with which he had to deal. According to the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Fife, the lawyers themselves were unable to understand the state or the application of the law of conspiracy, and it was quite hopeless that he, a humble layman, should attempt to arrive at a definition where so many eminent authorities disagreed. The Second Reading of the Bill had been moved in speeches of great ability and moderation, containing nothing to which

Mr. Bell.

the large majority of employers could take serious objection. He would endeavour to discuss the question in the same spirit, and to say nothing that would wound the feelings of the Labour representatives, who would understand, he hoped, that though he disagreed with them, he did so sincerely and honestly. The hon. Member for Clitheroe had put forward instances in which he alleged the law had operated unfairly as between master and workman. Those instances, as stated, appeared most unfair to the workman, but the hon. Member had not stated the particular cases that were concerned. The instance in which the hon. Member alleged that he himself was dismissed, ostensibly because he was a quarter of an hour late, but really because he was a member of a trade union, if proved, dealt with a monstrously unfair action, and one which no employer with a proper sense of his duty towards the men or towards himself would for a minute think of doing. The Motion he had placed on the Paper was intended to include not only the points raised by the present Bill, but all the points in dispute between employers and workmen and the Legislature. His contention was that it ought to be known what the law really was, and the law ought to be so drawn as to give a privilege to neither master nor workman, but to deal equally with both. The Trades Unions Congress had sent to Members a statement pointing out how the law affected employers and workmen respectively. Although he was about to put forward a view of the law, it was not his own; he had taken the best advice he could, and while not suggesting he had a large number of authorities for it, he believed it was a view with which the majority of the lawyers present would agree. The hon. Member opposite appeared to confuse two issues, or to compare two things which, according to law, could not be compared—viz., the position of a trade union with that of an individual employer. He should have compared it with the position of the Federation of Masters. So far as the law stood he thought the hon. Member opposite had made a mistake in comparing the two things, for they were not alike. The law ought to be made equal if it was not equal at the present time, and he thought it was

rather strange that trades unions had never taken any of these cases into court in order to get a final decision on them.

MR. BELL: It is on account of the costs.

MR. GALLOWAY: Surely some of the large trades unions with large funds at their disposal could well have afforded to risk the costs in a matter so serious. To say that an employer had the right to dismiss a man because he belonged to a trades union, and that he had a right during the strike to dismiss men belonging to the union whereas the men had not the right to persuade men from working for that employer, was certainly not equality between employer and employed. As far as he could understand this Bill, it was proposed by the first Clause to make legal peaceful persuasion. He did not think there was any difference of opinion as to whether trades unions ought to be allowed peacefully to persuade in the way suggested. The question came in, however, as to what was "peaceful persuasion." How far ought they to allow both masters and men to peacefully persuade one another to join in a strike. He thought he should carry hon. Gentlemen opposite with him when he said they desired that there should not be any violence or intimidation, and that every man should be allowed to follow his own desires and dispose of his own labour as he thought fit. The difficulty he foresaw in this particular Bill was as to whether this Act went farther than that or not. Did this Bill alter the law of common nuisance? It was most important that they should understand that point before they passed the Bill. It was undesirable that they should pass any Bill which did away with the law of common nuisance, which was a great protection to the individuals throughout the country. He wanted to know what construction the courts were going to place upon "peaceful persuasion." They would certainly have a large number of cases brought forward to decide. Would the courts hold that peaceful persuasion was what hon. Gentlemen opposite had put forward, and if the courts did not

hold that view, did hon. Gentlemen opposite and their friends intend to come to this House again saying that the law had not been administered as it was intended by Parliament, and that they must pass another Bill to put it right. He was sure they would admit that that would not be a desirable thing; therefore the House ought not to pass a Bill without understanding exactly what it was doing, and they ought to understand the exact limit and extent to which this Bill would allow peaceful persuasion.

The second Clause of the Bill largely altered the law of conspiracy. He always thought that law was an Act of Parliament passed years ago, and he thought he should have no difficulty in turning it up and in understanding what it meant. He was under the impression that if that Act was not clear there would be some standard work to explain its contents. He found, however, that the law of conspiracy was a law which practically had grown up by usage, and by the general sense of justice in the community, and, though there had been Acts passed regulating this, it had largely been interpreted by the justice and common sense of the Judges of the Courts. This law was necessary for the protection not of the trades unionists as opposed to masters, or of masters as opposed to trades unionists, but for the protection of every section of the community. Therefore they ought not to alter that law without very serious consideration, and they ought not to make so drastic a change as this Bill would make without more information than they had before them at the present time. There were many things which might be lawful for one person to do, but when done by a combination of persons it became illegal. There was the famous case of *Gregory v. the Duke of Brunswick*, in which an actor had been hissed off the stage by two or more persons, and it was held that, while it was right for one person to hiss or hoot, it became wrong and illegal when the same thing was done by a combination of individuals. This was part of the law of conspiracy, and he wanted to know if this Bill would interfere with that law, and enable such things to be done.

SIR ROBERT REID (Dumfries Burghs): But you can't have a trade dispute in a theatre.

MR. GALLOWAY said he was not going to be drawn into a legal discussion on that point, because the right hon. Gentleman was as great a giant in such matters as he was a dwarf. In the case of a controversy between large and small employers would that be called a trade dispute? He did not think that even lawyers would be able to say that in such a case it would be a trade dispute. What would this law allow the large employers, or combination of employers, to do to the small employers? It would allow them to coerce and bring pressure to bear not only on small employers, but upon their customers, and upon everybody who had dealings with them. The large employers could say to their workmen, "If your fellow workmen do not stop working for this small employer we will dismiss the whole lot of you." If that was an accurate view was it right that they should give such tyrannical power to a large combination of employers? At the present time the whole tendency of trade was towards those large combinations, and it was becoming more and more difficult for the small employer to fight his battle against them. They would be doing a grievous injury if they put the small employers' liberty in jeopardy, and in the hands of the large combinations of employers. As a rule, the management of these large combinations was mostly in the hands of the person who promoted them. Therefore it meant practically placing in one man's hands this great power, and, he thought the House ought to think very seriously before it passed this Bill. Of course this measure would give the workmen these powers in the same way. He did not think they would wish to have them, for they would see how they might cut both ways and be used against as much as by them. Therefore, they ought to understand before they passed the second Clause, just as they should understand before passing the first how far they were going and what the alteration of the law would result in, for if they did not so understand it, they would run great risk of in-

fllicting serious injury on the trade of the country, and, after all, the prosperity of the trade of the country was as much the interest of workmen as employers. He hoped that nothing he had said would lead anyone to suppose that he had any hostile feeling himself to the proper combination of men in trades unions. He believed that the trades unions of this country had worked great benefit not only to the workmen but to the trade of the country. He believed that a man had a perfect right—and the House ought to see that that right was preserved intact—to combine with his fellow workmen to get such advantages for himself as he might be able to obtain by legitimate means. He believed that as time went on the leaders of the trades unions in this country were realising more and more that their interests were not hostile to, but identical with, those of the employers. The hon. Member opposite claimed that the recent decisions of the Courts had altered what was the intention of Parliament in 1875. That might or might not be well founded. He could state on the authority of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Fife, that the law as it at present existed was in a state of chaos so far as conspiracy was concerned.

MR. ASQUITH (Fifeshire, E.): I said it needs to be settled.

MR. GALLOWAY said there were many points in the recent decisions which had never got further than the Court of Appeal. They had never been decided by the highest tribunal of this country. He admitted the difficulty of taking some of these cases to the House of Lords—difficulties on the masters' side and the workmen's side. But was it not absurd, when the law was admittedly in a state of uncertainty, that they should begin to amend it without thoroughly understanding the amendment they proposed to make. Let the House remember that no serious alteration of the law, as between employer and employed, had ever been made without an inquiry first being held. The great Act of 1875 was preceded by a very exhaustive inquiry. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Haddingtonshire, who had made a special study of this subject and was

one of the highest authorities upon it, said in a speech delivered on the 21st January—

“A Bill had been brought forward by the trades unions which sought to set matters right by an amendment of the definition of ‘conspiracy’ which would make everything lawful when it was done by a number of men if it would have been lawful when done by one man. But he thought there would have to be a great deal of careful consideration before the House of Commons would be persuaded that this was the true remedy. . . . What he would like to see done was for a Royal Commission to be appointed. It should consist of three experts, say two of the most eminent of the Judges and a layman who had great experience of these things and took a large, wide, and fair view of them. He would ask this Commission to say whether the present decisions could stand together, and if they could not stand together, what were to be the principles to be laid down as the real principles in these matters. He would also like the Royal Commission to take up the definition of picketing, and to amend it, providing always for the liberty of the subject by securing that what was done did not amount to a nuisance. That was his idea of the remedy for the present situation, which was a very serious one.”

He believed the right hon. Gentleman was right as to the necessity for an inquiry before the House proceeded further in this matter, and he moved this Motion. He appealed to the Government to grant an inquiry. There was not unreasonably a prejudice against Royal Commissions, because they were very often appointed to postpone the consideration of subjects. He did not ask inquiry for that purpose. He did not know what special form the inquiry should take, but it should be carried out in such a manner as to enable the House to obtain a report speedily, so that the matter might be dealt with. The hon. Member for Derby had accurately stated that there was a feeling of unrest among the working people of the country in regard to this question. The great trades unions felt that they were treated wrongfully by the law. He hoped an inquiry would be granted and that, as the result of the report received, a Bill would be produced which would deal with the questions referred to. Until that was done they might feel assured that the unrest would prevail, and so long as it prevailed, they were jeopardising the prosperity and the welfare of the people of this country.

*MR. LYTTELTON (Warwick and Leamington) seconded the Amendment. Though he was against this particular Bill

he agreed that the law relating to trade combinations required amendment, presenting, as it did at this moment, some confusion, and also some hardship to the trades union sections of the country. He was convinced that an inquiry was necessary, for he was not fully satisfied in his own mind that the amendment which was required was in the direction of the extension of the powers of the trades unions so much as in the restriction of the power of federation by employers. He thought it was precipitate at the present moment, especially in view of the great trend of opinion in America, and, he believed, in France also, against the enormous power wielded by great trusts of capitalists, to say that it was necessary to increase the power of trade unions in order to bring them up to the power of the employers. But the law, in his view, operated harshly against trade unions. This was not a new opinion on his part. Ten years ago he wrote a pamphlet pointing out the effect of the decisions then recently given in the cases of the Mogul Shipping Company *v* M'Gregor, and *Temperton v. Russell*. In the Mogul case a ring of shipowners combined to raise freights, and to constitute a monopoly. A dissentient shipowner declined to join them, and they made an agreement to force him to join them, and to boycott him if he did not join. Among other methods of inducing him to join the ring they refused to have commercial intercourse with any agent who dealt with him. That conduct was justified by the judgment of Lord Justice Bowen in the Court of Appeal. He ruled that—

“The just cause or excuse for inflicting ruin on the dissenting shipowner was that instinct of self-advancement and self-protection which is the incentive of all trade.”

In other words, to ruin a man for the purpose of ruining him alone is illegal, but to ruin him because you want his trade is legal! There had never been put in more precise language the extremity of the old Ricardian doctrine. He was not going to quarrel with it for a moment, or to argue that it was wrong. He would not be qualified to do so. Anybody might read the judgment and judge for himself. Now, that was the meed of justice which was awarded to the federation of employers. Contrast that with the decision in the case of *Temperton v. Russell*. A firm of builders refused to follow a certain

trades union's injunctions. To coerce them the trades union ordered another firm to cease to supply the first firm with materials. That other firm refused, and the trades union procured other people to boycott the dissentient and, among other means of coercing them, to refuse to enter into contracts with them. In both these cases, it was found that there was no personal ill-will. Now, these were very similar cases, so far as he could see, leading to similar consequences. In both cases there was a combined conspiracy—or, to use a neutral term, a combination to ruin another person because he would not join a federation in one case and in the other would not follow the trades union regulations. In the one case, that of the shipping combine, the action of the employers was justified by the courts because the capitalists had as their object "profits." That was, he thought, the plain way of summarising that "instinct of self-advancement and self-protection which is the incentive of all trade." Profits had to be made; and the word "profits" cast an ægis over the combination to ruin another. But what was the object in the second case? Dismissing all verbiage, the object was "wages"—which were the profits of workmen. If he might venture to quote the neglected pamphlet to which he had referred—

"Both operations being for the benefit of their own market—in the one case 'profits,' and in the other case 'wages,' why is the capitalist combination merely an incident in the war of combination carried to the bitter end, and the combination of the trades union a malicious and illegal conspiracy?"

He ventured to ask that question ten years ago. It required answering, for, of course, the decisions had not tended to improve the state of things that existed at that time, but rather had emphasised and accentuated the state of things which he then deplored. The House must not, for a moment, suppose that he ventured to criticise the Judges who made these decisions. Still less, that he cast the slightest doubt—it would be monstrous to do so—on the integrity and good faith with which these decisions were made. Manifestly this was a resolution of the controversy, almost centuries old, in which one class of persons regarded any combination with these objects as deplor-

able, and the other regarded it as legitimate "self-advancement and self-protection which is the incentive of all trade." But he trusted the Labour Members, who had brought forward their case with such ability and such moderation, would pardon him if he said that he felt a substantial doubt whether the Bill which they proposed was not a movement in the direction rather of exasperating the situation by giving greater power to the combinations than already existed. He agreed that you must make the combinations of labour and capital equal, and unless you restricted the power, as the Americans were about to do, of these federations and great combinations of capitalists, you must increase the power of the trades unions. That was, he thought, a necessary consequence. But he asked them to consider well, before they asked this House, in order to redress a wrong which they felt existed at the present moment, to sanction methods which would tend to stereotype that wrong in the legislation of this country, rather than, as he ventured to hope might be the case, that both parties to this tremendous struggle should be hampered in their power to cause misery and ruin all round. With great deference he ventured to think that this Bill went too far.

Substantially the first Section of the Bill, if put in common terms,—and he thought it would startle some of his friends on the other side were it put in common terms—was that for the purpose of picketing the common law of nuisance must be repealed. [Cries from the OPPOSITION Benches of "No, No."] Yes, that was his opinion. He did not wish to shirk this for a moment. In his humble opinion the law of picketing might be amended in favour of the trades unions without such a consequence. Even so conservative and excellent a judge as the late Mr. Russell Gurney, the Recorder of London, in charging the Grand Jury in, I think, 1869, stated definitely that peaceful picketing was within the law. That learned judge was only stating definitely what all men believed applied to civil and criminal proceedings—that peaceful picketing was legitimate. He did not want to mention his name, but he was informed by a very distinguished person, long a Member of this House, that on a Saturday afternoon in July or August in 1875 the Conspiracy Bill came back from the House of Lords to the House of Commons,

and it was alleged that Lord Cairns had stated in the House of Lords that peaceful picketing was legal. Someone said—

"Then why not insert that proviso in the Bill and make it clear?"

Mr. Gathorne Hardy replied.

"No, the Lord Chancellor said it was not needed."

That showed how the existing state of things had arisen. Of course, he thought that everybody would agree that the Act of 1875 was passed rather to relax the stringency of the law against trades unions than to increase it. Might he suggest—and this was a mere suggestion, made with great deference—that if you defined picketing as only a collection of three or four people with the view of watching and for the purpose of communicating with or of persuading others, then that would avoid the difficulty about repealing the law of nuisance, and would definitely state on the face of the Statute-book what you wanted to legalise and what you did not. These were matters which deserved most serious consideration by the House, and by people who were not protagonists in the dispute. Therefore he most earnestly agreed with his right hon. and learned friend the Member for Haddingtonshire that there ought to be a body which should have the power of resolving such doubts as did exist as to what was the law at the present moment, and also of recommending what changes should be made in the law in favour of absolute justice and equality between employers and employed. He wanted to make a single observation upon Clause 2 of the Bill. It said that—

"An agreement or combination by two or more persons to do or procure to be done any act in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute shall not be ground for an action if such act when committed by one person would not be ground for an action."

His right hon. and learned friend opposite, who had studied this question closely, well knew that that was a very significant departure from the rules of the Conspiracy Acts. What was effected by the Conspiracy Acts was to make innocuous *bonâ fide* disputes as between workmen and employers, but in the course of those disputes this most wholesome limitation was omitted altogether from Clause 2, with the result that you

might have a federation of employers combining to crush small employers and combining to crush individual trades unions, which none of them in the House wished should be done. He respectfully and earnestly desired the Home Secretary, before he committed himself to legislation such as was proposed by this Bill—which although only consisting of two clauses—he did not wish to speak offensively of them—appeared to have been conceived under a panic and from a sense of exasperation of what its authors believed to be a wrong—whether the right hon. Gentleman would not consider the possibility of appointing a Commission, very small in number, and not of partisans, which might quietly discuss the whole question under review. He begged to second the Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out from the word 'That' to the end of the Question, in order to add the words, 'this House declines to consider a Bill dealing only with certain points affecting trade disputes, inasmuch as it considers any legislation on such a subject should deal with the question as a whole, and when Parliament is in possession, by the report of a Royal Commission or otherwise, of satisfactory materials for the purpose.'"—(Mr. Galloway.)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's) said he was unable to support the Second Reading of this Bill, which he believed went beyond even the intentions of its promoters; but he congratulated the mover upon the clearness and the moderation of his speech, and hoped he might assure him that he had proved himself a powerful acquisition to his Party in the House and a most acceptable exponent of their policy to the House generally. He had stated, however, that the object of the Bill was to re-establish the law as it was in 1875, and as it stood before the recent decisions. But the Bill went far beyond that, and really proposed to exempt picketing from all liability to proceedings for nuisance so long as the picketing—in other words "to watch, beset, etc."—was merely attending and watching near a

person's residence, place of business, or works for the purpose of peacefully obtaining information or communicating information, or for the purpose of peacefully persuading any person to work or abstain from working. These words sounded extremely guileless; but in his opinion the danger of the clause was not in these words. "To peacefully persuade" brought no one at present within sight of the law; but the common law as to nuisance would be overridden by the clause by exempting from the consequences of their acts any person who "attends at or near a house merely for the purpose of communicating information or peacefully persuading any person to work or to abstain from work." Now in carrying out these objects a person might be liable under the common law for an action for nuisance; but under the Bill, as long as he was merely carrying out these objects, he would be exempt. In other words, the danger of the clause lay in the fact that all liability to proceedings for a nuisance, whether civil or criminal, public or private, would be done away with if only the persons who would otherwise be liable could show they merely desired "to peacefully obtain or communicate information or peacefully persuade." So great was the magic of these words that, in combination with the occurrence of a trade dispute, they would relieve from all liability to the ordinary law of the land. "Picketing or watching or besetting" merely for the purpose of obtaining or communicating information was at present exempt from the criminal law under the Conspiracy Act of 1875; but if this clause were passed persons could commit any nuisance to others, could injure them in their business; could, for instance, collect such crowds as would obstruct their passage to or from their houses or works, and by pleading a trade dispute, they would be exempt from all liability, civil or criminal. To take an illustration, if a man called at one's house and endeavoured to obtain entrance and an interview with the occupier by a gentle application of the knocker, it could not be said that any great annoyance had been caused to that occupier; but if forty or fifty or a hundred persons came at all times within the

twenty-four hours and made frequent applications with the same weapon of summons and offence, this would not be a desirable attention; and yet such delicate attentions would be allowable if their motives could be held under this Bill to be that of peacefully obtaining or communicating information. The hon. Member who seconded the Motion in an extremely able speech had rallied him on the question of deputations. He readily admitted the softness and the pleasantness of the methods which the hon. Member and his friends pursued when they came to see him on these deputations, and he had no complaint to make against the "peaceful persuasion" by which they, on these occasions endeavoured sometimes successfully to obtain their ends. But the case would be entirely altered if they came, not only once and by appointment at a particular hour, but all day and in their hundreds and thousands instead of in the limited number which, it was generally conceded, was the best manner of promoting successfully the cause they had to commend to the Minister.

MR. BELL: We do not ask for that.

*MR. AKERS DOUGLAS said he only gave that as an illustration—possibly an extreme one; but the hon. Member must admit the soundness of the comparison. The clause would confer on trades unions immunity from the general law against a nuisance which his right hon. friend the Member for Haddington had defined as being none the less an illegality whether committed by a trade union or by a duke. He agreed with that definition, and he certainly thought that if the Bill were passed the remedy at law they now had as regarded a nuisance would be done away with. Under the existing law, persons might be peacefully persuaded provided the method employed did not constitute a nuisance to other people; but if they legalised persuasion as proposed in the Bill that safeguard would be gone, and not only individual liberty, but public order, might seriously suffer. Clause 2 purported merely to exempt from civil liability a combination of persons who should do any act in connection with a trade dispute where there would be no liability if the act were done by one person only. So far as the criminal law was concerned in

Mr. Akers Douglas.

disputes between employers and workmen, the Conspiracy Act, 1875, already provided for this, as it laid down that an act should not be indictable as a conspiracy when, if committed by one person, it would not be punishable as a crime; But this Bill went much farther than the existing law, because it would extend the exemption not only to trade disputes between employers and workmen, but to all trade disputes, including those between different sets of employers, between trusts and individuals, and between an employer and workmen who were not in his employ. In all those respects the Bill would extend the existing law. The principle of law that acts not actionable if done by one person might become so if done by combination among several, was well settled and was based on sound reason, for a combination might make oppressive and dangerous that which if it proceeded from a single person would be harmless. The Bill proposed to take away the safeguard of the existing law so far as acts done in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute were concerned. For these reasons he thought the House would do well to accept the advice of his hon. friend the Member for Leamington, who urged that the House should pause before it hastily passed a measure of this kind.

He had endeavoured to state briefly the objections to the Bill. But there was another general objection which he thought worth mentioning, and that was, that the House generally held itself to be against privileged legislation. Surely this would be legislation for a privileged class, because persons engaged in a trade dispute, and they alone, would be given a privilege. He did not see why one class of His Majesty's subjects should, for a particular purpose, be placed in a better position than the rest of the community. While he sympathised to a great extent with the objects of the hon. Member who moved the Second Reading, he deprecated any hasty and ill-considered attempt to get over the effect of certain recent decisions of the Courts. Any such alteration of the law would be fraught with far reaching and dangerous effects, altogether apart from the question of trade disputes. In the debate on the subject on the 14th

May last year, the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Fife and the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Haddington concurred in thinking that a case had been made out for an inquiry. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Haddington still held to that view; but he gathered from a recent speech of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Fife that he had somewhat altered his view. He would ask the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Fife whether it would not be better, for the objects they all had in view, that the question should be fully and carefully considered by a competent body, before any legislation ensued. For his part he was not disposed to vote for the Second Reading. He would vote for the Motion of his hon. friend who declared that "this House declines to consider a Bill dealing only with certain points affecting trade disputes, inasmuch as it considers any legislation on such a subject should deal with the question as a whole, and when Parliament is in possession, by the report of a Royal Commission or otherwise, of satisfactory materials for the purpose." Last year when his right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer was asked to grant an inquiry, he expressed the readiness of the Government to assent to such a request, subject to a case for it being made out by the result of an appeal to the House of Lords, then understood to be pending or contemplated. The case had not gone further, but opinion on both sides of the House, as well as in the Press and the country, had considerably advanced. There was a desire that people should know what the actual state of the law was at the present moment. It was a wish that he did not himself entirely share, because he believed that the law was known by those who had to administer it, and those were the people to declare what the law was. But he thought a case had been made out for an inquiry, so that those who desired an alteration of the law should be able to state what alteration they desired, and those who felt that they had been hardly treated by the recent decisions should have an opportunity of placing their grievances before a Commission. On the report of that Commission Parliament would be in a better position

to legislate and put an end to the unhappy state of feeling on this subject in certain portions of the country. On behalf of the Government he was quite prepared to promise that inquiry. As to the form the inquiry should take, it might be desirable to take time to consider. He would hear more in the course of the debate as to the general desire of the House; but he was certain it ought not to be an inquiry made by a Committee of this House, which by the nature of the case would be apt to deal with the subject in a party sense. He did not think a Committee of the House could help doing so. Hon. Members were perfectly aware how Committees of the House were selected. Certain hon. Members were taken from each side; and, accordingly, with such a body they would be likely to get a Party vote on a question which should be above Party. He proposed that the inquiry should take the form of a Commission. It was surely desirable that on an inquiry of this sort there should be placed those who were best able to give guidance as to the legal aspect of the question, and who would be more impartial exponents than could be found in this House. He would therefore urge on the House the desirability of accepting the Motion of his hon. friend, and of concurring in the view that a Commission should be appointed.

* MR. ÁSQUITH (Fifeshire, E.): I listened with much respect and attention to the speech of the Home Secretary, and I had some difficulty, when the right hon. Gentleman came to the close of his remarks, in understanding either why he opposed the Second Reading or why he is going to support the proposal of a Commission of Inquiry. As regards the Bill itself, all the objections the right hon. Gentleman took were objections, not of principle, but of detail, what we are accustomed to call Committee points; and when the right hon. Gentleman assented to the suggestion of a Royal Commission, I was still more surprised when I heard his declaration that the law was perfectly well known. I do not think it is well known to anybody except the Secretary of State himself. There are many of us compelled by the necessities of life to indulge in the litigation of these questions who would be very grateful to the right hon. Gentleman if he would impart to us

the secret which at present is locked up in his own bosom. It is the first time in my experience that I have ever known a Minister assent to a Royal Commission to inquire into the state of the law on the ground that the law was perfectly well known. If it is well known and not satisfactory, it is obviously the duty of the Government to assent to proposals for the Amendment of it, or to make proposals of their own instead of favouring the dilatory machinery of a Royal Commission. The Amendment of the hon. Member for South-West Manchester does not admit the necessity for any legislation at all, and that is the reason I shall vote against it. I do not withdraw in the least anything I have said in past debates or outside the House, that it is desirable we should have a general revision and codification of the whole of this branch of our industrial law; and, as a preliminary to that task or to its successful accomplishment, it may be necessary to have some form of inquiry by experts. But that does not get rid of the duty which I hold is incumbent on the House when specific points are brought forward where the experience of the persons concerned has shown that grievances exist, to deal with these grievances as they arise, and in such a manner as to remove the cause of dissatisfaction. I decline entirely to allow the merits of this particular Bill to be complicated or confused with the more general question of whether there ought to be an inquiry into the law of trade disputes or not. I think that this Bill is exciting, judging from the communications which reach us, a great deal of exaggerated and unnecessary alarm, and I venture to say that it is a modest and fragmentary measure. My complaint of the Bill would be not that it does too much, but that it does a great deal too little. It covers a very small corner of the area of possible amendment of the law; but that is no objection to it if, on the whole, it covers it in a satisfactory way, with reference to principles which the House will accept. It is ridiculous to say that piecemeal reform in a matter of this kind should be rejected until you can arrive at a general settlement in connection with all the vast and complicated problems of our industrial system.

Mr. Akers Douglas.

In the first place, let me point out to the House what the Bill does not propose to do, for I think there is a certain amount of misconception about that. In its present shape, at any rate, it does not propose to do anything in the way of reversing or modifying the celebrated decisions of the House of Lords in the Taff Vale case. I think the promoters of the Bill have wisely abandoned any intention whatever of attempting to deal with that matter; because, although that decision was unexpected alike by lawyers and laymen I do not think it would be expedient from the point of view of combinations, either of the employers or of the workmen, that those who are in favour of their effective existence and vitality should attempt to ask Parliament to lay down a policy of this kind, that large trade organisations, possessing large funds, and directed by a controlling authority should not be responsible for the unlawful acts, if they be unlawful acts, shown to be committed by their agents, if they be really their agents, within the scope of their authority. I do not think it would be in the interests of the trade unions or the employers' combinations that that principle should be affirmed. What is it that the Bill does do? It deals only with two topics—the question of picketing and the question of combination. As regards picketing, it is incontrovertible that the Royal Commission of thirty years ago and the Legislature which passed the Act of 1875, deliberately intended to legalise picketing as an instrument of industrial warfare, provided that it was carried on within legitimate limits. There can be no question or doubt about that. Nor can it be doubted that the effect of some recent decisions of the Courts has been, if not altogether to frustrate, at any rate very largely to cut down the intention of the Legislature and to make the exercise of this instrument which the Legislature intended and declared to be lawful, practically unworkable and impossible. These decisions have altered the state of things, and upon the construction which the judges have put upon the Act of 1875, I do not myself believe it to be possible for a strike, however intelligently directed, and however great the anxiety of the persons direct-

ing it to keep within the limits of the law may be, to be conducted by picketing at all. The suggested legislation on this point is not intended to bring about a new state of things, but to restore the effective exercise of a right which the Legislature, thirty years ago, at the instance of a Conservative Government, and the common consent of all parties in the State, deliberately conferred.

Various objections have been taken to the provisions of the Bill. I am not responsible for the Bill, and I do not profess to justify every word of the drafting; but the points which have been selected for criticism both by my hon. and learned friend the Member for Leamington and the Home Secretary are exactly of that class which the House should be trusted to deal with in Committee, in order, let me point out—for this is the essence of the matter—that the Bill may be brought into accordance with the express declarations both of the mover and seconder who have told us what their intentions are. If this first Clause were passed in its present form, I do not think it would be held by the Courts of law to legalise any form of picketing which was in itself a nuisance. The Home Secretary tells us that in the view of those who advise him this clause proposes to protect persons from liability for a common law nuisance. I do not agree with him. Suppose persons engaged in picketing were so engaged in circumstances which constituted an unlawful assembly. Does anyone suggest that this clause would protect them from either criminal or civil proceedings? Suppose they were to assemble for the purpose of peaceful persuasion in excessive numbers or at unreasonable hours, or in other conditions which inflicted unnecessary discomfort and annoyance on the persons to whom their solicitations were addressed, does anyone suppose that this clause would protect them from actionable liability? I cannot conceive it for a moment. But supposing it were so, it is a mere question of drafting; because the promoters disclaim in the most express terms any desire to surround the privilege or right of picketing with any of these annoying incidents. I cannot imagine that anything would be easier when you have the Bill in Committee than either by proviso

or by qualifying words in the clause itself, to make it clear that this—I will not call it extension but reinstatement of the right of picketing—is clearly to be limited by the condition that it is not to be carried on in such a way as to constitute a nuisance at common law.

As to the second Clause dealing with combination it is in some respects the more important clause of the Bill. Here again I venture to think, with all respect to hon. Members opposite, that the objections taken are not to principle but to draftsmanship, machinery, and detail. What are the circumstances which made it necessary to invoke the intervention of the Legislature in this matter, and what are the conditions subject to which that intervention ought to take place? I summarise them in this way. In the first place the effect, I do not say the intention, of recent decisions of the Courts of law has been to curtail and cut down the right of combination which the Legislature intended to recognise and ratify in 1875. Practices which for twenty-five years have been constantly resorted to, with the full belief on the part of all concerned that they were legal, are now declared by the Courts of law to be beyond the bounds of legality. That is a very serious matter, and the House should look at it not merely from the point of view of employer and employed. After an experience of over twenty years, the exercise of this right of combination on the one side and the other has been found to be the only satisfactory alternative to industrial anarchy. If you make the effective use of that right dangerous, and subject it to all kinds of unforeseen disabilities on the part of a person resorting to it, you are not making in the direction of industrial peace but of industrial war, because, both as regards employers and employed, if you leave the matter as it used to be left, when combinations were regarded as conspiracies and punished as such, to individual and sporadic action, you will have the worst possible consequences in the ill adjustment of industrial disputes or in resort to intimidation. The right of combination is an interest of the largest possible kind, which all persons engaged in industry are equally bound to respect. But, further, these recent decisions have shown an actual inequality in the application of the law as

between combinations of employers and combinations of employed. It is impossible to contrast the decision as my hon. friend did in the *Mogul* case, with that in *Temperton v. Russell*—without seeing that a different principle is applied to the right of combination as between the one set and the other set of parties. On this point I would venture to urge strongly upon the House as a reason for legislation that this is a matter which the Legislature ought to keep in its own hands and not leave to the Judges. I do not speak with any disrespect of the Judges, or impute any partiality in a matter of this sort; but these are very delicate questions. They affect great social and economic interests and sentiments; and you are throwing an unfair burden on your Judges if you expose your judicial tribunals to possible suspicion and misapprehension in a sphere from which they ought to be excluded, and if you, as a Legislature, do not clearly lay down in express terms the rules which the Judges ought to apply in disputes of this kind. It appears to me that this is eminently a case where the Legislature ought to take the responsibility upon itself.

After dealing with those general considerations let me say a word in regard to the particular provisions of the second Clause. Its effect is that an agreement of a combination between persons is not to be actionable if the thing which they combine to do would not be actionable in the case of one person. I agree with the remark which was made by, I think, the Home Secretary, that it is possible there may be cases when an act done by a single person is completely different in its social and moral character from the same act done by a combination of persons. A thing which when done by a single individual may be of no weight or significance at all—which is, at any rate, incapable of producing any serious disturbance of the rights of other people—may, when done in combination with other persons, become a very formidable thing. Here again I say, as I have said in reference to the first Clause, if there is any ambiguity in the draftsmanship let that ambiguity be removed, and let it be made clear that the intention of this second Clause is not to legalise acts done by more than one person when those acts amount to a nuisance.

Mr. Asquith.

I do not think any one of my friends concerned in the promotion of this Bill would in the least object to that being made perfectly plain; but subject to that limitation, which I agree is not required, but which may very legitimately be expressed, is it not a sound principle, as a rule, that acts ought not from a civil point of view to be made actionable when done by more than one person which are not actionable when done by one person? It is quite true that competition, when it takes the form, as it must take the form, of combination, is bound by the very nature of the case to result in injury to the person who, in the race or rivalry between competitors, has to go to the wall; but so long as competition is the competition of one person against another, there is no question in point of law that that is a perfectly legitimate thing. Competition when it takes the form of combination is also said by the Courts to be legitimate, provided it acts by measures which fall within the very vague cover of what is called "lawful excuse." Let me illustrate this for a moment. I, as an individual, may undoubtedly lawfully persuade or try to persuade A., a workman, not to work for B., a particular employer, and by way of inducing him to do so, I may, with equal lawfulness, refuse to work with him. No one disputes that. Now suppose that instead of being a single workman I am a member of a group, and I desire to obtain the same result. May this group combine to persuade A. not to work for B.? Then—a still more difficult question—may they, as the law now stands, combine to refuse to work with A. unless he agrees to their persuasion? I doubt it very much. I am disposed to think that, as the decisions of the Court, or, at any rate, the dicta, now stand, the mere fact that those persons are combining together to do what it is admitted that an individual might do perfectly legitimately if he did it by himself, may be held to make the thing, if it results in damage, a conspiracy and subjects them to an action. Is that right? I am assuming, as I am entitled to, that no unlawful methods are used, no pressure in the sense of intimidation, and no violence or anything of that kind. If this clause is passed into law, the law as between the individual and a group of individuals

would be assimilated and put on the same foundation.

I pass then to the question of motive. This, again, is a very important matter. Nothing is clearer in point of law, as I am sure every lawyer in this House would agree, that, as regards civil liability—and we are dealing with that exclusively here—for a wrongful act, the motive of the doer of the act is wholly irrelevant. But the moment you come to these trade combinations the House of Lords has laid down an entirely different rule, and says you may look to the motive. That has had a most paradoxical result, because what it comes to is this. If, as in the Mogul case, the motive of the persons entering into the combination is a purely selfish one, to increase their own interests and profits, the combination is lawful; but if the motive is an unselfish one, if, in other words, a body of trade unionists, seeing a dispute going on between two other persons and having their sympathies excited on one side as against the other—if they, in order to bring pressure on one of the parties concerned, enter into a combination, they themselves having no direct or personal interest in the matter at all, the combination may become unlawful and they may be liable to an action. I am not travestying the decisions of the Court in the least when I say that that is what they suggest. I ask the House again, is it right, as a matter of public policy or common sense, with that differentiation of motive, to distinguish in point of law between the civil liability in the two cases?

There is one other point which seems to me to justify legislation of this sort. It is the application to cases of this kind of the law of principal and agent. The moment you get a trade combination—take a trade union, but the case of an employers' federation would do equally well for my purpose—the moment you get a combination of this kind and start from the principle which the House of Lords has laid down, and which this Bill does not in any way propose to displace, the principle that the combination ought to be liable for the acts of its agents, we see the enormous difficulty of carrying out effectively anything in

the way of a trade dispute. My hon. friend the Member for Derby can tell us, for he has had a rather bitter experience in this matter. He is sitting there at the centre, with his executive committee, controlling and directing the power of the union, which consists of tens, perhaps hundreds, of thousands of men, doing everything he possibly can by direct instruction and such supervision and control as he can exercise to see that there is no unlawful excess on the part of the subordinate agents. Almost by the very necessities of the case, with a large, loosely ramified organisation extending over an enormous tract of country, he finds the union itself is made corporately responsible, and the funds of the union liable to be drawn upon, for the absolutely unauthorised and perhaps prohibited acts of some obscure and not very well accredited agent. That might happen equally well to the employers, for it is not a question of one side alone. But I am sure that the Legislature, in dealing with the new state of things created by large industrial combinations, ought to recognise this—and it would be very easy in Committee by a modification of this clause to get statutory recognition of the fact—that you must have a more limited and rational application of the ordinary principles of the law of agency. I think I have said enough to show that everything advanced in the way of adverse criticism upon this Bill could be sufficiently dealt with when it comes into Committee. I do not in the least commit myself to the language either of the first or the second Clause, any more than I committed myself when I voted for the Second Reading of the Irish Land Bill, or any more than I did on that occasion—that memorable Friday—in regard to a Bill as to the details of which every Member who spoke, I think, agreed that they were unwelcome, illusory, and absurd, and as to which we were told that in voting upon it we were only voting upon the principle of compensation or no compensation. I venture to say that we have a great deal better reason to-day to act in that way, when we have a Bill which meets an admitted defect in the law, which, in so far as it meets it inadequately, or inappositely, can be amended or remoulded in Committee, and which if, with the proper

Mr. Asquith.

Amendments, it be passed into law will, I believe, help to make effective that right of industrial combination which is essential to industrial peace, without transgressing the legitimate boundaries of industrial freedom.

MR. CRIPPS (Lancashire, Stretford) said the argument of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Fife seemed to indicate that this difficult question in regard to combination ought not to be dealt with unless it was preceded by a thorough inquiry. The measure now before the House was fragmentary. There was nothing more important in our law than the question of combination, and there was no subject which was more likely to raise, under certain conditions, heated discussion. He thought it followed from that, that of all legal topics it was one which ought only to be discussed and decided after full consideration of all the circumstances, and the discussion ought not to be approached in connection with what was admitted to be a mere fragmentary Bill. This question, as the right hon. Gentleman had truly said, was not one entirely of workmen on one side, or of employers on the other. The law applicable to combinations involved matters relating to industrial peace or industrial warfare, and it applied equally to workmen and employers, and they ought to give it most careful consideration before embarking on any Bill of this kind. He would not deal with the question whether the Home Secretary was right when he said that the law was well known. He had his own view as a lawyer as to how the law stood at the present moment. He looked upon the Member for Haddingtonshire as the greatest authority in these matters, and he agreed with the right hon. Gentleman that if any lawyer were asked at the present moment as regards the particular conditions of a particular strike, or of a particular combination of employers, whether what was proposed to be done was lawful or not, he would have great difficulty in replying. Too much at the present time was left to the Judge, and too little definition laid down by the Legislature to enable him to deal with a very difficult subject-matter. In considering whether this Bill if passed was likely to lead to industrial warfare or to industrial

peace, he entirely agreed with two propositions stated with admirable lucidity by the hon. and learned Member for Warwick and Leamington. In this question of combination they must consider whether combination had not been allowed to go too far in certain directions. The hon. and learned Member referred to two well-known cases—the Mogul case, and the case of *Temperton v. Russell*. No one could consider present industrial conditions, whether as regarded workmen or employers, without feeling that the point made by the hon. and learned Member was worthy of serious attention, viz., whether in some directions the right of combination must not be curtailed, or, at any rate, defined, because it was undoubtedly a power which might be used by either side in a coercive and oppressive manner. What were the proper limitations they should bear in mind if they were having an inquiry upon a great subject of this kind? He entirely dissented from the view of the right hon. Gentleman that this great topic, involving such matters of difficulty, could be dealt with in the present Bill. He assumed that the leading consideration would be this—and he thought it really reconciled what it was thought to be difficult to reconcile in the various judgments—what they wanted to give was the least interference with individual liberty, provided that they recognised to the full the right of legal combination. The various cases in regard to which difficulty existed might be reconciled on the understanding that there had been a desire to prevent the right of combination being carried to such an excess that it could be used coercively or oppressively so as to interfere with the legal rights vested in the individual. He would press that principle home as regarded both employers and workmen. Without saying whether or not the Mogul case was rightly decided, he felt very strongly that the right of combination amongst employers ought not to be carried to the extent of unfairly oppressing the smaller employers, and although he thought that combination amongst workmen the most fruitful source of industrial peace, if properly utilised, yet he was not prepared to sanction any extension of that principle which would allow a

trade union to act coercively and oppressively towards a workman who was not a member of the union. These matters, which, after all, were those that came before the Courts, required the most careful consideration—not such as could be given under the terms of this Bill, but consideration of a much wider character. In support of his view he would quote an essay in the *Contemporary Review*, by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Haddingtonshire, that a proper determination upon this extremely important topic could not be arrived at unless they had some impartial tribunal to consider the whole matter—by which was meant a tribunal consisting of persons who were not, either politically or industrially, involved in the contest. In substance he thought that suggestion was met by the proposal the Home Secretary had made.

As to the Bill under discussion, he could not assent to the propositions of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Fife as regarded either its present construction or possible modifications. For instance, the right hon. Gentleman stated that it was not intended to deal with the Taff Vale decision, but he devoted the latter part of his speech to that very topic, and declared that one of the great considerations in this question was whether trades unionist officials, sitting in some central position, ought to be responsible for actions taken over which they had no practical control. He agreed as to the importance of that proposition, but he would ask whether, taking that as one of the most important points involved in the question of combination, could it be dealt with under this Bill? It had been purposely excluded from the Bill, no doubt as a matter of tactics, in order to get rid of a question of much difficulty; but when they were considering this matter as a whole ought they to exclude a matter of that kind? Was it not one of those questions which ought to be taken into consideration by any Government worthy of its name? He was perfectly certain that no solution of this question could be adequate and satisfactory unless this was properly considered and dealt with, and it could not

be done under this form of Bill or in Committee on this Bill at all. There were various other considerations which could never come forward in Committee upon this particular Bill. He agreed they ought not to have Judge-made law upon a question of this sort; they should have rules and regulations laid down by Parliament. But he would ask the right hon. Gentleman—Had there ever been any case where they were seeking to reverse or review the decisions of the highest Courts where it had not been done after previous inquiry? In other cases where this important subject matter had been approached it had been done after previous inquiry. This question should be dealt with as a matter, not of form, but of substance, and on such a difficult topic it would be most dangerous to accept the Second Reading of the Bill on the suggestion of the right hon. Gentleman that these matters could be dealt with and put right in Committee.

The right hon. Gentleman had also put forward the view that the Bill would not sanction peaceful picketing if it produced some wrongful act which on other grounds would be illegal. He differed entirely. Peacefulness was not the test of legality or illegality, of whether or not a particular act was a wrongful act. Peaceful picketing might do the greatest possible harm to a third party who was entitled to protection against such wrongful acts. It could not be right to allow peaceful combination to proceed to such lengths that those who used it for their own purposes might do irremediable harm to parties who were not concerned in the dispute at all. That was inconsistent with the fundamental principles of individual liberty, and yet it would be allowed under this Bill. It was not a question of the intention of the men; the Bill had to be taken as it stood, and, as drafted, it would legalise the worst form of wrong. He agreed with much that the right hon. Gentleman had said with regard to the law of conspiracy. He did not think it was a proper understanding of that law that what one person might legally do, two persons could not do because they formed a combination. He believed the law to be this—that certain acts which were inoffensive if done by one person, became necessarily offensive if done by

two or more persons. But that was not the way in which the question was raised in the Bill. If that was the legal principle, Clause 2 was framed on an entirely wrong basis. The clause could not be modified, because, from top to bottom, it was framed on a wrong conception of the law, and therefore applied a wrong remedy. There were various incidental and minor matters to which the right hon. Gentleman referred, but he would make this appeal. They were dealing with one of the most important questions as regarded our industrial life; they wanted to bring about industrial peace by a fair system of industrial combination. The whole matter ought to be thoroughly inquired into, and he hoped the House would not sanction the Second Reading of this Bill, which was fragmentary in its character and did not go to the real basis of the difficulty, and which would not allow that thorough inquiry without which no legislation ought to be framed as regarded a great question of this kind.

SIR ROBERT REID expressed his regret that the Home Secretary had announced his intention to resist the Second Reading of this Bill, and described the attitude of the right hon. Gentleman as inconsistent with that which the Colonial Secretary adopted upon the Bill of the hon. Member for York, when he told the House that they ought to consider only the principle of a Bill when the question was its Second Reading. He did not take the same view as the Home Secretary, who wished to have an inquiry, which might last a considerable time, and which, with a strange want of confidence in the House of Commons, was not to be entrusted to a Committee of the House, but was, he supposed, to be conducted by some of His Majesty's Judges. The two points dealt with in this Bill were ripe for settlement. It had been freely admitted that the law was in substance unjust as laid down in recent decisions. Nobody could doubt the inequality; everybody admitted the confusion. He was not prepared to support now, or at any time, tyranny between employers and workmen, or between one class of workmen and another, but the phrases that were used about coercing the will of the employers or of other workmen concealed the true nature of a strike. A strike was a deplorable calamity wherever it happened,

Mr. Cripps.

but it was admittedly necessary sometimes in industrial conflicts. And what did it amount to? It amounted to nothing in the world except the employer or the workmen, as the case might be, coercing the will of the other side. The workmen put pressure on the employer in the hope that loss of profits would induce him to come to terms; the employer acted in the same way against the workmen, endeavouring by the pressure of necessity or want to drive him to comply with his will. The whole business of the State was to "keep the ring," in order that there might be fair play between the contending parties. Obviously, violence, molestation, and intimidation were not fair methods in any such fight, and no one would desire to defend them. For many centuries the law treated the combination of workmen for the betterment of their position as a crime in itself. That was fought against, and at length beaten down. The Act of 1875 did two things—in express terms it authorised picketing, and it gave a rule of conspiracy. That rule was that nothing which was not punishable if done by one person should be punishable if done by two persons. But these clauses, beneficial as they were, were restricted to the criminal law, because it never occurred to anybody that a civil remedy would be applied or be applicable in these matters, nor was there any attempt to make the civil law applicable until 1901. A quarter of a century after the passage of the Conspiracy Act a decision was given by the House of Lords making trades union funds liable in damages for acts done in connection with the union. At that blast of the judicial trumpets the walls of Jericho absolutely fell, because the previous protection had been restricted to the operation of the criminal law. By the application of the civil law a new weapon was brought into play, and the whole of the trades union funds, provided by the men themselves, not merely for strike purposes, but for every kind of compassionate allowance, were unexpectedly made liable in damages. The Act of 1875 authorised picketing for the purpose of obtaining information. When the Bill was in the House of Commons an Amendment, authorising picketing for the purpose of persuasion also, was resisted by the Home Secretary of the day on the ground that it was

superfluous, that picketing for peaceful persuasion was absolutely lawful, and that there was no cause to make it lawful by Act of Parliament. That view had been upset by the Court of Appeal, so that the law required amendment in that respect also. In 1899 Lord Justice Cave said—

"I hold that it is illegal to picket the works or place of business of a man by persons who are distributed and placed there for the purpose of trying by persuasion to induce the workmen of that man not to work for him any longer, or to induce people who want to work for him to abstain from entering into an agreement with him to do so."

Therefore, that which, since 1875, had been supposed to be and was meant to be, the law had been overridden by the Court of Appeal, and the right to combine, which, by successive statutes, had been safeguarded so far as criminal purposes were concerned, was now in grave jeopardy so far as the civil law was concerned.

Declarations of eminent Judges, which were often referred to as mere *obiter dicta*, had become so numerous, and the Judges so important, that, taken together, they constituted a grave menace to the right of combination. Lord Lindley had gone so far as to say that a strike could not be made effective without more being done than was lawful. That was the whole position put in a nutshell. Under these circumstances he thought they ought to inquire what the Bill before the House proposed. It did not propose to touch the decision of the House of Lords by which union funds were made liable in damages—although he believed the men had not abandoned their position on that point. The Bill simply proposed to make picketing for the purpose of obtaining information lawful in civil as well as in criminal proceedings, and also to make it lawful for the purposes of peaceful persuasion, as was avowedly intended when the Act of 1875 was passed. This Bill was to correct an omission in the Act of 1875, and to remedy a construction put upon that Act which was contrary to the intentions of the framers of the Act. It had been said that under the first Clause, as so drawn, it would be possible to create a nuisance. Personally he did not believe that that was a right construction; but such an intention was disavowed by the promoters of the Bill, and in any case the

question was one to be dealt with in Committee. If there was any reasonable doubt as to the meaning of the clause, surely the right course was to insert whatever words were necessary in Committee to prevent the clause having that undesirable effect. As to the second Clause, it was almost word for word taken from the Act of 1875, except that the latter Act referred to criminal proceedings and this Bill referred to civil proceedings. The reason why certain words which were contained in the Act of 1875 had been left out was because they were clearly only applicable to criminal proceedings. In the same way, the right course was to insert words in Committee, if that was necessary, in order to guard against the dangers which had been indicated. The Home Secretary might have approached the matter in a little more confiding spirit towards those who were advocating this Bill. What was aimed at was simply to repair omissions and correct errors which had arisen since the Act of 1875 was passed; and he thought it a great pity that the House was not to have an opportunity of doing so in a further stage. The House had had enough of Royal Commissions. His shelves were covered with Blue-books containing the evidence and reports of the Royal Commissions, Select Committees, and Departmental Committees, on every conceivable subject. If the law was not ascertained now—and the Home Secretary said he thought it was—it was very easy to ascertain it by study, or by consulting those who were competent to advise. Controversies between different parties to trade disputes had been going on for fifty or sixty years, and there was hardly a distinguished statesman who had not taken part in them. All the material was thoroughly known, and all that was wanted was that the Government should come resolutely forward and say, "This is the border-line beyond which we will not allow combination to go," to declare that policy to the House and give it effect. Why should this Bill not go to a Second Reading in order to do that? If there were any Amendments which the Government thought necessary, let them be propounded. The Government had the means at hand of carrying them, and it was much to be regretted that this business was to be shelved again. Even if a Royal Commission were appointed, it

could not tell them anything which they did not already know. If the Government insisted on defeating the Second Reading, he thought they would have cause to repent it. If the constituencies believed, as he knew they ought, that the Government were simply trifling with an important subject, he hoped they would make no difficulty about expressing it.

MR. LLOYD WHARTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Ripon) said he was glad he had been fortunate enough to have heard the speeches of the mover and seconder of this Bill, because they were both speeches well worth listening to, and the working men of England might congratulate themselves upon having two such good representatives as the hon. Members for Clitheroe and Derby. The hon. Member for Derby said that he would do everything in his power to prevent strikes, and he had done so more than once by conciliation and straightforwardness. How were they to deal with this Bill? [AN HON. MEMBER: "Vote for it."] The first clause was the Picketing Clause. If this clause had placed the legality of picketing in an ascertainable shape that could be dealt with by the Courts he should have had very great difficulty in opposing the Second Reading, but the clause as it stood was an impossible one. It provided that—

"1. It shall be lawful for any person or persons, acting either on their own behalf or on behalf of a trade union or other association of individuals registered or unregistered, in contemplation of or during the continuance of any trade dispute, to attend for any of the following purposes at or near a house or place where a person resides or works, or carries on his business, or happens to be—

"(1.) For the purpose of peacefully obtaining or communicating information.

"(2.) For the purpose of peacefully persuading any person to work or abstain from working."

Under that Clause as it stood it would be perfectly lawful for 500 men to stand outside a man's house so long as they did not commit any actual assault upon him. Would anybody tell him that that would not be tyranny and oppression to a workman. It was the duty of the House of Commons to protect workmen from the tyranny of illegal combinations. He should have no difficulty whatever in voting against the Second Reading of this Bill.

Mr. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.) said he hoped that a few words from an Irish Member would not be out of place on this occasion. He represented a constituency which contained a large proportion of the population to whom this Bill would apply. He regretted that the promoters of this Bill had not been able to extend its scope to Ireland, although he intended to support the Bill. He thought that the great agrarian combinations in Ireland required the protection of the law just as much as the trades unions. He believed that every Nationalist Member and hon. Members opposite representing Ireland would have great pleasure in supporting the Second Reading of this Bill. He could not understand on what ground, worth a moment's attention, the Second Reading of this Bill was resisted. He had listened to the speeches of the mover and seconder of the Motion rejecting this Bill, with great pleasure, but he wished to point out that they both admitted the existence of an inequality in this matter, and they agreed that the person unequally treated was not the employer but the employed. A democratic House of Commons elected upon a household franchise would be incurring a grave responsibility if, in the face of this fact, and admitting that that inequality existed, it rejected this Bill. There were hundreds and thousands of workmen affected by this inequality, and therefore the House should decide to pass this Bill into law with such Amendments as might be required. A Royal Commission had been suggested, but upon this point he shared the views of the hon. Member who had just spoken. As they were all aware, when it was desired to have legislation postponed upon a particular subject one of the favourite devices was to propose a Royal Commission. When a Royal Commission was appointed it generally took three or four years receiving evidence, and then additional time was required to enable it to make up its mind about the report. After this they often found that there was a minority report as well as a majority report, and often independent members of the Commission were not satisfied with either report, but presented special reports of their own. The final result was, as a rule, that, instead of clarifying men's minds the general result was more confusing. But supposing this particular Royal Commission was going to be an

exception to every other, what was there to prevent the Government, after assenting to the principles of this Bill, appointing their Royal Commission. He did not see any difficulty in the matter, and from the point of view of those who thought there was some justification for the principles of the Bill, he thought the measure might be affirmed by the House, and it might constitute a direction to any Royal Commission which might be appointed. He preferred legislation on the definite lines of this Bill, and he really did not understand on what grounds it could be resisted after the admissions that had been made upon both sides of the House. Peaceful picketing was to be legalised, although it was supposed to have been legalised thirty years ago. If peaceful picketing was to be legalised, and if it had been legalised already, if Members on both sides admitted that it ought to be legalised, why not read the Bill a second time, and insert some words to meet the case in Committee? It seemed to him that the Bill was clear enough already.

He was very much interested in the remarks which had been made by the hon. Member for South-West Manchester upon the law of conspiracy. He said he had tried to find out what that law was, and he stated that he thought there was some standard work in which he could find a definition of the law of conspiracy, but he failed, and so would all men until the law was changed. If he had been Diogenes with his lantern, or if he had been an Argus with a hundred eyes, or if he had had a powerful microscope, he would have failed to see what this law was, because the law of conspiracy varied from generation to generation. Now it was one thing and the next day it was another, and this was due to the fact that each Judge thought he had a right to view it from his own individual point of view, and applied the law as he understood it. The result was that they got contradictory judgments even in the House of Commons. Two cases had been referred to by the seconder of this Motion of inconsistency in regard to this matter of the decisions of the Courts of law. In one case everybody thought they had got some light and leading as to what

was the law of conspiracy from the Lord Chief Baron, one of the ablest of lawyers, but it turned out in the House of Lords that he was wrong, and even the House of Lords in apparently similar cases had given distinctly contradictory judgments. The law of conspiracy was a tangle which nobody could easily unravel, and it was a mystery which nobody was able to fathom. Something was, therefore, wanted amid the dangers to public liberty and the rights of workmen to check the ravings of this law, which was a remnant of the old days, when the object was to suppress liberty and not to promote it. He should have great pleasure in supporting the Second Reading of this Bill.

*SIR ALFRED HICKMAN (Wolverhampton, W.) said he had had some fifty years experience as an employer of labour, and he had always found trades unions most advantageous and convenient. He believed that they prevented many more strikes than they promoted, and he had certainly found it much more convenient to deal with the organised body representative of the men than with individuals or sections. This Bill was practically the upshot of the Taff Vale decision. Taking that decision it was laid down most clearly that men had a perfect right to strike, and to persuade others to do so, as long as they did not perform illegal acts. The Taff Vale decision was based upon the fact that illegal acts were done with the sanction and by the action of the amalgamated society—such acts as causing the men to strike without notice and preventing them by force from carrying on their work.

MR. BELL, on a point of order, wished to know if the hon. Member for Wolverhampton was in order in dealing with the merits of the Taff Vale strike, because he himself refrained from mentioning anything about it.

*MR. SPEAKER ruled that the hon. Member was out of order in discussing the question of the liability of trades union funds.

*SIR ALFRED HICKMAN said he believed they would never have heard of this Bill but for the recent legal decision as

Mr. Clancy.

to the liability of trades union funds. When a man had paid into his trades union for thirty or thirty-five years for the purpose of providing himself with an old age pension or sick benefits he did not wish to see the fund jeopardised.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is proceeding now to argue a point which I have ruled is out of order.

*SIR ALFRED HICKMAN believed the Bill did not go far enough. If trade unions kept their sick and pension funds quite separate from their strike funds, and passed rules prohibiting illegal acts, and providing that any violation of these rules by a member of the executive should be followed by instant dismissal and exclusion from any benefit from the funds, then he thought the sick and pension funds should have legal protection.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! I must again point out to the hon. Member that that is not the question under debate.

*SIR ALFRED HICKMAN said he would not, of course, pursue that subject further. What he was desirous of doing was to show that the Bill was incomplete and to urge that by referring the matter to a Select Committee it would be possible to deal effectively with the whole subject. The advocates of the Bill, and notably the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Fife, had admitted that they could not support the Bill as it stood. ["No, no."] Assuming that to be so the arguments of the hon. Member for South Manchester were absolutely convincing. He thought it would be a great misfortune if so important a question were dealt with piecemeal. There was no great hurry for legislation on the subject, for they were not likely soon to have another Taff Vale case, and it would therefore be the best plan to have the whole question dealt with thoroughly, completely, and satisfactorily. On these grounds he should support the Amendment.

*MR. HALDANE (Haddingtonshire) said that everyone who had listened to

that debate from the commencement would be struck with the great advance which the opinion of the House of Commons had made on this subject. A year ago the mere demand for an inquiry seemed to shock the general sense of the majority of hon. Members opposite, but the discussion which had since taken place—outside rather than in that House—had produced a state of things which to his mind was much more satisfactory. Three counter propositions had been made to that Bill. First there was the general one for a Royal Commission. Then there had been put forward the suggestion by the hon. and learned Member for Leamington, in a very interesting speech, whether the reform should not take the shape of restricting the powers of the great capitalists instead of enlarging the powers of labour organisations, and finally there was the criticism as to the nature of the Bill. He desired to point out, however, that to his mind none of the grounds put forward were tenable as objections to the principle underlying the Bill. It was obvious that there was a great deal of difficulty and confusion as to the state of the law; and that was largely because matters had been referred to lawyers which were not within their province. Lord Watson, one of the greatest judges who ever sat on the English Bench, often, almost passionately, protested against the Courts being called upon to lay down abstract propositions as to what the conduct of men should be. What might be a peaceful act if done by a simple individual might become a formidable menace if committed by a multitude, and he believed that the obscurity of the law had arisen from attempts on the part of Parliament and of Judges to lay down abstract propositions dealing with questions of that nature. It was impossible, for instance, to say beforehand whether a particular act would or would not constitute a nuisance. It was not the combination to do it but the character of the act done which was important. Much confusion had been introduced by mixing up the combination to do an act with the result on its nature of an aggregation of persons doing it, and this had led to an erroneous view of the combination clause of the present Bill. He entirely

approved of an inquiry by experts into the state of the law; but there was no reason why the innocent amendment of the law proposed in the Bill should not be objected to as the Amendment before the House proposed. There had been the very greatest divergence of opinion among the judges as to the policy of trade unions and trade combinations, and as to the relations between employers and employed; but these questions all belonged to the field of economics and not of law. While he would not submit the question of what the law ought to be to anybody but Parliament itself, he approved of an inquiry of an expert character, by one or two great lawyers, into the state of the law and its underlying principle. But the Amendment declined to proceed with the Bill in the absence of the report of a Royal Commission.

MR. GALLOWAY said that the words "or otherwise" were specially inserted in the Amendment to cover such an inquiry as the hon. and learned Member suggested.

*MR. HALDANE said that the inquiry must be of a very carefully defined and scientific character, and it was indispensable to have a full and complete survey of the law. The Amendment covered anything. What they had to do was to vote on the principle of the Bill, and the alternative to its acceptance was its rejection in favour of an inquiry by a Royal Commission which might consist of anybody or anything, "or otherwise." The propositions contained in the Bill seemed to him to be of a very innocent character indeed. He doubted whether Clause 2 would change the law in any degree; and he was sure that it would do none of the extraordinary things which had been suggested. The true principle, as it had always seemed to him, and the principle which would have emerged clearly had it not been for the duty which Parliament had put on the Judges of working out artificial distinctions about matters which were not matters of law but matters of fact—the true principle ought to be that anybody should be at liberty to do anything he liked, whether in the nature of combination or picketing, provided he did

not do what was oppressive to his neighbour, or what was in the nature of what the law called, a nuisance, a thing which the law had always refused to define except by the judgment of a jury or a tribunal of fact. He was aware that it was not an easy thing to recast the law in such a fashion as to give it that simplicity, and to separate fact from law in that careful fashion; but the more they inquired into the law the more would it appear how the confusion had arisen; and, while he thought that the proposal of the Government to have an inquiry into the whole matter was a useful proposal, he could not for the world see what objection could be taken to Clause 2 of this Bill, which did not touch the principle he had laid down, and did not make anything lawful which at the present time was unlawful. Then, again, in Clause 1 there was a definition of peaceful picketing which was not only what was laid down by Lord Cairns as to what he believed was intended to be made law under the Bill of 1875, when it was under debate, but which also embodied the opinion of a minority of Judges sitting in the Court of Appeal. As he had said, there were two propositions before the House. The one asking for a Royal Commission practically involved the rejection of the Bill. But they were all agreed that it was desirable to go forward in this matter. Most of them approved in substance the principle underlying the Bill. Some of them felt it did not go far enough, but, at any rate, it was unobjectionable. He entirely approved of the proposal of the Government to have a proper inquiry, but he was not satisfied that the Amendment provided the necessary safeguards against evils to which he had alluded,

Mr. Haldane,

and therefore, on the present occasion, he should vote for the harmless and innocent affirmation of the principle that the present state of the law was thoroughly unsatisfactory.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I promised my hon. and learned friend near me, who, from many points of view, is the person most fitted to deal with the hon. and learned Gentleman, and other Gentlemen who have spoken, that I would say nothing in my speech at all hostile to the great profession of which he is a distinguished ornament, and I mean to adhere to that pledge. I hope, however, that he will not think that I am breaking it when I say that the various legal utterances which I have heard on both sides of the House have left me hopelessly confused as to what is the true interpretation of the Bill of which we are now asked to pass a Second Reading. A certain number of very highly qualified gentlemen have told us that the first Clause of the Bill is intended, and successfully and adequately intended, to put the law into precisely the position in which Parliament intended to leave it in 1875—in other words, to make the law what an Amendment moved by Mr. Mundella would have made it, an Amendment not carried simply because it was declared to be unnecessary by the present Lord Cranbrook, who was then Home Secretary. If that is so, I am surprised that the framers of the Bill went so far beyond the language of Mr. Mundella himself. After all, the language of Mr. Mundella is present to their minds, it has been referred to constantly on both sides of the House during this debate, and it must have

been fairly familiar to them ; and if they only meant to carry out Mr. Mundella's Amendment, I cannot imagine why they did not adopt Mr. Mundella's words. They have gone far beyond those words ; which suggests, at all events, a suspicion that, in framing Clause 1, they did mean to go a good deal farther than Mr. Mundella meant to go, or than the Parliament of 1875, or the then Home Secretary wanted to go. But I quite admit that, whoever is right in this dispute as to the meaning of Clause 1, that clause could probably be modified in Committee so as to reduce it precisely to the proportions of Mr. Mundella's original proposition and Lord Cranbrook's original policy.

When, however, I come to Clause 2, can the same thing be said ? On Clause 2 the lawyers have differed even more fundamentally than on Clause 1 ; and I confess that the last utterances of the right hon. Gentleman who has just sat down filled me with astonishment. Most of us thought that Clause 2, whether right or wrong, was, at all events, a most important, if not a revolutionary, change in the law. The right hon. Member tells us that, so far as he can see, it makes no change at all. Why we should vote for a Bill which makes no change in the law at all, or a fundamental clause of which makes no change at all, I do not know. At all events, I admit that it would be an innocent and innocuous proposal if it really had only the effect which the right hon. Gentleman ascribes to it. But my hon. and learned friend near me, whose opinion I am bound to take in these matters, and I believe every other lawyer in the House except the right hon. Gentleman takes a different view of the consequences of Clause 2. For example, my hon. and

learned friend near me holds not only that Clause 2 effects a great change in the law, and as he thinks, and as I think, a very injurious change in the law, but that it is incapable of modification in Committee, and that its vices are fundamental. I am informed that if Clause 2 were passed, the well-known and very shocking case, as I think, of *Quinn v. Leatham*—a case quite undefended by any Gentleman sitting in any quarter of the House—I am informed that the perpetrators of that great social crime would be perfectly untouched. [Cries of "No."] Well, at all events, that is what I am advised by one of our great legal luminaries. Allow me to remind the House what that case was, and no one will suspect me of giving it as a specimen of what trade unions do. It is not a specimen ; it is, however, an unhappy case of what one particular trade union did in one particular case, and it shows what is possible, although it is unlikely to recur. An employer had in his employment union men and non-union men. The union to which the union men belonged, determined that the employer should no longer be allowed to employ non-union men, and in particular they required him to dismiss from employment a particular non-union man. The employer went to the union and adopted an almost apologetic attitude. He said that all his men were prepared to join the union ; that he was prepared to pay the fines or penalties inflicted on the non-union men, and, in all respects, if the union would accept the non-union men in his employ as members, he was prepared to go on with only union men. Unfortunately the leader of this particular union took a different view of the situation. He refused to allow this unfortunate workman to join the union. He said that he must walk the street for

twelve months as a penalty for not having joined the union before; and when the employer pleaded that this unfortunate man was a husband and the father of a family, and that this meant misery and starvation not only to him, but to those dependent upon him, the hearts of the trade union officials were not moved, and they pursued their horrible policy to its extreme conclusion, and set all their influence at work to ruin this employer until he had conceded the cruel terms which they exacted.

MR. SHACKLETON: That was an Irish case.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes, it was an Irish case, in Belfast; and I am sure it was a case which gave more pain to my hon. friends opposite who are Labour representatives than it did even to Gentlemen sitting on the other side of the House. But what I wish to say is that if that kind of thing is to be made unpunishable by Clause 2, that clause really is an alteration in the law which requires most careful and critical examination in this House. And I am informed that the vice of Clause 2 is fundamental in the structure of that clause, and is not to be easily amended by any mere alteration of its wording. I now ask the House whether, if these difficulties occur in the interpretation of the Bill before us, and as to the policy we ought to pursue, is it not wise, before attempting to deal with this very difficult and complicated side of our social and industrial life, to hold an inquiry? I listened with the greatest regret to the attack made by the hon. and learned Gentleman the Member for Dumfries Burghs upon Commissions.

Mr. A. J. Balfour.

SIR ROBERT REID: I did not attack Commissions; I only said there were a great deal too many of them.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: At all events, the hon. and learned Gentleman said there were too many of them. I think the service which is done by Commissions in guiding this House and public opinion is enormous. It is perfectly true that one almost staggers under the number of the volumes of evidence which such inquiries leave behind them. It is also true that no one endowed with less than Titanic industry can gain from these vast volumes all the valuable ore which is to be obtained from them. Nevertheless, in the Reports of these Commissions, irrespective of the evidence, there is a mass of valuable information and advice given to the public which cannot be exaggerated. I would ask the House this—Has the time not come when an inquiry into the changes which have taken place in the whole of our social and industrial circumstances has become urgently needed? What we all desire to aim at, I hope and believe, is the maximum of individual liberty which can be attained without preventing these combinations which in themselves are, I admit, great guardians of liberty. But observe through what phases we have gone. The original person whose power was to be feared was the wealthy individual employer and it was found that the unorganised workman really had not a fair chance in dealing with the single rich employer on whom he depended for his weekly wages. That was the first evil that had to be met; and, in meeting it, this House abolished the old unjustifiable

law against combination and gave workmen the power to combine. It is not now the rich individual employer who is able to act oppressively against his employé. The two classes whom I think now require our protection are the small employer and the unorganised labourer. The great combinations of employers can perfectly well hold their own against the great combinations of workmen, and the great combinations of workmen can perfectly well hold their own against the great combinations of employers. But I fear it is not so under modern conditions, either with the small employer or with the small unorganised trader on the one side, and the unorganised workman on the other; and I think some of the cases I have seen of oppression by great bodies of organised capitalists against their smaller brethren, and, I must add, the action taken by great bodies of organised workmen against some of their unorganised fellow-workmen, do seriously militate against that industrial freedom which we all desire to further and foster. This leaves a new condition. It is an entirely new phenomenon. It is within the lives and memories of the Gentlemen to whom I am speaking that these great combinations have grown up. But the modern system of combining capital, whether in the form of huge trusts or otherwise, and the vast extension of such combinations as that of which the hon. Member for Derby is at the head, are comparatively modern phenomena, and they have to a large extent grown up since the House dealt with the subject of combination nearly thirty years ago. Do you not think the time has come when these novel conditions require further investigation, and when the House should have before it the result of such an investiga-

tion before it attempts to settle all this vast and complicated question? There always has been an inquiry before any great change in the law on this point. There was an inquiry before the earlier legislation of 1875, and also before the legislation of 1871. Is not the practice of our predecessors one that we may well follow, seeing that the change in industrial life in the past thirty years has been so much greater than the change which took place in the preceding thirty years?

I do not complain of this Bill because it does not deal with the whole subject; but I do not think we should deal with a fraction of the subject unless we have some general idea of the way in which we should deal with the subject as a whole. Let the House remember that we are not going to decide in the division about to take place whether this Bill is to become law in the present year. Every human being knows that it is impossible for this Bill to be passed into law during the present session. The real question before us is not whether the Bill is to pass this session, but whether we ought to have an inquiry before legislation takes place. I very respectfully say that I am going to base the vote I propose to give in favour of an inquiry, not merely and not principally upon the fact that Clause 1 of the Bill seems ambiguous in its purport, nor upon the ground that Clause 2 of the Bill, if it is rightly interpreted to me by those whose legal verdict I accept, would apparently revolutionise some of the law in respect of certain kinds of trade disputes in a manner I should regard with great alarm. It is because I am quite certain that if this House is going to take in hand, as it shortly will have to take in hand, a reconsideration of the whole position as regards combinations of

workmen and of employers and of capitalists—before it takes in hand that great subject it ought to do what its predecessors have always done, namely, to consider, through a Commission, in the light of novel circumstances, of social changes, of great economic changes, what ought to be the principles and lines of its future action. For these reasons I feel no misgivings as to the course I am taking. No vote given to-day will hasten or hinder the progress of the hon. Gentleman's Bill, for it cannot become law this session; and those who vote against the Amendment are casting their decision against that cautious policy which I am sure the

House ought to adopt before it embarks on any topic so difficult, so delicate, touching so many interests, both of employers and workmen, and going to the very root of our whole industrial life. Surely we ought to have the advice of those who are able to give it, not in the course of a Friday afternoon, not influenced by this or that political consideration, but in a spirit of absolute impartiality.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 226; Noes, 246. (Division List No. 77.)

AYES.

Abraham, W. (*Cork, N.E.*)
 Abraham, William (*Rhondda*)
 Allan, Sir Wm. (*Gateshead*)
 Allen, C. P. (*Glouc. Stroud*)
 Ambrose, Robert
 Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbt. Hy.
 Atherley-Jones, L.
 Austin, Sir John
 Barlow, John Emmott
 Barran, Rowland Hirst
 Barry, E. (*Cork, S.*)
 Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Boland, John
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Brown, George M. (*Edinburgh*)
 Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
 Bryce, Right Hon. James
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Burns, John
 Burt, Thomas
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Campbell, John (*Armagh, S.*)
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Chamberlayne, T. (*Southmpton*)
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Churchill, Winston Spencer
 Clancy, John Joseph
 Cogan, Denis J.
 Condon, Thomas Joseph
 Craig, Robert Hunter (*Lanark*)
 Crean, Eugene
 Cremer, William Randal
 Crombie, John William
 Crooks, William
 Cullinan, J.
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)

Davies, M. Vaughan (*Cardigan*)
 Delany, William
 Dewar, John A. (*Inverness.sh.*)
 Dilke, Rt. Hn. Sir Charles
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
 Duncan, J. Hastings
 Dunn, Sir William
 Elibank, Master of
 Ellis, John Edward
 Emmott, Alfred
 Esmonde, Sir Thomas
 Evans, Sir F. H. (*Maidstone*)
 Evans, S. T. (*Glamorgan*)
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert
 Fenwick, Charles
 Ferguson, R. C. Munro (*Leith*)
 Ffrench, Peter
 Field, William
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Flavin, Michael Joseph
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*)
 Fowler, Rt. Hn. Sir Henry
 Fuller, J. M. F.
 Gilhooly, James
 Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Godson, Sir. Aug. Frederick
 Gordon, Maj. Evans (*Tr. H'mts*)
 Grant, Corrie
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
 Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
 Hammond, John
 Hardie, J. Keir (*Merthyr Tydvil*)
 Harmsworth, R. Leicester
 Harrington, Timothy
 Harwood, George
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
 Hay, Hon. Claude George

Hayden, John Patrick
 Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale
 Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur D.
 Healy, Timothy Michael
 Helme, Norval Watson
 Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
 Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristol, E*)
 Holland, Sir William Henry
 Hope, John Deans (*Fife, West*)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Hutchinson, Dr. Chas. Fredk.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (*Morley*)
 Jacoby, Sir James
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, David Brynmor (*Sw'nsea*)
 Jones, William (*Carnarvonshire*)
 Joyce, Michael
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kemp, Lieut.-Colonel George
 Kitson, Sir James
 Langley, Batty
 Law, Hugh Alex. (*Donegal W.*)
 Lawson, Sir Wilfred (*Cornwall*)
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Leamy, Edmund
 Leigh, Sir Joseph
 Leng, Sir John
 Levy, Maurice
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Logan, John William
 Lough, Thomas
 Lundon, W.
 MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
 Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*)
 M'Kean, John
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 M'Killop, W. (*Sligo North*)
 M'Laren, Sir Charles Benjamin
 Mansfield, Horace Rendall

Mr. A. J. Balfour.

Markham, Arthur Basil
Mellor, Rt. Hn. John William
Mitchell, Edw. (*Fermanagh N.*)
Mooney, John J.
Morley, Charles (*Breconshire*)
Morley, Rt. Hn. John (*Montrose*)
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Noian, Joseph (*Louth, South*)
Norman, Henry,
Norton, Captain Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, James F. X. (*Cork*)
O'Brien, K. (*Tipperary, Mid*)
O'Brien, Patrick (*Kilkenny*)
O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)
O'Brien, William (*Cork*)
O'Connor, Jas. (*Wicklow, W.*)
O'Connor, T. P. (*Liverpool*)
O'Donnell, John (*Mayo, S.*)
O'Donnell, T. (*Kerry, W.*)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (*Mayo, N.*)
O'Kelly, J. (*Roscommon, N.*)
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Palmer, Sir Charles M. (*Durham*)
Palmer, George Wm. (*Reading*)
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.

Pemberton, John S. G.
Philipps, John Wynford
Pickard, Benjamin
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Randles, John S.
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (*Waterford*)
Redmond, William (*Clare*)
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (*Dumfries*)
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (*Stalybridge*)
Roberts, John Bryn (*Elfin*)
Robertson, Edmund (*Dundee*)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, W. W. (*Liverpool*)
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
Schwann, Charles E.
Shaw, Charles E. (*Stafford*)
Shaw, Thomas (*Hawick B.*)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Soames, Arthur Wellesley

Soares, Ernest J.
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Abel (*Carmarthen, E.*)
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glamorgan, E.*)
Thomas, David Alfred (*Merthyr*)
Thomas, F. Freeman (*Hastings*)
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tully, Jasper
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John Lawson (*Leeds, S.*)
Walton, Joseph (*Barnsley*)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, John Cathcart (*Orkney*)
White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
Whiteley, George (*York, W. R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, Henry J. (*York, W. R.*)
Wilson, John (*Durham, Mid*)
Wilson, J. W. (*Worcestersh. N.*)
Wood, James
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (*Huddersf'd*)
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Shackleton and Mr.
Bell.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Cap. Sir Alex F.
Aird, Sir John
Allsopp, Hon. George
Allhusen, Aug. Henry Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther, H. T.
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline Fitz Roy
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Manch'r*)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. Gerald W. (*Leeds*)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barry, Sir Fras. T. (*Windsor*)
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.
Beckett, Ernest William
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boulnois, Edmund
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Lt.-Col. H. F. (*Midx.*)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brown, Sir Alex. H. (*Shropsh.*)
Brymer, William Ernest
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.

Butcher, John George
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. A. (*Glasg.*)
Campbell, J. H. M. (*Dublin Un.*)
Carlike, William Walter
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (*N. Lancs.*)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*)
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (*Birm*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A. (*Worc*)
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Right Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Cox, Irwin Edwd. Bainbridge
Craig, Chas. Curtis (*Antrim, S.*)
Cranborne, Lord
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, H. Shepherd (*Bolton*)
Crossley, Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley-
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Jos. C.

Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir J. E.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, E. B. (*Hants, W.*)
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellows, Hon. Ailwyn Ed.
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S. (*Warwick, S. W*)
Fyler, John Arthur
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (*St. Albans*)
Gordon, Hn. E. (*Elgin and Nairn*)
Gore, Hn. S. F. Ormsby- (*Linc*)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, Sir E. W. (*Bury St. Ed.*)
Greene, Hy. D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gunter, Sir Robert
Hall, Edward Marshall

Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hamilton, Marq. of (*L'nd n'd rry*)
Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, As'ford*)
Harris, Frederick Levertton
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Heath, Arthur H. (*Hanley*)
Heath, James (*Staffords. N. W.*)
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hobhouse, Rt. Hn. H. (*Som'rs't, E*)
Hogg, Lindsay
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houlst, Joseph
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, John (*Kent, Favr'sham*)
Howard, J. (*Midd., Tot'tham*)
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (*Yorks. N. R.*)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*)
Keswick, William
Kimber, Henry
Knoules, Lees
Lambton, Hn. Frederick Wm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence, Sir Jos. (*Monm'th*)
Lawson, J. Grant (*Yorks. N. R.*)
Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (*Bresham*)
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (*Bristol, S.*)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (*Cumb., Eskdale*)
Lowther, Rt. Hon. James (*Kent*)
Lucas, Reg'd J. (*Portsmouth*)
Macedona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Ed'nburgh, W*)
M'Killop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil

Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, William (*Burnley*)
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robt. Jasper (*Shropshire*)
Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
Morrison, James Arch. bald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robt. Gray C.
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (*Bute*)
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
Newdegate, Francis A. N.
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Neil, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Liu dsay
Palmer, Walter (*Salisbury*)
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, H. Pike (*Darlington*)
Peel, Hn. Wm. R. Wellesey
Penn, John
Pilkington, Col. Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Ratcliff, R. F.
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Remnant, Jas. Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Richards, Henry Charles
Ridley, S. F. (*Bethnal Green*)
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robinson, Brooke
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander

Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
Seely, Charles Hilton (*Lincoln*)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (*Isle of Wight*)
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, East*)
Smith, HC (*North'mb. Tyneside*)
Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks*)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Edward Jas. (*Somerset*)
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M' Taggart
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Rt. Hon. JG (*Oxf. d Univ.*)
Taylor, Austin (*East Tor'teth*)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir W. H.
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (*Taunton*)
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (*Notts*)
Wharton, Rt. Hon. J. Lloyd
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (*Dorset*)
Wilson, A. Stanley (*York, E. R.*)
Wilson John (*Glasgow*)
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (*Yorks.*)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE NOES —
Mr. Galloway and Mr.
Lyttelton.

Main Question, as amended, put, and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House declines to consider a Bill dealing only with certain points affecting Trade Disputes, inasmuch as it considers any legislation on such a subject should deal with the question as a whole, and when Parliament is in possession, by the report of a Royal Commission or otherwise, of satisfactory materials for the purpose.

RAILWAYS (PRIVATE SIDINGS) BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Debate arising.

And, it being half-past Five of the clock, the Debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed upon Friday, 22nd May.

Adjourned at twenty-nine minutes before Six o'clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 11th May, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with.

Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London) [H.L.]; Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (East Ham, etc.) [H.L.].

And the Certificates that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with.

Great Eastern Railway; Great Northern Railway; Sittingbourne District Gas; Walker and Wallsend Union Gas.

And the Certificate that no further Standing Orders are applicable to the following Bill.

Pier and Harbour Orders Confirmation (No. 1) [H.L.].

And the Certificate that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have not been complied with.

Bangor Corporation [H.L.]. (Petition for additional Provision.)

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

Manchester Corporation Bill [H.L.]. Petition for additional provision of Manchester Corporation; together with the proposed Clauses and Amendments annexed thereto; read, and referred to the Examiners.

Gosport, Fareham, and Cosham Tramways Bill [H.L.]. Petition for additional provision of the Portsmouth Street Tramways Company; together with the proposed Amendments annexed thereto; read, and referred to the Examiners.

VOL. CXXII. [FOURTH SERIES.]

Chatham and District Light Railways Bill [H.L.]; Rochester Corporation Tramways and Improvements Bill [H.L.]. Leave given to the Select Committee to incorporate in the Rochester Corporation Tramways and Improvements Bill such parts as they think fit of the Chatham and District Light Railways Bill.

Somerset and District Electric Power Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Tynemouth and District Tramways Bill [H.L.]. Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition thereto having been withdrawn; read, and ordered to lie on the Table: The Orders made on the 27th of April and 1st of May last discharged, and Bill committed.

North-Western Electricity and Power Gas Bill [H.L.]; Exeter Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Preston and Norwich Tramways Bill [H.L.]. The Lord Glanusk, the Chairman of the Select Committee appointed for the consideration of the said Bills, informed the House that the Lord Aberdare, a member of the Committee, was, on account of illness, unable to be present; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

North Cheshire Tramways Bill [H.L.]. Report from the Select Committee, That the promoters do not intend to proceed further with the Bill; ordered, that the Bill be not further proceeded with.

Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway Bill; City and South London Railway Bill. Read 2^a and committed: The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Maidstone Gas Bill. Read 2^a and committed.

Bishopric of Bristol Bill [H.L.]. Read 3^a (according to Order) and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill (No. 61); Land Drainage Provisional Order Bill (No. 62); Local Government (Ireland) Provisional

L

Orders (No. 4) Bill (No. 63). Local Government Provisional Orders (No 4) Bill (No. 64). Brought from the Commons and read 1^a; to be printed, and referred to the Examiners.

London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Bill [H.L.]; Wakefield and District Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Midland Railway Bill; Bangor Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Broadstairs Gas Bill; Bradford Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Gosport, Fareham, and Cosham Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Willesden Urban District Council Bill [H.L.]. Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills, viz.,

D. Manchester.
E. Verulam,
L. Sinclair,
L. Brougham and Vaux (Chairman),
L. Sudley (*E. Arran*);

agreed to, and the said Lords appointed accordingly; the Committee to meet on Thursday next at eleven o'clock; and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills, to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ARMY.

Approximate estimates of expenditure under the Military Works Acts of 1897, 1899, and 1901.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS, ENGLAND AND WALES, 1901 (PART II.: CIVIL JUDICIAL STATISTICS).

Statistics relating to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, the House of Lords, the Supreme Court of Judicature, county courts, and other civil courts; edited by John Macdonell, Esq., C.B., LL.D., Master of the Supreme Court.

Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table.

LUNACY.

Report to the Lord Chancellor of visits made, patients seen, and miles travelled by visitors of lunatics, between 1st October, 1902, and 31st March 1903.

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY OF DURHAM).

Order made by the County Council of the county of Durham altering certain polling districts in the North-Western Parliamentary Division of the County.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

OUT-DOOR RELIEF (FRIENDLY SOCIETIES) (No. 2) BILL, 1900.

Report respecting; Laid before the House (pursuant to Order of Friday last), and to be printed. (No. 60.)

IRISH LIGHTS TENDERS.

LORD MUSKERRY: My Lords, I rise to call attention to the new steam tender to be built for the Irish Lights Commissioners, and to the fact that the Ship-owners' Lighthouse Advisory Board have been prevented from discussing the details regarding the expenditure and other matters connected with this vessel; and to move for a return specifying the movements of the Irish Lights tenders during the year 1902, and also for a specification of the new steam tender which is now being built. I may state that my Motion refers principally to the new tender being built, or ordered to be built, for the Irish Lights Commissioners to replace the "Princess Alexandra." The request for this new tender appeared for the first time in the Estimates for the year 1901, and it was immediately objected to by Mr. F. L. Heyn, a ship-owner of Belfast, who stated that he had frequently had the opportunity of admiring the "Princess Alexandra," and that she was a very nice boat indeed. From the report made by Captain Vereker to the Board of Trade on this subject, it appears that the ship herself was then in good condition, but that her boilers were defective, and that she would not be worth new boilers. It is also noticeable that the Board of Trade's principal surveyor in Ireland stated that the report upon which the Irish Lights official based his estimate "does not agree with the condition in which the vessel was found." The Irish Lights Commissioners appear to have been singularly ill-informed on this subject, as Sir William Watson, who was one of the Commissioners, I believe, stated that the vessel was constantly at sea, also that he would consider the boilers in very bad order if the pressure had to be reduced. As a matter of fact,

she is seldom at sea, and Captain Vereker reported that the pressure of her boilers had been twice reduced previously. The Irish Lights Board suggested that her boilers were not safe, and after a long discussion it was agreed that a report from Lloyd's surveyors as to the state of her boilers should be obtained. The vessel was thereupon brought over to Liverpool, arriving there about the 9th of December, 1900. The report of Lloyd's surveyors—Mr. J. T. Milton and Mr. McGregor—was made on the 4th of January in the following year. I have the complete report in my hand, and would call your Lordships' attention to the last paragraph of it, which runs as follows—

“The repairs necessary to the boilers not being of great extent, we have made no estimates as to their probable cost.”

That does not look as if the boilers were in too bad a condition. The Irish Lights Board, instead of having the ship promptly repaired, in accordance with Lloyd's report, repeated in the spring of the same year their demands for a new vessel, and, in the meantime, kept the vessel lying in Liverpool untouched. They chartered the steamer “Cragside” at the cost of £265 per month, plus £150, the cost of fitting up holds for the crew, and she is supposed to have done the work which the “Princess Alexandra” would have done. She was afterwards kept lying in harbour unemployed, it is understood, for several months, and the freight still running on. The shipowners, through the medium of their Advisory Board, opposed the provision of a substitute, and, after a lengthy discussion, the Board of Trade disallowed it. The repairs to the ship, the “Princess Alexandra,” were completed about the beginning of last year, during which year she did a certain amount of work.

In the Estimates for 1902–1903 a new tender was again proposed; this time the cost had been reduced to £26,500. The Shipowners' Advisory Board were prepared to once again emphatically protest against this expenditure, when the President of the Board of Trade ruled them out of order on the ground that the provision of this substitute was maintenance and not new works. I am extremely surprised that the Board of Trade should have taken such a high-handed action, in not only deterring the shipowners from

giving their views and the benefit of their personal knowledge in such an affair, but in not allowing them to make suggestions on the matter. They (the shipowners) provide the money, and have an absolute claim to see that it is expended without the needless waste which I am informed goes on. In the Estimates for 1903–1904 it now appears that the new tender has been sanctioned, part of the money has been spent, and it is proposed to spend the remainder during the coming financial year. The shipowners were opposed to the expenditure because there was nothing to show that the “Princess Alexandra” had not carried out her duties well for thirty-seven years, or was unable to carry them out for some years longer. They were also unable to understand why this boat was required at all, and although they repeatedly pressed for an official time-table, detailing her employment during any given year, their request was refused. I believe that, including the “Princess Alexandra,” the Irish Lights Commissioners have now no less than four steam tenders. The “Tearaght” and the “Moyra” were built in 1893, and the latest addition is the “Ierne.” I understand that the time these steamers spend at sea is as follows—the “Princess Alexandra,” 90 days; “Tearaght,” 210 days; “Moyra,” 60 days; and the “Ierne,” 210 days. This latter vessel attends exclusively to the rebuilding of the Fastnet Lighthouse, being constructed specially for the purpose. As this lighthouse is almost built it would appear that she could have been utilised to replace the “Princess Alexandra.”

In the general lighthouse accounts for the year 1902 the cost of maintaining steam vessels belonging to the Irish Lights Board is given at £18,949 13s. 7d.—a yearly average of £4,737 each. This appears a somewhat extravagant expenditure for the amount of work carried on. The shipowners hold strongly that the work could, with proper system, be performed with a smaller number of steamers and less expenditure. Of course, I know that even shipowners are sometimes disposed to carry their economical views a little too far, but, all the same, their acute personal knowledge should not be discarded in the rough and ready way

affected by the Board of Trade. In order to give the shipowners some voice in the expenditure of the money they contribute, the late President of the Board of Trade constituted the Shipowners' Lighthouse Advisory Board, and amongst the matters which were referred to them were—

“All questions of new works, new lights, where they ought to be placed, and how much ought to be expended on them.”

If the building of a new steam tender is not a new work I should like to know what the Board of Trade think does constitute a new work? It seems to me perfectly obvious that the shipowners are entitled to express their opinions and to have them considered, for in the accounts of the general lighthouse fund new tenders have invariably been placed under the heading of “new works,” and have always been considered as such in the four Estimates submitted to the Lighthouse Advisory Board. Before Mr. Courtney's Committee it was admitted that a record was kept of the employment of these tenders, and with a body like the Irish Lights Commissioners everything should be quite above board. I accordingly move that a Return shall be made specifying the movements of the Irish Lights tenders during the year 1902, and also a specification of the new tender which is now being built, and of which those who ought to know are completely in the dark.

Moved, “For a Return specifying the movements of the Irish Lights tenders during the year 1902, and also for a specification of the new steam tender which is now being built.”—(*Lord Muskerry.*)

LORD WOLVERTON: In reply to the first part of the Question, which deals with the Shipowners' Lighthouse Advisory Board, I would point out to my noble friend that he is under a slight misapprehension. In receiving a deputation on April 28th, 1899, Mr. Ritchie, who was then President of the Board of Trade, stated that—

“He was prepared to say that if the Chambers of Commerce and the Chambers of Shipping would submit the names of a Committee that would adequately represent the views of the shipowners with regard to all

questions of new works, new lights, where they ought to be and how they ought to be placed, and what the expenditure ought to be, he would undertake that they should be called together annually at the Board of Trade before any proposal submitted, etc.”

That Advisory Board was formed, but it had no statutory powers of any description. With regard to lighthouses and ships, and the position in which they should be put, that Advisory Board has been of extreme use to the Board of Trade, but I would remind my noble friend that the Advisory Board is only called into operation by the President of the Board of Trade. In this case the President has not asked for their advice, although, as I have said, on many other occasions he has been very much indebted for the advice they had given. With regard to the Motion for a Return specifying the movements of the Irish Lights tenders during the year 1902, I would inform my noble friend that the Board of Trade have no authority over the Lights Commissioners except with regard to expenditure. The latter body, however, have courteously communicated to the Board of Trade, by telegraph, the following information. They state that the “Princess Alexandra” arrived in Liverpool on December 13th, 1900, and returned to Kingstown on March 17th, 1902, since which time she has been, and is still, continuously employed in buoy shipping, delivering stores, and in general coast work. They also state that the other Irish Lights vessel, the “Tearaght,” was throughout the whole of 1902 actively engaged in assisting lighthouses and in buoy shipping and salvage operations at the Albatross lightship. This is all the information the Board of Trade have on the subject. In reply to the third point, the Board of Trade do not think it is for the public good that a specification of the new steam tender should be laid before your Lordships. My right hon. friend the President of the Board of Trade authorised me to state the figures which my noble friend has given, and beyond that the matter is more or less out of his control. The President of the Board of Trade sanctioned the expenditure of £26,500 on this new vessel, having previously satisfied himself, upon the advice of his nautical advisers, that this would be the best course to adopt.

Lord Muskerry.

Motion, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

EMOLUMENTS OF RESERVE OFFICERS.

LORD ROSMEAD, who had given notice to draw the attention of His Majesty's Government to the discrepancy in the financial treatment of the two classes of Reserve officers called up for service during the late war, and to move to resolve that, in the opinion of this House, the emoluments received by the senior (pensioned) officers of the Reserve in respect of services rendered during recent mobilisation compare most unfavourably with those of the junior officers who had retired with gratuities; and that the consequent grievances of the senior (pensioned) officers should be favourably considered by His Majesty's Government, with a view to removing the disparity complained of said: My Lords, in rising to give your Lordships a brief explanation of a subject which I venture to think is of no little public importance, my object is to bring under the notice of His Majesty's Government the decided disparity of the treatment of the two classes of Reserve officers who were called up for service during the late war. Officers of the Army, as your Lordships are aware, are permitted, by paragraph 515, and the Articles referred to therein, of the Royal Warrant, to retire either on a pension, providing they have the qualifying service, or, if they prefer it, with a gratuity (or lump sum down), which gratuity is their undoubted property, earned by past service, and is in no way subject to any control whatever by His Majesty's Government. It is, in fact, a definite payment free from conditions, except that the officer accepting it is liable to be called up for service in case of national emergency. Those, on the other hand, who prefer to leave their capital in the hands of the Government, draw an annual income from it for their lives in the form of a pension.

These alternative methods of procedure are clearly laid down by the terms of the Royal Warrant, and, accordingly, some retiring officers select the one, and some the other. In the ordinary course no question would arise; an officer having made his choice is prepared to

stand by it. But, my Lords, it has been found that when the national emergency arose, as it did during the late war in South Africa when so many of the Reserve officers were called up for service, the authorities suspended the pensions of those officers who had retired on a pension, thereby depriving them of the benefit of their pension, whereas those officers who had retired with gratuities continued to enjoy the benefits of such gratuities, and thus received the full pay of their rank without any deductions whatever during mobilisation. Moreover, I would point out that the officers who retired with gratuities are further entitled to qualify for higher rates of gratuity, and in many cases have thus received various sums. It appears to me that when paragraph 601a of the Royal Warrant was framed it must have been overlooked that, under the amended warrant, the pension of £250 after twenty-three years service was abolished, and consequently, as no increase is provided for, the words of paragraph 601a are as regards the majors and senior captains without any meaning.

In order that your Lordships may fully appreciate how the application of the rules in force financially affect the two classes of Reserve officers, I will venture to quote an example. A junior major retires with a gratuity of £1,600, and has, say, sixteen years service. This officer receives during two years mobilised service full pay at the rate of £300 a year, amounting for the two years to £600; further than this, he adds two years to his previously completed sixteen years service, giving him a total of eighteen years, consequently qualifying him for the higher gratuity of £2,000. He accordingly receives the difference, viz: £400, and his total receipts amount to £1,000. On the other hand, a senior major, who retired with say twenty or more years service upon a pension of £200 a year, receives during a similar period of mobilisation, only the difference between his pension of £200 and consolidated pay at £350, equal for two years to £300 in all. There is thus, as your Lordships will perceive, a balance of £700 in favour of the junior officer, and a consequent hardship to the senior. I trust your Lordships will recognise the manifest injustice of this procedure, and

it is with that object I have ventured to make these remarks on the subject which stands in my name on the Paper.

Moved to resolve, "That in the opinion of this House, the emoluments received by the senior (pensioned) officers of the Reserve, in respect of services rendered during recent mobilisation, compare most unfavourably with those of the junior officers who had retired with gratuities; and that the consequent grievances of the senior (pensioned) officers should be favourably considered by His Majesty's Government with a view to removing the disparity complained of."—(*Lord Rosmead.*)

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The Earl of HARDWICKE): My Lords, the noble Lord who has put this Motion on the Paper seems to be under some misapprehension as to the regulations with reference to retiring officers. He has suggested to the House that an officer has the choice of accepting a lump sum as a gratuity on retirement, or a pension of so much a year. That is not the system at present in force, or, as far as I am aware, that has been in force in the past. The old Regulations enabled an officer on retirement after twelve years service to receive a gratuity of £1,200. If he had served fifteen years he was entitled to a gratuity of, I think, £1,600, and, if he had served eighteen years, of £2,000. In 1887 those Regulations were somewhat modified, and officers who had served fifteen years became entitled to a retiring pension of £120 a year. In 1889 a further alteration was made, and gratuities to officers were abolished altogether. Therefore the system at present in force is that an officer after fifteen years service receives a pension of £120 a year, and after twenty years service a pension of £200 a year. Therefore the grievances and the inequalities that have arisen, and to which the noble Lord called attention, owing to the re-employment of officers in the late war, are not likely to recur, inasmuch as the gratuities have been abolished. I do not wish for a moment to deny that grievances and inequalities have existed and do exist at the present moment; that is to say, that officers who have served in South Africa have, as the noble Lord pointed out, received for

Lord Rosmead.

two years extra service a gratuity of £400 owing to their having been on the gratuity basis in the past, and that senior officers have served a similar period and have not been enabled to increase their pension. That I admit. But the real grievance to which I understand the noble Lord called attention is that an officer serving in South Africa who was previously drawing a pension was not allowed to draw his pension while he was serving, whilst no actuarial deduction was made from the pay of the officer who previously received a gratuity. It is the case that in past years, when an officer who had received a gratuity of £1,200, £1,600, or £2,000 as the case may be, was re-employed, an actuarial deduction was made on that sum of money; but when the noble Marquess was Secretary of State for War at the commencement of the war, he thought actuarial deduction was not altogether fair. In explaining in the House of Commons the reasons that had influenced the Secretary of State in foregoing the actuarial deduction, Mr. Wyndham said—

"The gratuity is always much less than the actuarial value of the retired pay given for the same service, but the more practical point is that the gratuity is actually given as a lump sum and is not, as a rule, in the officer's possession when he is called upon to return to service, so that a deduction from full pay would in that case be a real hardship on the officer."

Consequently no deduction was made. I cannot admit that the officers who were in receipt of pensions had any grievance, because they knew when they received their pensions that they would have to forego them in the event of their being re-employed. That is laid down in the Regulations. At the same time, I admit that grievances have arisen in exceptional cases. Not every officer who has been re-employed has a grievance, but there are special cases in which the Secretary of State for War thinks that some redress may be necessary. For that reason my right hon. friend has recently appointed a Committee which is inquiring into the whole subject; and if, on the report of that Committee, he is able to see his way to put forward proposals for the consideration of the Treasury, he will do so. In these circumstances I hope the noble Lord will not feel it necessary to press the Motion.

EARL CARRINGTON: Are those officers who were granted gratuities under the old system placed on the pension list now, or are they on the old footing?

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: On the old footing.

EARL CARRINGTON: The old system will be continued till they die out?

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: Exactly.

LORD ROSMEAD: After the remarks of the noble Earl the Under Secretary I beg leave to withdraw my Motion.

Motion, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

THE MILITARY MANŒUVRES ACT, 1897.

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: My Lords, by the Manœuvres Act, 1897, it is necessary that a draft Order in Council should be sent to all the local authorities in the districts in which the manœuvres are going to take place. It is also necessary that this Order in Council should lie on the Table of both Houses of Parliament for thirty days, and that both Houses should pass an Address in favour of it, before it can be submitted to His Majesty. That Order in Council has been on the Table of your Lordships' House for thirty days; the local authorities have received the necessary notice, and I therefore ask the House to accept the Motion which stands in my name.

Moved, "That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty, praying His Majesty to make the Order in Council under the Military Manœuvres Act, 1897, a draft of which was presented to this House on the 17th February last."—*(The Earl of Hardwicke.)*

On Question, Motion agreed to.

House adjourned at five minutes past Five o'clock, till Tomorrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 11th May, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz.:

Milford Docks Bill [Lords]; All Saints, Poplar (Rate Abolition), Bill [Lords]; Knott End Railway (Extension of Time) Bill [Lords]; South Wales Mineral Railway Bill [Lords]; Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Bill [Lords]; Harrogate Water Bill [Lords]; Pelican and British Empire Life Office Bill [Lords]; Harrow and Stanmore Gas Bill [Lords]; Wirral Railway Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz.:

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (Housing of Working Classes) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time To-morrow.

PUBLIC OFFICES (DUBLIN) BILL (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of

Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 5th day of May, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :

Public Offices (Dublin) Bill.

Scarborough Gas Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Cork Harbour Bill; Coventry Electric Tramways Bill; Gorleston and Southtown Gas Bill; Hyde Corporation Bill; Nelson Corporation Bill; Seaforth and Sefton Junction Railway Bill. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Exeter Railway Bill [Lords]; Faversham Gas Bill [Lords]; Hexham Gas Bill [Lords]; India Rubber, Gutta Percha, and Telegraphic Works Company Bill [Lords]; Life Association of Scotland Bill [Lords]; Lima Railways Bill [Lords]; North's Navigation Collieries Bill [Lords]; Wolverhampton and Cannock Chase Railway (Extension of Time) Bill. Read a second time, and committed.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill. Read a second time and committed.

Midland and Belfast and Northern Counties Railways Bill. Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—

Great Western Railway (Pension Fund) Bill; Dublin Improvement (Bull Alley Area) Bill, without Amendment.

Amendments to—

Queensland Investment Land and Mortgage Bill [Lords], without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Sutton Coldfield to construct and work tramways, and to make further provision with regard to their electric light undertaking; and for the improvement, health, local government, and finance of the Borough; and for other purposes." (Sutton Coldfield Corporation Bill [Lords].)

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to empower the Urban District Council of Rickmansworth to purchase the undertaking of the Rickmansworth Gas Company, and to supply Gas; and for other purposes." (Rickmansworth Gas Bill [Lords].)

Sutton Coldfield Corporation Bill [Lords]; Rickmansworth Gas Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

PETITIONS.

COAL MINES REGULATION BILL.

Petitions in favour: from Coedmoeth; Pontyccelyn; Rudry; Castle; Standish; Ossett Roundwood; Thornhill; Reservoir; Moira; Measham; Netherseal; West Elliott; Sirhowy; East Elliott; Bickershaw; Hindley Green; and Dechmont Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

DETENTION OF POOR PERSONS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour: from Logierait; Liff and Benvie; Kingoldrun; and Dundee; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING LAW (COMPENSATION FOR NON-RENEWAL) BILL.

Petitions against: from Wesleydale; Largs; and Ayr; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Petitions for alteration: from Foveran; Chanonry; West Cambuslang; and Glasgow; to lie upon the Table.

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL.

Petitions in favour: from Wheelton; Gravesend; Busby; Newton Mearns;

Stafford ; Cleator Moor ; Millom ; Langley Mill and Alder-car ; Great Horton ; Hackleton ; Walgrave ; and Pilsley ; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE DISPUTES BILL.

Petitions in favour : from Pontycelyn ; Rudry ; Castle ; Standish ; Ossett Roundwood ; Thornhill ; Reservoir ; Moira ; Measham ; Netherseal ; West Elliott ; Sirhowy ; East Elliott ; Dechmont ; and Coedmoeth Collieries ; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

COUNTY COUNCIL (IRELAND) (SALARIES).

Return [presented 8th May] to be printed. (No. 152.)

ARMY (COMMISSIONS).

Return [presented 8th May] to be printed. (No. 153.)

VOLUNTEERS.

Return [presented 8th May] to be printed. (No. 154.)

MILITARY WORKS AND STORES.

Return [presented 8th May] to be printed. No. (155.)

JUDICIAL STATISTICS (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Copy presented, of Judicial Statistics for England and Wales, 1901, Part II. (Civil Judicial Statistics), edited by John Macdonell, Esq., C.B., Master of the Supreme Court [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY OF DURHAM).

Copy presented, of Order made by the County Council of the County of Durham altering certain Polling Districts in the North Western Parliamentary Division [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Copy presented, of Report of the Straits Settlements Currency Committee, with Minutes of Evidence and Appendices [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL).

Copy presented, of Colonial Report, No. 384 (St. Lucia, Annual Report for 1901) [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL).

Copy presented, of Colonial Report, No. 385 (St. Vincent, Annual Report for 1901) [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House :—

LUNACY.

Copy of Report to the Lord Chancellor of the number of visits made, the number of patients seen, and the number of miles travelled by the Visitors of Lunatics between 1st October, 1902, and 31st March, 1903 [by Act].

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Procedure of Ecclesiastical Courts.

MR. H. D. GREENE (Shrewsbury) : To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, upon the resignation of Sir Arthur Charles of the office of Dean of Arches and Judge under the Public Worship Regulation Act, His Majesty's Government will consider the expediency of improving the constitution of the Ecclesiastical Courts, modernising their procedure, and, if necessary, altering the duties, emoluments, and tenure of the officers ; and whether, in the case of any fresh appointment, arrangements could be made for the next Judge under the Public Worship Regulation Act to assist the Judges of the High Court in their duties under Special Commission or otherwise.

(Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.) I am far from suggesting the opinion that the present Ecclesiastical Courts might not be usefully reformed both as to their constitution and procedure, but I could not undertake to make substantive proposals on so difficult a subject in the near future. As regards the Dean of Arches the appointment rests with the two Archbishops, and Mr. Dibdin, K.C., has been appointed to the vacant office.

The Navy List.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY (Yorkshire, Shipley): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether his attention has been called to the fact that in the Navy List for April the names of engineer captains and engineer commanders follow the names of lieutenants of the navigating and other branches; and whether he will arrange that in future in the Navy List the names of officers borne on the books of each of His Majesty's ships shall be entered in the order of their rank and seniority in accordance with the new scheme, including officers of all branches, engineers or otherwise.

(Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.) The arrangement of names of officers in the Navy List follows the ordinary practice, which is considered to be both reasonable and convenient. The names of the wardroom and gunroom officers, respectively, of different branches serving in His Majesty's ships have always been placed in separate lists, each list being arranged according to seniority. The duties performed by the officers of the Executive Branch, the Engineering Branch, the Royal Marine Branch, the Medical Staff, and the Paymaster Branch are distinct from one another, and the branches are therefore differentiated in the Official List.

Pacific Cable—Interruption of Service.

SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can state on what sections of the land line of telegraphic communication between the United Kingdom and Australia, *via* Canada and the Pacific Cable, the several interruptions have taken place; whether any section of the land line was specially laid in connection with the Pacific Cable; and, if so, what section.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.) All the interruptions occurred on the land line between the cable station at Bamfield and Vancouver City, the western portion of which line was specially constructed for the Pacific Cable traffic.

New Lighthouses in the Red Sea.

MR. HELDER (Whitehaven): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign

Affairs if he can state when the four new lighthouses erected by the Turkish Government in the southern portion of the Red Sea, and completed and tested in 1902, are likely to be lighted for the benefit of shipping.

(Answered by Lord Cranborne.) His Majesty's Government learn that the delay in putting the four new lighthouses referred to into operation, arises from a dispute between the Turkish Ministry of Marine and the Administration des Phares over certain items in the account presented by the latter for the construction of the lighthouses. The question of funds for working expenses, and for the salaries of the staff is also not yet settled. His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has represented to the Turkish Government the serious importance of putting the lights into operation at as early a date as possible; and the question will not be lost sight of.

Mails to Scotland—Delays.

MR. HARMSWORTH (Caithness-shire): To ask the Postmaster-General if he will state the times stipulated in the contracts with the London and North Western, the Caledonian, and the Highland Railways at which the Scotch mails leaving London at night are to be handed over at Carlisle, Perth, and Inverness, respectively; and if he will state the occasions during which these mails were late in being handed over, and the extent of the delays, from the 1st June, 1902, to the 31st October, 1902.

(Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.) The down night mail trains from London for Scotland forwarded by the West Coast railways are due on week-days at 2.48 a.m. at Carlisle, at 5.54. a.m. at Perth, and 9.30 a.m. at Inverness. I am sorry to say that, owing mainly to the great increase in the quantity of the parcel mails conveyed, this train does not, especially during the summer season, keep good time, and that during the period referred to by the hon. Member it was late almost every day. Various alterations have from time to time been made in the service with the view of ensuring greater punctuality, but so far little improvement in this respect has been

effected. The matter is still under consideration, but I fear that the only effectual remedy will be to make a substantial reduction in the parcel mails forwarded by this train. The adoption of this course will to some extent affect the time of delivery of the parcels excluded, and the inquiries now in progress are being made to ascertain what parcels would sustain least delay in delivery if left behind for other trains. I have been reluctant to authorise such an arrangement, but I think the punctual performance of the letter mail service should not suffer from the growth of the parcel mails.

Mails to China—Conveyance by the Trans-Siberian Route.

SIR HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether any arrangements have been come to with the Russian Government for the conveyance of mails from this country to China and the Far East by the Trans-Siberian Railway, having regard to the great saving of time effected in transmission by this route; and whether the mails from Germany to China are carried by the Trans-Siberian route.

(Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.)

I am in negotiation with the Russian Government for the conveyance of the British mails to China and the Far East by the Trans-Siberian Railway, but have not yet been able to settle terms. I have reason to believe that German mails for China are likewise not yet forwarded by the Trans-Siberian route.

Promotion in the Secretary's Department, Inland Revenue.

MR. HARMSWORTH: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury if his attention has been drawn to the fact that clerks of five years service are appointed to principal clerkships in the Secretary's Department of the Inland Revenue at salaries from £600 to £700 a year; and whether, in the interests of economy, he will consider the advisability of introducing some less expensive method of promotion.

(Answered by Mr. Arthur Elliot.) It is true that, owing to the occurrence of an unusual number of vacancies, and consequently of an exceptionally rapid flow of promotion, some clerks of

the first division have obtained promotion to the rank of principal clerk after a service of five years. In no case has a clerk been promoted who was not, in the opinion of the Board of Inland Revenue, fully qualified to discharge the duties of principal clerk.

H.M.S. "Canopus"—Boiler Repairs.

MR. HARMSWORTH: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he will state what repairs are required to the boilers of H.M.S. "Canopus;" and what the cost of the same will be.

(Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.) The repairs to the boilers of H.M.S. "Canopus" will comprise the renewal of about 30 per cent. of the economiser tubes, the renewal of baffles of steam collectors and down-comer tubes, and general overhaul of casings, brickwork, etc. The estimated cost of carrying out the necessary work is between £6,000 and £7,000.

Physical Training in Scotland.

MR. HARMSWORTH: To ask the Lord Advocate if he can state whether it is intended to adopt the proposal of the Royal Commission on Physical Training in Scotland to add a number of medical and sanitary experts to the inspecting staff under the Education Department.

(Answered by Mr. A. Graham Murray.) I am to refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Lord Advocate to a similar Question put by the hon. Member for East Renfrew on the 7th of May.†

Arsenical Poisoning Commission Report.

SIR CUTHBERT QUILTER (Suffolk, Sudbury): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he can state when the final Report of the Royal Commission on Arsenical Poisoning, appointed in January, 1901, is likely to be issued.

(Answered by Mr. Walter Long.) I understand that the Commission have almost completed their inquiries, and are about to prepare their final Report; but I am unable at present to state when it is likely to be issued.

† See page 18.

Alleged Undue Violence at Wandsworth Infirmary.

MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to the inquest on Michael Sadler, who died in the Wandsworth Infirmary on 20th April, at which evidence was given of violence on the part of the male attendants, and it was found by the jury that Sadler's death was hastened by undue violence; and whether further inquiry into the matter will be made.

(Answered by Mr. Walter Long.) My attention has been called to the inquest referred to, and I have applied to the coroner for a copy of the depositions. I am now in communication with the Guardians on the subject, and on the receipt of their reply and the depositions I shall consider what further action I shall take in the matter.

Transfers of Voluntary Schools— Public Notice.

MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE (Somersetshire, E.): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Education, if in the case of a proposed transfer of a voluntary school to the new education authority, it is the duty of that authority, or of the persons proposing to transfer the school, to give the public notice required by Section 8 of the Education Act of last year.

(Answered by Sir William Anson.) The Board are advised that the duty of giving the statutory notice of the provision of a new school required by Section 8 of the Education Act falls in every case upon the person or body proposing to provide the school. As the transfer of a school to the local education authority is to be treated as the provision of a new school the duty would, in the case of such a transfer, fall on the local education authority. The Board are further advised that the statutory notice required by Section 8 of the Act cannot be given until the Act is in operation, *i.e.*, until after the appointed day.

Agriculture and Technical Instruction in County Leitrim.

COLONEL M'CALMONT (Antrim, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord

Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the fact that the County Council of Leitrim has levied a rate for the purposes of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act; and whether, considering that the larger part of the county is declared to be a congested district, he will state what steps, if any, he proposes to take in the matter; what has been the amount of money so levied; what sum has been received from the Department; and how have these moneys been expended.

(Answered by Mr. Atkinson.) The valuation of the congested areas in County Leitrim is £48,000, and of the non-congested areas £90,000. A penny rate over the entire county produces £575. Up to the 31st March, 1902, the schemes in operation in the county dealt mainly with live stock, to the cost of which the Department and the Congested Districts Board contributed *pro rata*. The amount certified by the Secretary of the County Committee to have been expended to that date was £159 8s. for live stock schemes and £20 for agricultural schemes. Of the former amount the Department and the Congested Districts Board contributed £88 11s. 2d., and of the latter the Department contributed one-half—*viz.*, £10. The County Council is aware of the decision come to by the Congested Districts Board last year that it would not continue to make any further contributions towards county schemes after the 31st March, 1903. The unexpended balances of any contributions promised by the Board in respect of the rates raised prior to that date are, however, available for the promotion of approved schemes in congested districts. It was not until the 22nd ultimo that the secretary of the County Committee furnished a statement of his Committee's expenditure for the nine months ended 31st December, 1902. When the accounts have been submitted to investigation the Department will pay the balance of its contribution. In regard to Technical Instruction schemes no accounts were furnished by the secretary of the Committee until last month.

Land Act, 1896—Holdings under Section 36.

SIR JOHN COLOMB: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the number of owners and occupiers who have availed themselves of the provisions of Section 36 of the Land Act of 1896 (59 and 60 Vic., c. 47); whether any inquiry has been made into the effect of the provision of the clause for fining down rent; and, if so, whether he will present to the House the report of any such inquiry, or any information relating thereto.

(*Answered by Mr. Atkinson.*) There has been only one case in which the provisions of Section 36 of the Land Act of 1896 have been availed of. In that case the original agreement was made in June, 1900, and the application, which was not under Section 36 but under the ordinary provisions of the Land Purchase Acts, was for the advance of the whole purchase money, £3,750, for the holding, the rent of which was £204. The parties were informed, having regard to the provisions of the Act of 1888, that not more than £3,000 could be advanced. Ultimately the agreement was withdrawn, and in May, 1901, a new agreement was entered into under the 36th Section of the Act of 1896, and upon it £3,000 was advanced and a perpetual rent-charge of £34 was reserved, payable to the vendor. The Commissioners are not aware that any inquiry such as is referred to in the latter part of the Question has been held.

Irish Land Bill—Leases over Ninety-nine Years.

MR. KENNEDY (Westmeath, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, under the Land Bill introduced this session, tenants holding land under leases for longer terms than ninety-nine years or under fee farm grants, and who are excluded from the provisions of The Redemption of Rent (Ireland) Act, 1891, by reason of their rents being less than the full agricultural rent of such lands, will be entitled to obtain advances for the voluntary purchase of such holdings; and, if so, will the Land Commission in such cases have power to compulsorily redeem any head rents or other superior interests affecting such property.

(*Answered by Mr. Atkinson.*) Advances under the Land Purchase Acts can, and frequently have been made, to tenants holding under leases for longer terms than ninety-nine years or under fee farm grants, and the Bill does not propose to make any alteration of the law in this respect. It is not clear what is intended to be conveyed by the latter portion of the Question. I would refer the hon. Member to Section 31 of The Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1896, which gives power to redeem superior interests, and to the provisions of the Bill with respect to such interests.

Delay in Erection of Labourers' Cottages at Strabane.

MR. M'FADDEN (Donegal, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland what is the cause of delay on the part of the contractors in proceeding with the erection of labourers' cottages in the Strabane (No. 2) Rural District, County Donegal, the contract for which has been entered into some three months ago; and if the Local Government Board will direct the District Council to take steps to compel the contractors to proceed to complete their contracts without further delay.

(*Answered by Mr. Atkinson.*) The Clerk of the District Council states that the award of the arbitrator is before the solicitors to the Council, who are investigating the titles of the owners and occupiers of the sites. The Council cannot enter on the lands and instruct the contractors to commence work until the titles have been verified and the amount of the arbitrator's award paid.

MR. M'FADDEN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to the complaint of the chairman and members of the Strabane (No. 2) Rural District Council, County Donegal, at its last meeting on Tuesday, 5th May, as to the delay of three months on the part of the Local Government Board and the Board of Works in replying to an application of the Council for a loan for the erection of labourers' cottages in the district; and if steps will be taken to expedite the granting of the loan.

(*Answered by Mr. Atkinson.*) No complaint has reached the Local Government Board on the subject. In point of fact no formal application has yet been made to the Board for sanction to the loan in respect of the improvement scheme lately authorised.

Salaries of Sub-Sanitary Officers in Ireland.

MR. O'DOHERTY (Donegal, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will grant the Return with reference to salaries of sub-sanitary officers in county boroughs in Ireland.

The Return referred to was as follows:

Sub-Sanitary Officers (Dublin, etc.)—Return of the number of Sub-Sanitary Officers employed by the respective Sanitary Authorities in the cities of Dublin, Belfast, Cork, Londonderry, Limerick, Waterford, Galway, and Kilkenny; the salaries paid per annum to each of said Officers in each city; and the amount contributed to said salaries per annum to each city by the Irish Government.

(*Answered by Mr. Atkinson.*) I have communicated the Return to the hon. Member. It is hardly of sufficient importance to lay upon the Table as a Parliamentary Paper.

Extension of Blacksod Pier.

MR. O'KELLY (Mayo, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state whether the extension of the Blacksod Pier will be included in the schemes to be assisted from the Equivalent Grant.

(*Answered by Mr. Atkinson.*) No undertaking can be given. The matter will be considered with other applications for assistance from the moneys provided in the Bill.

Extra Allowance for European Troops Serving in Somaliland.

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can take steps to place the Mounted Infantry, King's Royal Rifle Corps, which is the only European unit

in the force on service in Somaliland, and is drawing British pay and allowances, on the same footing as the Indian troops, who are drawing Indian pay and field batta.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The Indian troops have been specially allowed to retain their Indian pay in order that they shall not suffer by reason of their employment outside India. It would be contrary to precedent to grant British troops Indian rates of pay, and the distinction has been observed in China and elsewhere where troops on the British and Indian establishments have served side by side.

Army Chaplains—Established and Free Church of Scotland.

MR. HARMSWORTH: To ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state how many acting chaplains are ministers of the United Free Church of Scotland, their names, and where they are stationed; also the number of chaplains who are ministers of the Established Church of Scotland, their names, and where they are stationed.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The names and stations of the commissioned chaplains of the established Church of Scotland are as follows:—Rev. Dr. Robertson, D.S.O., Aldershot; Rev. W. S. Jaffray, Egypt; Rev. T. H. Chapman, Curragh; Rev. J. T. Bird, on leave from South Africa. The names and stations of the acting chaplains of the United Free Church of Scotland are not recorded at the War Office, and could only be obtained by calling for Returns from all districts all over the world.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Army Canteens.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will arrange to lay upon the Table of the House the Report of the Departmental Committee on Army Canteens.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (MR. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): It is hoped that this Report will be in the

hands of Members within the course of this week.

Army Purchases in Ireland.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether steps have been taken to give the Commander-in-Chief in Ireland any further power to purchase goods locally; and whether instructions can be given to all officers to purchase locally goods which can be so obtained.

MR. BRODRICK: Extended powers have been given to the Commander-in-Chief in Ireland as to other General Officers Commanding to purchase locally. General instructions have also been given to officers entrusted with purchasing for the Government to buy, as far as possible, local produce—but the hon. Member will understand that due regard must be paid to the price demanded for such produce.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): Does local produce include hay and oats?

MR. BRODRICK: I should imagine the term includes all such articles.

Australian Commonwealth—The Vondel Case.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, with a view to knowledge by Parliament of the constitutional position of the Australian Commonwealth as compared with that of the separate States, he will lay before Parliament his despatch dealing with the arguments of the Government of South Australia in the Vondel Case.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): I have no objection.

Transvaal Coal Mines.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, seeing that the labour in the Transvaal coal mines is supplied by Kaffirs, he will say if difficulty has been experienced in obtaining such labour since the war; and whether he can state what the output of coal from the Transvaal mines has been since the 31st of December last and the corresponding output in 1899.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I do not know the answer to the first part of the Question. In reply to the second part, the latest returns in my possession as to coal output are, for January and February, 326,000 tons. No similar figures for 1899 are available, but for the corresponding period in 1898 the output was 230,000 tons.

Plague at Hong-Kong.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he will state to what cause the recurrence of plague at Hong-Kong is attributed; and how many deaths have resulted from this fresh outbreak.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The number of deaths from plague in Hong-Kong since January 16 has been 402. There is usually a recrudescence of plague in that colony at this period of the year, and I am not aware of the existence of any special cause for this year's outbreak.

MR. WEIR: Is the hon. Gentleman aware that the Hong-Kong Council attribute it to rats?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I believe that in that matter they share the opinion of many scientific men that rats do spread disease.

Russia and Manchuria.

MR. JOSEPH WALTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley): I desire to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the denial by the Russian Government of the reports as to her intention not to restore Newchwang to China or to evacuate Manchuria, His Majesty's Government will seek to secure concerted action on the part of the United States of America, Japan, and England, with the object of arriving at a definite agreement with Russia for the prompt fulfilment of her assurances in regard to these questions.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (LORD CRANBORNE, Rochester): In reply to independent friendly communications which during the last few days have been addressed to the Russian Government by the Governments of the United States and His Majesty, the Russian Government have

intimated that they adhere to the engagements into which they have entered to evacuate Manchuria, though the evacuation has been temporarily delayed; and in particular they have explained, as the House is aware, that they have no intention of adopting any measures tending to exclude foreign Consuls or to obstruct foreign commerce or the use of ports. We have also received from our Consul at Newchwang information to the effect that the reports lately prevalent as to a Russian reoccupation of that place are without foundation. Under these circumstances, we see no sufficient reason for adopting the course suggested by the hon. Gentleman.

River Karun Navigation.

MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, can he state what has been done during recent years to improve and extend the River Karun navigation by means of a canal to pass the Ahwaz Rapids, or in other ways to increase facilities for water-borne traffic between the Gulf and the fertile districts of Western Persia; and has His Majesty's representative at Teheran tried to induce His Imperial Majesty the Shah to co-operate in this public work and thus facilitate commerce in that portion of his dominions.

*LORD CRANBORNE: His Majesty's Government are not aware that the construction of a canal at Ahwaz is contemplated. His Majesty's representative at Teheran, however, reported at the end of last year that the Persian Government were sending an engineer to the Karun to study the best means of improving the navigation. I need hardly say that subject to proper conditions, any proposal intended to give increased facilities to commerce in Southern Persia will have the support of His Majesty's Legation.

Salonika Bomb Outrage.

MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can give the House any authentic information as to the number of people killed in Salonika by the bombs thrown by the Macedonian insurgents, and by

the Turkish authorities in the course of making arrests consequent on the explosions.

*LORD CRANBORNE: We have as yet no specific information as to the number of persons killed in Salonika by the bombs thrown by the insurgents. His Majesty's Consul-General at Salonika has come to the conclusion, after personal investigations on the spot, that not more than fifty Bulgarians have probably been killed.

Coal Export Duty.

*MR. D. A. THOMAS: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will state the quantity of coal shipped during the year ending 31st March last at declared values on export exceeding 7s. per ton, but not exceeding 8s.; and if he has any official information explaining why the quantity shipped at values between 5s. and 6s. was nearly four times that shipped at values between 6s. and 7s.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EX-CHEQUER (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): The quantity of coal exported during the year ended 31st March last, at values exceeding 7s. the ton, but not exceeding 8s. the ton, was 2,327,508 tons. I have no official information as to the reason for the larger quantities shipped at values between 5s. and 6s.; but the figures are not such as to falsify the estimates made.

*MR. D. A. THOMAS: Does not the right hon. Gentleman think that this is an evasion of the duty.

MR. RITCHIE: We always calculated that the results the hon. Gentleman deplores would follow.

Vivisection at London University College.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will state the number of dogs which have been subjected to experiments at London University College during the year ending 31st December last; and the number of such experiments which were conducted without the use of anæsthetics.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): The total number is 232. Of these, 155 dogs were operated upon in the Department of Physiology, all under anæsthetics. In the remaining 77 cases, the experiments, which took place in the Department of Pathological Chemistry, were of the nature of inoculations or feeding experiments, not involving any serious operation, and were conducted without the use of anæsthetics. It is a condition of such experiments that if pain ensues the animal shall be killed under anæsthetics as soon as the main result of the experiment is attained.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to an experiment made on a dog, on the 2nd February last, at the London University College; and will he take steps to secure that such experiments shall be discontinued, or conducted only in the presence of a Home Office Inspector, and while the animal is under the influence of anæsthetics.

*MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: Inquiry into this case shows that during the whole of the experiment and until it was killed the dog was under anæsthetics. I am afraid that I cannot adopt the hon. Member's other suggestions.

MR. WEIR: Was the experiment conducted in the presence of a Home Office Inspector?

*MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: It was carried out by a medical man holding a licence, but not in the presence of a Home Office Inspector.

Prison Treatment of Anti-Vaccinationists.

MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that Henry Elderkin, who was recently sentenced to imprisonment under the Vaccination Act at Wellingborough, did not receive at Northampton Gaol the treatment of a first class misdemeanant as required by the Vaccination Act, 1898, but was obliged to wear prison clothes, stripped with ordinary prisoners, and his

measurements taken, put on prison diet, and refused books or permission to write letters, and otherwise subjected to all the treatment of an ordinary criminal; and what steps he proposes to take to prevent such treatment of prisoners under the Vaccination Acts.

*MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: I almost think there must be some mistake. The inquiries which I have made show that the prisoner in question was treated strictly in accordance with the rules for prisoners of the First Division. He was not stripped with ordinary prisoners, nor measured; by his own choice he wore prison clothes and received prison diet; and he was allowed library books. As his sentence was only one week, he did not become entitled to any privileges under the rule allowing fortnightly visits and letters, but he was allowed to receive a letter from his wife.

MR. CHANNING: There must be some misunderstanding. I will furnish the right hon. Gentleman with facts, and ask him to make further inquiry.

*MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: I thought there must be some mistake, as the hon. Gentleman's Question and my answer so entirely vary.

Postal Employees Grievances—Proposed Committee on Wages.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: On behalf of the hon. Member for Oxford University I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether, in the proposed inquiry into the grievances alleged on behalf of some of the employees of the Post Office, the case of the young women whose pay has been reduced from the standard fixed by Mr. Fawcett will be included.

MR. BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield): At the same time may I ask the Postmaster-General whether he is prepared to include the sub-postmasters in the proposed inquiry.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERTAIN, Worcestershire, E.): As stated by me in this House on the 30th ultimo, and for the reason I then gave, the scope of the proposed inquiry will be limited to the classes of established postmen, sorters (London), telegraphists (London), and sorting clerks

and telegraphists (provincial). Neither the case of sub-postmasters nor the case of the young women to whom the Question of my right hon. friend for Oxford University relates will be referred to the Committee.

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.): May I ask whether it is to be understood that the right hon. Gentleman absolutely declines to make or even consider any enlargement of the list of classes in reference to the inquiry, for instance, those of auxiliary postmen, sub-postmasters and women?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Substantially that may be taken as my position. It is all important to the success of the inquiry that it should be of limited scope. It would be impossible for me to secure the services of busy men to undertake an inquiry of unlimited scope lasting over a great length of time. I am anxious that the inquiry shall not be unnecessarily delayed.

Private Smallpox Hospitals.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will state the number of private establishments in Great Britain where smallpox patients are received.

THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (MR. GRANT LAWSON, Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk): So far as I am aware there is only one private establishment in England and Wales intended for the reception and treatment of smallpox patients. As regards Scotland, the Question should be addressed to my right hon. and learned friend the Lord Advocate.

Animal Vaccine Lymph.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will state the number of private establishments in Great Britain for the production of animal vaccine lymph.

MR. GRANT LAWSON: I am unable to state the number of establishments of the kind referred to. The hon. Member will, however, find some information on the subject in an article in the *Lancet* of 7th June, 1902.

Royal Edinburgh Asylum.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether his attention has been called to the fact that in the West House of the Royal Edinburgh Asylum there are 142 patients in excess of the number which the building can accommodate, and that this overcrowding has resulted in an outbreak of dysentery; and will he state what steps it is proposed to take to obviate this overcrowding pending the erection of Bangour Asylum.

MR. ANSTRUTHER (St. Andrews Burghs): Under the auspicious circumstances of to-day perhaps my hon. friend will excuse my right hon. friend not being in his place. I will read his answer, which is as follows—I am informed by the Lunacy Board for Scotland that the dysentery has ceased for the last three months and that the overcrowding has diminished. The hon. Member will find full particulars of the action taken by the Board in pressing forward the construction of new buildings at West Bangour, in their annual Report just published. It is expected that these buildings will be ready in the autumn.

MR. WEIR: What steps is it proposed to take to prevent overcrowding pending the erection of Bangour Asylum?

MR. ANSTRUTHER: I must ask for notice of any supplementary Question.

Customs Watchers' Grievances.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he will grant a Committee of Inquiry into the alleged grievances of the Customs watchers.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (MR. ELLIOT, Durham): Having regard to the improvements made in the pay and position of Customs watchers in 1900, at a total increased cost of £3,000 per annum, and to the large number of candidates for the post of watcher, I do not consider that any necessity exists, either for further concessions or for a Committee of Inquiry.

Sunderland Institute for the Blind.

MR. TOMKINSON (Cheshire, Crewe): I beg to ask the hon. Member for the

Tonbridge Division of Kent, as a Charity Commissioner, whether his attention has been called to the case of the blind ship-fender makers employed at the Sunderland Institute for the Blind, who are at present locked out for their refusal to submit to a reduction of their wages by 27 per cent.; and, if so, whether he will advise the Commissioners to intervene on their behalf.

MR. GRIFFITH BOSCAWEN (Kent, Tonbridge): I stated in answer to a similar Question some weeks ago† that no part of the income of this institution is derived from any endowment, and therefore the Charity Commissioners have no jurisdiction. I have nothing to add to that answer.

Eviction on the Warden Estate, Sneem.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that since the introduction of the Land Bill the eviction has taken place on the Warden Estate of Michael Sheehan, of Letterfinish, near Sneem; whether he is aware that Sheehan offered to pay £20 out of the £24 for which he was sued; that the holding was bought in by the landlord, although other parties were willing to pay Sheehan a fair sum for his interest; and whether representations will be made so as to secure the reinstatement of this tenant.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (MR. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): Sheehan was evicted on the 26th March. The amount of the decree against him was £30 6s. 0d. He did not offer to pay £20, but the landlord offered to take that sum on account and to stay all proceedings. Sheehan rejected this offer. The holding was bought in by the landlord. I am unable to say whether other persons were willing to give the evicted tenant a fair sum for his interest. The Government cannot make representations in the direction suggested at the end of the Question.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): Out of 368 tenants on this estate only ninety-nine are eligible for benefits under the new Land Act. In view of the condition of affairs

will the right hon. Gentleman consider the advisability of not sending the constabulary to evict any more tenants on this estate?

*MR. SPEAKER; Order, order!

Cooscroum Fishing Station and Coonana Pier.

MR. BOLAND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Congested Districts Board intend to carry out improvements in the fishing station of Cooscroum, County Kerry, to which their attention has been directed; and whether steps have been taken to repair the damage caused by storm to the fishing pier at Coonana.

MR. ATKINSON: The Board has offered to expend a sum of £600 on work at Coonana Pier. It is not prepared to undertake the large expenditure which would be required for the construction of a work that would be really useful at Cooscroum, which is only three miles from Coonana.

Gun Licences in County Clare.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will explain why Mr. John Galvin, of Kilnamona, County Clare, has been refused a gun licence.

MR. ATKINSON: The father of the applicant is licensed to carry a gun on his farm, a small one containing about eight acres of tillage. The resident magistrate, as licensing officer, considers that one gun is ample to protect the farm from birds and vermin, and in the exercise of the discretion vested in him by law has refused to grant a licence to John Galvin.

United Irish League Meetings at Birr.

MR. REDDY (King's Co., Birr): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a system of police supervision is still practised in connection with the meetings of the United Irish League at Birr; and whether, seeing that such proceedings have been discontinued in other parts of Ireland, he will direct their discontinuance at Birr also.

† See (4) *Debates*, cxviii, 1569.

MR. ATKINSON: The question is founded on a misapprehension. The supervision exercised at Birr merely consists in this, that the police direct their attention to matters which they consider to be of general interest. No change has been made in the police arrangements in this respect in other parts of Ireland.

Belfast Constabulary and Motor Cyclists.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will explain why officers of the Royal Irish Constabulary have recently demanded the names and occupations of persons using motor cycles in Belfast.

MR. ATKINSON: Complaints have been made to the Belfast police that motor cycles were being driven at an excessive speed through the streets, and that the riders refused to stop when requested to do so. The police have taken the names of persons using these cycles in order to supply them with copies of the Regulations issued by the Local Government Board on the subject.

MR. SLOAN: The grievance is that the Royal Irish Constabulary make inquiries of people who have nothing [whatever] to do with the matter.

MR. ATKINSON: If these cycles are ridden at such a rapid rate it is the duty of the police to find out who are the riders.

Irish National Schools—Inspectors' Reports.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state when the inspectors of national schools in Ireland sent their Reports for the year 1901 to the Board of Education.

MR. ATKINSON: Reports in respect to the inspection of schools were made as soon as practicable after each inspection. General Reports for 1901 were furnished at different dates in February, March, and April of 1902.

Irish Deaf, Dumb, and Blind Institutions.

MR. SLOAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the Royal Commission Report on Deaf, Dumb, and Blind Institutions, he will consider their claims in the Development Grant Bill.

MR. ATKINSON: The matter will be considered with other applications for assistance from the moneys provided in this Bill.

Rent Appeals in County Wicklow.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that several tenants residing at Kilbaylet, Kilcoagh, etc., in the County Wicklow, served notices over a year ago to have their rents fixed; and whether, seeing that the landlords continue to enforce payment of the old rents, he can state when the Sub-commissioners will sit in Baltinglass to hear these rent cases.

MR. ATKINSON: The proceedings in these cases arose out of applications to have fair rents fixed by arbitration on the report of valuers. The valuers made their Report in May, 1902, but the tenants subsequently served notices requiring the cases to be heard. The hearing of a list containing cases from this district will be commenced upon the completion of the list now being heard at Carlow.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: Cannot the right hon. Gentleman give any idea of the date?

MR. ATKINSON: I am afraid I cannot.

Dublin Sorting Office—Supervising Duties.

MR. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green) I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if his attention has been called to the fact that junior sorting clerks and telegraphists have been called on to perform supervising duties in the Dublin Sorting Office, and while doing so supervised their seniors;

and will he cause an inquiry to be made into this matter with a view to putting a stop to the practice.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: It is the practice, not only at Dublin but at all offices, to require sorting clerks and telegraphists to undertake, when necessary, supervising duties as temporary substitutes. In this way opportunities of proving capacity and fitness for promotion are afforded. Occasionally it happens that some of the senior sorting clerks and telegraphists are manifestly unfit for supervising duties, and in such a case it may result that a junior has temporarily to supervise his senior. I do not propose to alter the practice.

Counter Duties in the Dublin Post Office.

MR. NANNETTI: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether, seeing that arising out of the Tweedmouth Committee recommendations, authority was granted for the employment of seven clerks on the public counter duties of the General Post Office, Dublin, he will state the number of sorting clerks and telegraphists employed on these duties during the past twelve months and the number of days they have been so employed, and explain why the performance of those duties has been relegated to the officials of the lower class.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The hon. Member has been misinformed. No clerks for counter duties were authorised as a result of the Tweedmouth Committee recommendations, and there was at no time so many as seven clerks on counter duties. The number of clerks required for such duties was decided last year after very full consideration, and I am not prepared to re-open the question.

Great Britain and France.

MR. BECKETT (Yorkshire, N.R. Whitby): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether his attention has been called to resolutions passed by Chambers of Commerce on both sides of the Channel in favour of the conclusion of a permanent treaty of conciliation between Great Britain and France; and,

if so, whether, in view of the friendly feeling now prevailing between the two countries, His Majesty's Government will consider the expediency of entering into the necessary preliminaries to the negotiation of such a treaty.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): As the House is aware, the Government have always been anxious that international disputes should, if possible, be decided and appeased by arbitral tribunal. My hon. friend uses the word conciliation, which, I think, is not the word used by the Chambers of Commerce to which he refers. If we can do anything to further that general policy in connection with France, we should, of course, be glad to do so.

MR. BECKETT: May I point out that in all recent resolutions of Chambers of Commerce the word conciliation has been used.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet): Does the right hon. Gentleman confine this policy to one country?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No, our policy is a general one.

The South African Garrison.

MR. BECKETT: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether his attention has been called to the Motion on the Paper relating to the force that is to be stationed in South Africa; and whether he is willing to give facilities for a discussion on the subject.

The Motion referred to is as follows:

Army Scheme (1901),—That three divisions of the Regular Army, or their equivalent in numbers, be stationed in South Africa, such force to be counted as part of the establishment proposed to be maintained in this country by the Army Scheme of 1901.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It would be inconvenient to put the Vote for the salary of the Secretary of State down for discussion so early in the session. The House will probably desire at some later

period to have a discussion on that Vote; and I do not think we should put it down now. I am confirmed in that opinion by the recollection that no less than eight days, or two whole Parliamentary weeks, have already been devoted to the discussion of Army affairs in the course of the present session. There is an additional reason for the view I venture to take, which is that the subject to which he refers is one which for some time has been engaging the careful attention of the Government, and I should be sorry that any premature discussion should be taken upon it.

MR. BECKETT asked for a promise that it would not be deferred till too near the holidays.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: By holidays I suppose my hon. friend means the recess. That is a period, I am afraid, still painfully distant. But, no doubt, if there is any desire on the part of the House, as there probably will be, to have a discussion on this and on cognate subjects, a convenient Thursday will be found for the discussion.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman would say what is the expectation of business for to-morrow and Wednesday, what Votes in Supply will be put down on Thursday, and, although the right hon. Gentleman seems to fight shy of committing himself to anything in anticipation of the greater recess, perhaps it would not be presumptuous to ask what the main business will be until the smaller recess at Whitsuntide.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I hope, as regards the last Question, the right hon. Gentleman will allow me a few days for consideration. With regard to this week, to-morrow we take the remaining Budget Resolutions, and I think I must ask the House to finish them to-morrow. The only Resolutions still requiring to be taken are those relating to the income-tax, tobacco, beer, and spirits, the sinking fund, and some smaller omnibus Resolutions. A discussion on the repeal of the bread tax in Com-

mittee would be out of order. I conceive, therefore, that the most controversial part of the Budget discussion will have to be deferred until the Second Reading and later stages of the Finance Bill. If, through the ordinary channels, I can learn that I am justified in feeling secure that these Resolutions will be obtained by twelve o'clock to-morrow night I will not trouble the House by moving the suspension of the Twelve O'clock Rule. Otherwise, I must be held as now giving notice of that Motion. On Wednesday the Second Reading of the Port of London Bill will be taken, and on Thursday the Ship-building Vote.

MR. FLOWER (Bradford, W.): Is it proposed to put down the Local Government Board Vote?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No, Sir.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): Will the Committee stage of the Irish Land Bill be taken before Whitsuntide, and will it be proceeded with continuously. Such a course would be very convenient to Irish Members.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I cannot answer definitely; but, sympathising with the view that when taken progress should be continuous, I think my desire to make that arrangement will necessitate the deferring of Committee till after Whitsuntide.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) pointed out that one of the omnibus Resolutions referred to by the Prime Minister in his answer concerning the Budget related to the Inland Revenue in terms which raised the whole question of the finance of the country.

MR. RITCHIE: The omnibus Resolution enabling changes to be made raises no definite issue, and it would be contrary to precedent not to allow it to be taken as a matter of course.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: It may have been allowed to pass without debate, but surely it would not be contrary to precedent to discuss it.

Mr. RITCHIE : Yes, I say it would be contrary to precedent.

THE DIVISION ON THE TRADES DISPUTES BILL.

Mr. LYTTELTON (Warwick and Leamington) : I have been informed there was an error in the counting of the "No" votes in the division on the Trades Disputes Bill on Friday. The hon. Member for Derby and myself stood as tellers at the door of the "No" lobby, and without unduly depreciating our powers of counting it is probable that the lobby clerks' record of 256 votes, instead of 246 as was returned, is correct. I have communicated with the hon. Member for Derby in order that the matter may be submitted to the House, but as the hon. Gentleman is not in his place, I respectfully ask you, Mr. Speaker, for advice as to the method in which the mistake can be corrected.

*Mr. SPEAKER : If both tellers come to the Table and state, not that they think it probable, but that they are satisfied that the correct figure was 256 instead of 246, steps can be taken to amend the Journal of the House.

NEW BILL.

PURCHASE OF LAND (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

"To provide facilities for the Sale of Land to occupying tenants and others in England and Wales," presented by Mr. Jesse Collings; supported by Sir John Dorington, Mr. Spear, Sir John Kennaway, Mr. Herbert Roberts, Sir Lewis Molesworth, Mr. Powell-Williams, and Mr. William Mitchell; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 16th June, and to be printed. [Bill 192.]

SUPPLY [EIGHTH ALLOTTED DAY.]

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith), in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES 1903-4. REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

Motion made, and Question proposed,
"That a sum, not exceeding £6,267,500,

be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the salaries and expenses of the Post Office Services, the expenses of Post Office Savings Banks, and Government Annuities and Insurances, and the collection of the Post Office Revenue."

Mr. LOUGH (Islington, W.) said that when the debate was adjourned the other night he was about to call attention to one or two of the improvements in the postal service which the right hon. Gentleman had announced—improvements which certainly had not received the attention they deserved. The right hon. Gentleman in the course of his speech said that some years had elapsed since any progress had been made by the Post Office in giving fresh facilities to the country, and he touched upon the programme of the reforms introduced by the Duke of Norfolk when he held the office of Postmaster-General. But he thought the Committee would deplore that the right hon. Gentleman's own programme was of such a limited character. What had he promised them? He was going to issue a great many more money orders; there was to be one for every 6d. up to £1. The only other promises the right hon. Gentleman made were that more consideration should in future be given to appeals for an improved service in the country, and that the charge for giving a receipt for a telegram should be reduced from 2d. to 1d. The old charge was most extravagant, and the smaller sum was quite ample, so that they had not much reason to be thankful to the right hon. Gentleman in that respect. His final promise was that unopened telegrams should be allowed to be posted free of extra charge. That was the whole of the right hon. Gentleman's programme, and he repeated that the Committee had reason to deplore the fact that, seeing that for so many years the Department had done nothing for the public, the present proposals were so meagre. As the great convenience which the public had hitherto enjoyed of being able to resell small amounts of stamps to the Post Office was entirely to be taken away, the

public would lose rather than gain by the reforms which the Postmaster-General had announced. The present regulation was that stamps would be purchased back by the Post Office at a reduction of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., or 6d. in the £. Surely that was a profitable business to the Post Office as well as being a great public convenience. He believed that the abolition of the existing privilege would cause very great public inconvenience. The official notice issued with respect to the increased facilities for obtaining postal orders stated that a postal order might now be obtained for any sum under £1. But orders only for even sixpences were to be issued. For instance, an order for 14s. 9d. could not be obtained. He presumed that odd amounts were to be made up with stamps affixed to the postal orders.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): Yes, Sir.

MR. LOUGH said that as those stamps would be purchased back again, surely that was a breach of the right hon. Gentleman's new regulation. Again, instead of the seller of stamps receiving the money at once, it was to be remitted to him the next day. That also would be a great inconvenience. He certainly did not think the right hon. Gentleman had made out a good case for the change. He desired, however, to thank the right hon. Gentleman for one experiment he had made, at his request, in a very remote country district, where he had connected by telephone all the sub-post offices in a large area with the county town, and had thus provided the inhabitants with telephone communication at a very small charge. It was to be hoped that other changes would be introduced which the public would equally appreciate.

The only other point he wished to touch upon was in connection with the steps which the right hon. Gentleman proposed to take in order to deal with the men's grievances. If the right hon. Gentleman would give that matter a little more consideration he might perhaps be able to arrive at a solution much more satisfactory to Members of the House. The right hon. Gentleman proposed to appoint a Committee of

Mr. Lough.

outsiders, rather than a Committee of Members of the House of Commons, to inquire into the grievances of the postal service. The right hon. Gentleman in his speech seemed to indicate that the Committee would be composed of great employers of labour, and he pledged himself not to place any departmental officials upon it. In considering this matter they had to remember that the Post Office had already badly failed in the attempt to settle these grievances, and there was a full acknowledgment of that in the speech of the right hon. Gentleman. Within a year of the issue of the Report of the Tweedmouth Committee, the investigation had to be reopened and a sum of £600,000 was as a result, added to the annual payments to the staff, and even then the discontent continued and the right hon. Gentleman had admitted that there might in some cases, be ground for dissatisfaction. In view of that they ought to take steps this time to settle the difficulty once and for all. It had been said that pressure had been brought to bear on Members by the postal servants, but he thought that suggestion had been greatly exaggerated. The postal servants only totalled to about 1 0,000 or 180,000, including women and telegraph boys. Only about 40,000 or 50,000 had a vote, and it was ridiculous to suppose the small number who lived in a particular constituency could intimidate even the most timid Member of this House on such a subject. It had been suggested that the postal servants ought to be disfranchised in order to prevent them bringing this pressure to bear, but disfranchisement would not do away with the pressure. Considerably more pressure was exercised by those who had no vote than those who had. The question of pressure might therefore be put on one side, and the Committee should try and urge the right hon. Gentleman to make a clean settlement once and for all; and if the Committee assisted the right hon. Gentleman in the formation of the Committee he had promised, he did not think there would be much difficulty in arriving at a settlement. One objection to the Committee was, that none of the Post Office staff was represented upon it. Why could not there be two representative postal servants and two representative employers of labour, with an arbitrator between? That would give some assurance that the

matter would be fully dealt with. That suggestion had already been made to the right hon. Gentleman and he now appealed to him to give it his kindly consideration. One objection to the Committee was, that the grievances of the greater number of the postal servants were excluded from the scope of the Committee. The case of some 40,000 or 50,000 of the employees would be submitted to the tribunal, but with regard to the 21,000 sub-postmasters and the 81,000 auxiliary postmen, their case was not to be considered at all. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to widen the scope of the Committee so as to include the case of these other servants. Because he thought the constitution of the Committee was not satisfactory, and in order that the right hon. Gentleman should give some attention to what had been urged in support of its reconstitution, he moved the reduction of the Vote by £100.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum not exceeding £6,267,400, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

MR. HENNIKER HEATON (Canterbury) said his first duty was to congratulate the Postmaster-General on the reforms he had instituted. Although those concessions did not cost the right hon. Gentleman a single farthing the public were extremely grateful because they removed very great annoyances. Whilst congratulating the right hon. Gentleman on the removal of these annoyances, and before touching on the other cases of reform, he might say he regretted when the right hon. Gentleman was dealing with the postal order reform he did not make it really complete by issuing a guinea postal order, which would be a very great convenience. The late Mr. Hanbury, whose memory was so dear to the House, when representing the Post Office in this House had said the reason why postal orders for a guinea were not issued, was that it was impossible to issue them without an Act of Parliament being passed for that purpose, but such a Bill if it were brought in would pass without dissent. He therefore appealed to the right hon. Gentleman either to bring in a Bill or allow one to be brought in and passed. This was a reform which the public had asked for for the last fifteen years. The House of Commons also regretted that the right hon. Gentleman

had said nothing with regard to another great annoyance to which this country was subject in respect of postal orders. By the postal orders law of this country if a postal order was not presented within three months it was subject to a fine. He held in his hands two postal orders which were obtained ten years ago and which had been lost by their owner. The owner had come across them recently and presented them at the Post Office. The postal orders were for 7s., and although the Post Office had had the use of the money for ten years they asked him for 7s. 2d. before they would pay him the 7s. This was a miserably mean action and one which the right hon. Gentleman would not be guilty of in his private affairs. It was usual in this country for a man to receive a liberal interest for lending money, but for any person who has had the use of money for a long period to refuse to return it without receiving some compensation was intolerable. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would not allow this grievance to longer exist and that another year would not be allowed to elapse before it was remedied. A friend of his had written a letter to him stating that a poor man in the village presented a 2s. postal order, with 2½d. in stamps affixed, for payment, and the post office refused to pay more than 2s. 2d. He thought it was a mean, unworthy action, and one which the right hon. Gentleman would not think of doing in private business. In such cases the high and mighty officials behind the counter said, "We never pay halfpennies." There was one thing that ought to be done, and that was to exchange postal orders with the colonies and all parts of the Empire. He hoped the Postmaster-General would be able to do something in this direction.

He would leave the question of postal orders for the present, and refer to the main purpose for which he rose. After struggling for many years they succeeded in obtaining penny postage to some of their colonies, but an extraordinary and ridiculous state of affairs followed the action of the Government. Although they could send a letter passing through France to any of the colonies for 1d., it cost 2½d. to send a letter to France or Germany. He thought the right hon. Gentleman would do well to establish universal penny

postage. He hoped the time would not be long delayed when this reform would be granted to all parts of the Empire. He urged the Postmaster-General to hold a meeting of the Postmasters-General of Germany, France, Belgium, and other countries, in order to see what could be done in the direction of establishing a penny postage between those countries. The King had just visited France and had met with extraordinary kindness, and lasting friendships had been sworn, but the best thing they could do to create good feeling between the Continent and this country was to make postal and telegraphic communication as easy as speech and as free as air. If they made communication between countries much cheaper, they would do much to obtain that peace and goodwill which they all desired so much to see. It would be a grand thing if the Postmaster-General could achieve the great distinction of establishing universal penny postage to all parts of the civilised world. They sent every year 2,500,000 pounds weight of letters to the Continent, but this was a mere bagatelle compared with the 20,000,000 pounds weight of circulars and printed matter. He had visited Berlin, and he knew the Postmaster-General in the United States was anxious to have a penny postage to this country. There was another reform needed which would be interesting to the Committee, and it was in regard to money order charges. It might not be generally known that the charge for a 5s. money order from this country to Paris was 6d., whereas from Paris to England the charge for the same order was only 1d. Men engaged every day in business in the City knew what a hardship it was to pay 6d. for sending 5s. to France, whereas the Frenchman only paid 1d. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman not to tolerate this annoyance any longer than was absolutely necessary. The charge for money orders to the colonies was much too high. He also thought telegraph and money orders ought to be brought to the residence of the receiver by the messengers of the Post Office. In many places the receiver had to travel long distances to the post office, and this was a great inconvenience. If he telegraphed a money order to Germany it would be taken charge of by the Post Office here and delivered at the residence of the re-

ceiver in Germany, but a money order coming from Germany was treated quite differently. The Postmaster-General ought to overrule the officials of the Post Office in this country and devise some plan of delivering telegrams and money orders to the person to whom the money was payable. The charges for money orders to the Continent and Australia were unnecessarily high.

There was another subject which had attracted a great deal of interest—he referred to a cheap agricultural parcels post. He would, however, leave it to those who would follow him in this debate to deal with that question, and he trusted that what they would have to say would lead the right hon. Gentleman to take some action in the matter. They wanted lower parcels post rates to all parts of the Empire. The charges to Aden were greater than to the Cape, and from Germany to the United States the rates were cheaper than from England to the United States. He knew that quite recently the greatest possible annoyance had been caused in England by the parcels post rates with the United States. For years they had been urging the right hon. Gentleman to establish such a service with the United States, and the charges were so monstrous and ridiculous that shoals of complaints had been addressed to the Post Office in regard to them. Germany had got cheaper rates and appeared to be getting on very well with them. There was another subject which would commend itself to hon. Members of the Committee—he referred to the value payable in the cash on delivery system. This system was in operation all over the Continent and it only wanted courage to introduce it in this country. The system worked well in Australia, where at first it was opposed by small shopkeepers, but they used the system now more than any other class of the community. He also thought that the minimum charge for samples ought to be reduced to one halfpenny. At the present time the Post Office would convey two ounces of printed paper for one halfpenny, but if the smallest scrap of the same paper was unprinted, or if it contained a scrap of Belfast linen for pocket handkerchiefs, it was treated as a sample and charged double rates. With regard to post-cards he thought they ought to be sold at their face value. They had repeatedly asked that post-cards should be sold at one

halfpenny each, but the greatest objection had always been offered to this proposal. He did not know why the objections raised twenty years ago should hold good now. What he complained of was that no poor man could go for a halfpenny post-card without being charged three farthings for it. Surely this change might be made in the case of an article which was bringing in a profit of £20,000 a year, and the richest Post Office in the world ought to be above wringing farthings from the poor. All charges for the printing of halfpenny stamps ought to be abolished, because gumming and perforation were saved. In Australia they never charged anything for printing stamps, and he thought this was a particularly scandalous abuse of official authority. It was monstrous to charge 20 or 30 per cent. above the cost for printing stamps on private post-cards. There was no other Government in the world which charged anything for stamping cards with a halfpenny stamp. He thought the charges for registration should be reduced to one penny for letters, and all postal articles. In reference to fines for insufficient postage he did not think they ought to exceed one halfpenny in England and one penny for foreign letters. He wished also to refer to the question of embossed stamps. Every year large numbers of embossed stamps, letters, and so forth were purchased. He knew one poor woman who cut embossed stamps from envelopes and used them, but the receiver was charged twopence. He did not think in such a case the twopence ought to have been charged, and the right hon. Gentleman would not have done such a thing in private business, where it would not be tolerated. Embossed stamps cut from destroyed envelopes ought to be perfectly valid if attached to other envelopes.

There was another very important matter to which he would refer. In this great country they were amazed at the enormous increase in circulars and newspapers sent through the post. He thought the time had arrived for dividing the Post Office administration into three classes—the first class for letters, the second class for circulars, postcards, and newspapers, and the third class for parcels. Under such a system they could have their letters delivered about seven o'clock in the morning; circulars, postcards and

newspapers about eight o'clock; and about nine o'clock they could have the parcels post. There had been a good deal of correspondence with regard to the extraordinary number of postal carts which were running about the streets. It was desirable, if possible, to do away with these carts and establish Bulchellor's system for conveying the mails between the Post Office and the railway stations. He should like to have an assurance from the Postmaster-General that this matter would be considered in a favourable way. Another grievance which required redress was the absence of letter boxes on all through trains. In every other country in the world there were facilities for posting letters on trains, but in this country passengers had to rush to the parcels office, and even then there was a doubt whether the letters would go or not. If an arrangement could be made for having letter boxes on through trains, it would be a source of great satisfaction to the people of this country. It had been suggested that the railway companies might object to the proposal, but he thought that could be got over. He hoped his right hon. friend would introduce a reform in that direction. Better facilities might be provided than at present for obtaining stamps elsewhere than the post offices. He thought they might be sold at all railway bookstalls. He understood the fact that they could not be obtained at the bookstalls was due to the meanness of the Post Office Department in refusing to allow any remuneration whatever to the keepers of the stalls. He hoped something would be done to overcome this difficulty. Another cause of worry, trouble and annoyance was the extra postage charged in all cases on late letters for the Continent, Edinburgh, and Glasgow. When in Rome lately the system adopted there was explained to him. At the Post Office there were letter boxes for all the countries in the world, and letters could be posted in these boxes until fifteen minutes before the departure of the trains. The Postmaster-General of Italy told him that the system worked admirably. He suggested that an international postage-stamp should be established, or something equivalent to that. In the absence

of an international stamp he had suggested a remedy which could be easily brought into operation, and to which the present Postmaster-General's predecessors had turned a deaf ear. He meant the establishment at the great Post Office centres of a department for the sale of stamps of all foreign countries and all parts of the Empire. Some time ago he made an attempt to impress on the Postmaster-General the desirability of arranging for the registration of telegrams, but his right hon. friend declined to accede to that. Only the other day he came down to the House and announced that this would be agreed to. When any Post Office reform was suggested here was always a great deal of shuffling on the part of officials.

He next referred to a matter which he hoped would be dealt with, on account of the inconvenience at present resulting from the practice in this country, namely, the impossibility of recalling letters after posting. It happened many times that senders of cheques and other communications wished to recall them after posting. That could be done in every country in the world except this. In those countries where letters could be recalled trouble and loss were often obviated. The postmaster asked the sender of the letter to fill up a form stating the contents of the letter. Then he opened the letter, and if he was satisfied that the applicant was the person entitled to get the letter it was returned, the postmaster retaining the envelope. Thousands of cases of wrong had been prevented in this way. He had appealed in vain to previous Postmasters-General to give facilities in regard to this, but it appeared to him that they did not wish to be bothered about the matter. While he believed that the officials of this country were the best to be found in any part of the world, it was of advantage sometimes to bring pressure to bear upon them. He hoped that in this matter of recalling letters our Post Office would follow the example of other countries. When the new stamps were issued some time ago he suggested to the Postmaster-General that the penny stamp should be red, as it was formerly, but he was informed that it was impossible that this could be done.

Mr. Henniker Heaton.

The other day, however, it was done. The curious thing about our stamps was that they had a German look. He suggested that when new stamps were again issued they should bear some indication of the country of origin. Our postage stamps were the only ones in the world which bore no trace of the country whence they emanated. Another suggestion which he desired to make, and which he believed would be pleasing to all the King's subjects, was that at least one of our stamps should bear the portrait of our beloved and gracious Queen. He hoped that suggestion would commend itself to the right hon. Gentleman. He was glad to say that recently there had been an attempt to improve the character of postmarks, so as to show the hour of posting and the town of origin. He asked his hon. friend to give the Committee some information as to what the Post Office might be expected to do in regard to letters containing lottery tickets, and letters containing immoral literature. The United States Post Office had effectually stopped their circulation.

He now turned to a matter which had engaged the attention of a great number of people in this country. He referred to reports which had been made in regard to neglect, default, or larceny on the part of postal officials. It was far from him to in any way doubt the general integrity of the Post Office officials, but he was sometimes alarmed, in reading the Post Office Reports, to see the large number of employees who were convicted every year of Post Office offences. He knew the very large number of men engaged in the service, and that the enormous mass of letter carriers were men of high character; but when the convictions against them averaged three a week and a thousand had been dismissed in a year, that was a matter for grave consideration. It had been urged upon him that the high rate of misconduct was due to the employment of old soldiers in the Post Office service who had not been accustomed to Post Office work. Patriotism was all very well, and kindness to old soldiers was to be commended, but he thought that his right hon. friend should show his strength of character before giving way to the pressure from the military quarter of the House of

Commons and engaging old soldiers indiscriminately. The Postmaster-General laid it down that he was not responsible for any neglect, default, or larceny by the employees in the Post Office—in other words, that he was above the law. Only the other day a man was found to have 1,500 letters in his possession, most of them opened and all of them undelivered; and the Postmaster-General said he was not responsible, not even for the theft of postal orders. The Postmaster-General said that if he began to give compensation there was no saying to what extent it might be carried. But no other public carrier in the country claimed the same immunity. At any rate, the Postmaster-General should exercise more care in this respect than at present. He knew of a case where, through the blunder of a telegraph official, a man lost £1,500, and there were other instances where business men had been brought to ruin and the Bankruptcy Court through similar blundering. Some change should be made from this state of affairs by his right hon. friend. The letter boxes were the worst in the whole British Empire, or on the Continent. It was a marvellous thing that so few complaints were made in regard to them—only one or two a week. There were boxes in Vienna where the postmen never touched the letters. These were taken away in a skeleton box, and an empty skeleton box put in its place. His right hon. friend ought to introduce some such reform here. Then there was another reform which he had not yet been able to get introduced. He meant the extension of the system of private letter boxes—for which a charge of a guinea a year was made at the large post offices—by means of which a man might go to these boxes at any hour of the night or day and get his letters. The system was universal in the Australian colonies, and visitors from these colonies and from the provinces here, felt the disadvantages of not having the system general, instead of having their letters delivered at hotels and boarding houses. The boxes would occupy no room to speak of, and they would be a great boon to visitors.

He wished to refer to a matter which concerned few Members of the

House of Commons, but which was of great interest to travellers. We had a penny postage to India, Aden, Malta, Gibraltar, Hong-Kong, and Shanghai, but the rate to Egypt was still maintained at twopence halfpenny. Thousands of people were anxiously waiting for this concession of a penny postage to Egypt, and he believed that the Postal Union were willing to agree to it. If his right hon. friend would only write to the Foreign Office and get them to assent to it, there would be an increase of five letters to one now sent to Egypt, and it would give an impetus to trade and good feeling. If letters could be sent for a penny postage to Hong-Kong, Shanghai, and other places in China, surely the same rate could be charged for places at a quarter of the distance. There was another grievance. At present the weight of letters to all parts of the British Empire was restricted to half-an-ounce as against four ounces at home. The time had surely arrived when the weight should be increased from half-an-ounce to an ounce, and he trusted that the right hon. Gentleman would push this reform on the great officials of the Post Office in this country. Again, the question of the magazine post was a subject of great worry and annoyance. A newspaper of any weight, so long as it was registered, and published at intervals of seven days, could be sent for a halfpenny, but great magazines like the "Nineteenth Century," the "Fortnightly Review," and the "Contemporary Review," which contained articles of the highest educational value, were subject to full rates of eight ounces for a penny. It would be only fair and reasonable to abolish this ridiculous anomaly.

He now turned to a matter which caused more annoyance than anything brought to his attention. As to the Post Office regulations, it was well known that no two men in the Department agreed as to their meaning. [Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN dissented]. A lady might send an invitation to an At Home for a halfpenny; if the words "At Home" were printed it was all right; but if they were written the communication was liable to a surcharge. The other day a

thousand circulars were sent out containing the words "with thanks" and the recipients were fined a penny each. In another case circulars were charged double postage because they contained the word "gentlemen." That case was, he understood, now the subject of an inquiry; and he trusted before the debate ended that the Committee would have an assurance from his right hon. friend that it would not occur again. The Consul-General of Odessa was charged letter postage on a cheque book and used cheques, which was a peculiarly mean action. A lady had a letter returned to her from the Dead Letter Office and because it contained a 2s. postal order she had to pay 2d. for it. Why should not a chess problem be permissible on the back of a postcard? Again, in France and Germany when soldiers and sailors were sent abroad they were allowed free postage. A similar concession to British soldiers and sailors would be an enormous advantage, and would enable them to keep up correspondence with the old people. It would only cost a few hundred pounds sterling per annum; and he hoped his right hon. friend would consider it, and be able to give a satisfactory answer. Then as to the payments that were received by the Post Office Savings Bank, a poor man offered a deposit of £1 1s. 10d., the guinea was accepted, but the 10d. was refused on the ground that the Bank did not take pence. He thought the Post Office should be above that. Why should they not receive pence? He hoped that that was an action on the part of the Savings Bank which would not commend itself to his right hon. friend. With reference to the mail contracts, an extraordinary state of affairs had arisen. Australia now refused to receive mails which were conveyed in ships carrying black labour. Again, the system of charging for sites and buildings out of revenue was not business. With reference to the Post Office surplus, he wished to know was there to be a limit to the voracity of the Chancellor of the Exchequer? Why should not part, at least, of that money be used to improve postal facilities. England was the only country in the world which had not a Government printing office. Why should not his right hon. friend take action as

regarded the printing of stamps, and establish even a small printing office? No country paid so much for printing and received such little value. England paid for her stamps double what the United States paid. As regarded the Insurance Department of the Post Office he did not think that there was any other Department worse managed. It was admitted that it ought to be placed under the control of an experienced manager. There was a great field for improvement there. With reference to the Post Office Guide it took about one and a half hours to find out when the mails were dispatched to any particular country. Every official in the Department mourned the absence of a proper guide. The other day the editor of a great paper offered a reward to any person who could explain the meaning of a passage in the present Guide; but no one appeared to know what it meant. The right hon. Gentleman had said he was appointing a Committee of five members to look into the grievances of the employees of the Post Office. He would ask that the right hon. Gentleman should also appoint a Committee of five to inquire into the grievances of the public. If the right hon. Gentleman did the one it was only fair that he should do the other.

*CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.) congratulated the right hon. Gentleman the Postmaster-General upon the speech he made on the previous debate, and the success it had met with, and upon the reforms he had instituted in the way of postal orders and the re-addressing of telegrams and sending them by post, but thought the restrictions upon the purchase of postage stamps was a mistake. He thought the issue of the sixpenny postal order would do much to reduce the grievance of which he complained. He desired to point out that the Committee granted in answer to the memorial of the postal officials, was not the Committee which they had demanded. When the right hon. Gentleman's predecessor established the Norfolk-Hanbury Committee, he had ventured to predict that it would not be successful because the men had no confidence in it. That prediction had come true, and he ventured to make a similar prophecy with

Mr. Henniker Heaton.

regard to this Committee. All the postal employees demanded was that their grievances should be dealt with by the House of Commons, and the right hon. Gentleman's predecessor, the late Mr. Hanbury, had distinctly stated to these employees that the House of Commons was their Court of Appeal. The right hon. Gentleman said the House of Commons was not the proper body to deal with these questions. If that were so, why was this Vote brought before the House? The right hon. Gentleman had also referred to the question of Members on both sides of the House coming to him for protection. That was very startling, because the reason they were there at all was that they might represent every section of their constituents. Although he welcomed the Committee he did so only because it proved up to the hilt that the grievances, which had been denied year after year, were such as required rectification. But, on the other hand, he denounced the Committee as valueless inasmuch as it was giving the postal officials what they never asked for, and it did not deal with the most important question, namely, the question of civil rights, the question of combination, and of special leave with a view to enabling the postal officials to carry on their organisation. With regard to that the late Postmaster-General gave them every reason to hope that he would consider the question, and now it was ignored. With regard to other sections of the community being in a similar position to the postal officials the hon. Member for West Islington had pointed out that only 40,000 were organised out of 170,000 postal officials, but presuming they were organised he submitted they were within their rights to appeal to their Members. What did the right hon. Gentleman say in connection with this matter, and he (Captain Norton) looked upon it as a slight to the House. The right hon. Gentleman said—

"I say, therefore, that so long as I hold the office of Postmaster-General, and I speak with the authority of my colleagues, that we are unalterably opposed to any Select Committee of the House of Commons regulating the wages in the Post Office. And if I am opposed to a House of Commons Committee fixing wages I am still more opposed to thrusting on the House of Commons or any Committee the duty of regulating in all its details the daily administration and work of the Post Office."

No one had ever suggested anything so wild as that they should interfere with the daily administration of the work in the Post Office. If the postal officials were such terrible tyrants he hoped they would take note of the fact that they could never hope for fair play from the present Government. The right hon. Gentleman appointed a packed jury of five individuals to deal with a fraction of the question, and went on to say with reference to the Committee—

"If I am fortunate enough to obtain the services of gentlemen who will give the time and experience which are necessary for this inquiry, I shall hope they will be able to give me a general opinion in the scale of these classes, and that in the light of the standard so set up I shall be able to deal, if I am then in office, if not, my successor will be able to deal, with the claims of the minor classes."

In other words, he was going to take shelter behind this bogus Committee. It was, in fact, Lord Roberts and South Africa over again. He was going to appoint five members, possibly sweaters, to determine the rate of wages, that was to say, to assist the House to carry out the Fair Wages Resolution. It would be an astounding thing if the postal officials accepted any such bogus arbitration. If it was to be a Board of Arbitration, why should not they have five postal servants added to the five employers of labour? Moreover, these gentlemen were unknown to them. All they knew was they were not to be members of the present Civil Service. It was possible they might be ex-members, as if a man who had spent his entire working life swathed in red tape would be more likely to feel unfettered and untrammelled in dealing with these matters than one who was still in the Civil Service. This Committee was stillborn, if not an abortion, and the only gratification he had in connection with it, was that it gave some hope that there was the possibility of the birth of a sound Parliamentary Committee at some future day.

With regard to disfranchisement, that was the most astounding thing he had ever heard of. It was true that quite recently in the Australian Colonies, owing to the great growth and power of Government employees, they had sought a remedy by giving to the various Government employees a Member of their own—but they had never suggested disfranchising them.

If they disfranchised the postmen, they must disfranchise all civil servants, municipal servants included—they would have to go further, they must disfranchise even the publican, down to the potboy, because their trade was protected by the State. It would be found very difficult to draw the line. He maintained that the electorate was too narrow as it was, and tens of thousands of workmen throughout London were disfranchised because, owing to the necessity of their occupations and callings, they were obliged to migrate from point to point. He maintained that they were there as representatives of the taxpayers and were their employers. The right hon. Gentleman was practically their manager, and his duty was not to appeal to these outside gentlemen but to the House of Commons, who were virtually his employers. They asked for a Select Committee which should deal with all the grievances of all the employees, and not an outside Committee over which they had no control, and which was to deal with some 50,000 of the postal servants, while it ignored 120,000 or more, who were amongst the poorest, the worst paid, and the least able to protect themselves. In the course of the debate the hon. and learned Member for Plymouth, who, with the skill of a great lawyer, came to the support of the right hon. Gentleman, had said there was nothing improper in what was suggested. No, but there was something highly imprudent, inasmuch as it would have no result and was not what they demanded. The hon. Member for Plymouth also said the right hon. Gentleman only sought advice. Yes, but he sought it in the wrong quarter, and that was what they objected to. He appealed to business men and asked them what they would think if they were colliery owners and their manager had a dispute with their men and went and consulted some other colliery manager in some other part of the country. Within a fortnight every man would be out of the mine. They would say they did not care what the other managers might think, they were dissatisfied and appealed to their own employers. That was precisely the position of the postal service. That House was their Court of Appeal, and was one to which they had a right to turn. Although he welcomed

Captain Norton.

the fact that it was admitted that there were grievances amongst these officials, he should like to point out that they had been unfairly and unjustly dealt with up to the present time. Take the case of the wages of the telegraphists. Not long ago the case which he made out for them, namely, that they had been practically duped into the service, inasmuch as, owing to certain rules and regulations made by the Post Office, they were never able to rise to £190, the maximum which they were promised; the proof that there was something in his contention was that the majority against him was only thirty-one, and since then their case had been brought up again and arbitration had been suggested; but the right hon. Gentleman had declined it, very wisely from his own point of view. He objected to this proposed Committee in the first place because it was not what the men asked for, namely, the decision of their employers; secondly, that the most numerous and most poorly paid body were excluded. He would give an illustration. He had had put before him the fact that some 600 women, now employed in a most important branch of the Post Office, when they were first employed were given a living wage of £65 a year, increasing by a yearly increment. It had been pointed out by a previous speaker that these women had had their wages lowered in spite of the fact that since these initial wages were first fixed at £65 rents had increased enormously in London, and the scale of living generally had increased. Their wages had been lowered by £10. They presented their petition to the late Postmaster-General and received no redress. Their case was brought before the House, and the only thing he could say was that there were women doing similar work who were not better paid. He was sorry the hon. Member for the Louth Division of Lincoln was not there, because he employed a number of women to do somewhat similar work and he paid them considerably more than the Post Office, in spite of the fact that the Post Office demanded from their women not only that they should be highly respectable and educated up to a very high standpoint, but in addition, that they should be of sound physical

health. Yet these women had been working for the first four years of their service undoubtedly at a sweating wage, and they were not to be considered at all by the Committee. How could a successful result be hoped for from this Committee? Only one grievance was to be dealt with—that of wages, which was the smallest grievance of which the men complained. It was what he would call a bastard Arbitration Board, and would never give satisfaction. It was as if a poor Irish Roman Catholic peasant, charged with some political offence, was promised trial by jury, the jury to consist of north-country Orangemen. The idea was too absurd. It was, so far as the men were concerned, a packed jury, and they would have nothing to do with it. He denounced it as a sham, and he would go into the Lobby in support of the Amendment.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN had no reason to complain of the tone and temper with which the announcement of the Committee had been generally received, but he thought he had reason to make some comment upon the tone and temper displayed by Captain Norton. He had denounced it as a bogus Arbitration Board, a bastard Committee, and a prejudiced and partial body, and thus he illustrated his fitness, as a Member of that House, to give an impartial judgment on these Gentlemen.

*CAPTAIN NORTON: Certainly.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The hon. Member does not know who are going to form this Committee. He does not wait to know in order to denounce it in this way.

*CAPTAIN NORTON: They are not Members of the House of Commons. That is sufficient.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: What a liberal minded view. No one was to be trusted but a Member of the House of Commons, and, he presumed, no Member of the House of Commons who did not express his conviction, and even his prejudice, as the hon. Member had done. He thought that in the proposal he had made he had found a means of arriving at a decision upon this

difficult and complicated question, which would satisfy the great mass of public opinion as to the justice or otherwise of the complaints so constantly and so continuously made, and it would be a very good guide to the Postmaster-General, who was responsible in the first instance for seeing that fair wages were paid. It had been said that this Committee was not the Committee for which the men had asked, and that that in itself was sufficient to condemn it. If that were entirely true he did not see that that was sufficient to condemn it. It appeared to him that the employees of the Post Office were not entitled to be the sole judges of what action the Postmaster-General should take. But it was not quite true that this Committee was not such a Committee as the men had asked for.

What was asked before all other things was an independent inquiry, and their complaints about the previous Committee was that it was almost wholly made up of permanent officials of the Government, and that it contained in its ranks the then permanent Under Secretary of the Post Office, and a permanent Under Secretary of the Treasury, and, however distinguished these gentlemen might be as servants of the State, they were too deeply prejudiced by their official work and official habits to bring an impartial judgment to bear upon the question before them. He utterly differed from that view, and, except for some phrases which had been used in the debate, he should hardly have thought it necessary to say that he thought the criticism of their impartiality quite unfounded. But however that might be, that was the objection taken by the staff to the constitution of the previous Committee. What they asked was that they might have a Committee which should be independent and not constituted wholly or with a large part, of official members. Such an independent inquiry he proposed to give. His object in appointing the Committee would be to obtain gentlemen whose names would command the confidence of the House and the public. He could not at present say, for he had made no progress at present with the constitution of the Committee, who these gentlemen would be, but he deprecated and condemned the violence of

language and prejudice and passion with which Captain Norton had denounced this Committee before it was appointed, and with which he sought to discredit its judgment before it had begun its work. For his part, he was confident that by men of both political parties, he should be supported in his decision to take the question of the wages of the servants of the Post Office out of the sphere of party conflict and get a verdict which would be received with confidence. Further criticism had been made upon his reference to the Committee. In the first place, in regard to the subject to be referred; secondly, that it was limited in regard to the classes of men whose wages would be considered. On the first question he could do no more than repeat in a few words the reason he gave the other night which had influenced him in regard to that matter. The hon. and gallant Member opposite quoted a passage from his speech, in which he stated that he was opposed to referring to any Committee the organisation, distribution, and conditions of daily work of the Department, and he said—"Was there ever such an absurd suggestion made by anyone?"

CAPTAIN NORTON said that nobody had ever made such an absurd suggestion, and naturally the responsibility for it would have to be borne by the right hon. Gentleman.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The hon. and gallant Member said that no Member of the House had ever made such an absurd suggestion as that, and that the responsibility for it devolved upon him. If the hon. and gallant Member fully accepted the logical conclusion of his statement, his appeal to have all the further questions which had been in dispute between the Post Office servants heard before the Tweedmouth Committee, and which had been made matters of complaint to successive Postmasters-General, referred to this Committee, could only arise from an imperfect knowledge of what Post Office administration was, or of what were the difficulties and conditions under which it had to be carried on.

With regard to the subjects to be referred to the Committee, he could only

Mr. Austen Chamberlain.

repeat the reasons which he gave the other night as having influenced him in this matter. In spite of what the hon. and gallant Gentleman had said, he ventured to say that the major part of the complaints would disappear when once the question of the wages was set on one side. The question of leave for attending trade organisation meetings was a simple matter, and could be dealt with by him in a couple of sentences. It did not really require a Committee to decide whether a fortnight's leave on full pay every year or fourteen working days on full pay, with ten days special leave upon providing a substitute, was an unreasonable amount of leave for men engaged in that class of work in the Post Office. He contended that the Post Office leave was not only reasonable but very generous, and he did not believe there was any parallel to it in private employment. If the ten days special leave they were allowed to take was not sufficient in which to do the work of the Associations, it was not unreasonable that the Postmaster-General should ask them to give up some part of their full-pay holiday to that purpose instead of demanding a further portion of the time which ought to be given to their primary duty—namely, their Post Office work. A stronger case in appearance had been made out in regard to certain excluded classes of Post Office servants, and several hon. Members had spoken to him about this matter privately. Perhaps it would save time if he said what his answer had been. If they took some of the large established classes of Post Office servants—sorters or telegraphists for instance—it was contended on their part that they gave the best working years of their lives to learning a business which had no market value outside the Post Office employment; that the Post Office was, so to speak, the monopolist of that kind of labour, and that the time they had given to learning the Post Office business was itself a disqualification for them turning to any other kind of work. But to that consideration had to be added the fact that when they had served for some years they were making good a right to a pension should their health give way, or when the time arrived for their retirement and it might be very well

argued, and with great force, that these servants could hardly freely dispose of their labour, because they would sacrifice too much by leaving the Post Office, even if the Post Office did underpay their servants. Compare their case with that of the auxiliary or assistant postmen, who were employed only part of their time, and with the sub-postmasters whose case had been mentioned. The auxiliary postman, by the nature of his duty, was not giving a full day to the Post Office service, nor was he wholly dependent upon the Post Office for his living or remuneration, for at any moment he could give up his employment without making any sacrifice except the emolument he had hitherto drawn from the Post Office. If they were paying less than he could obtain for equally agreeable work elsewhere, he could not believe that they would continue to retain his services any longer. He was free to go into the open market under no disability of having to serve the Post Office, and no such hold as the pension system gave, retained him. What was the case of the ordinary sub-postmaster? He was a shopkeeper, who, in addition to his business, obtained an agency for the Post Office. [An HON. MEMBER: He saves the Postmaster-General a rent.] But the hon. Member did not suggest that he did that for philanthropic purposes. In the first place, having to keep his shop open for certain hours, he could add to the profits of his business through the commission the Post Office paid him and he did it; secondly, for a very good reason—which was less easy to translate into terms of money but which formed a large pecuniary benefit—because having the Post Office in his shop brought customers for other things. He did not think the general scales of remuneration for sub-postmasters were anything but fair, or that there would be any justification for raising them, while there was such a tremendous demand for those appointments whenever they fell vacant. There was hardly one of those offices fell vacant without two or three different men being recommended to him for the vacancy. These sub-postmasters, who brought every scrap of influence they could to bear in order to get these Post Offices, turned round whenever they had been fortunate enough to be

selected and told the House of Commons that the Post Office had inflicted a grievance upon them by giving them an appointment which somebody else would be glad to take if they would give them up. [An HON. MEMBER: Because they did not know the results.] When they knew the results they could give up the business in a moment. They had their other work, and if the Post Office business did not pay them let them give it up. He knew there were many others who would be willing to have them as a means of increasing their income. Therefore these were not at all the same reasons as there were in regard to the established classes, whose wages he proposed to refer to this Committee. But there were other smaller classes, like the sorters or the sorter tracers. He felt it to be of the utmost importance, if the Committee was to be satisfactorily constituted, that the work should not be intolerably expanded, that the inquiry should not be made too wide, and that undue labour should not be imposed on its members. He had chosen great classes of established servants, and he thought that the report on their wages would in itself be a sufficient indication and guide as to the wages of the other classes referred to. With such advice and recommendations as he would receive from that Committee, he did not think that either himself or his successors in office would have any difficulty in adjusting, if adjustment was necessary, the wages of the other minor classes. He attached enormous importance to keeping this inquiry within reasonable bounds and not putting an undue strain upon the members of the Committee, thus preventing some of the best men from serving who would otherwise be obtainable. He hoped that was all he needed to say upon this matter.

MR. LOUGH: Will the right hon. Gentleman say a word or two about the personnel of the Committee?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said he thought he had made it perfectly clear that his desire was to have an independent Committee. The Post Office employees, after the Tweedmouth Report, complained that no Committee was independent upon which the officials

of the Post Office might sit. Therefore they must be held to that condition, and if it was not independent with one kind of civil servant sitting upon the Committee it would not be independent with another kind. He thought the Committee he suggested would be equally independent of departmental influence and of political pressure. He intended it to be a Committee sitting to give a judgment, and not a Committee sitting to advocate the interests of one side or the other. The course he was adopting would exclude from the Committee either a representative or advocate of the staff and also a representative or advocate of the Postmaster-General. He had tried to secure an independent Committee, excluding anyone who would be suspected of departmental influence or any of the other influences to which he had alluded. His hon. friend the Member for Canterbury made a long speech in which he touched on a large number of subjects, all of which he dignified by the name of postal reforms. There were one or two of these subjects with which he ought to deal, and first of all he would speak with reference to the change in the postal order system. His hon. friend was anxious for the issue of guinea postal orders; but that would require statutory authority, and if his hon. friend would introduce a Bill for the purpose it would have his warmest sympathy. It was a mistake to suppose that the restriction on the repurchase of stamps by the Post Office would be any inconvenience to the public. The introduction of the 6d. note and the 6d. rise in postal orders up to £1, with the liberty to affix stamps up to 5d. to the face of an order, would afford the opportunity for sending small remittances and would take the place of remittances by means of stamps. The change he had proposed was generally welcomed as removing or lessening a great temptation to dishonesty on the part of young people employed in business. He could hold out no hope of the adoption of the suggestion to remove the three months time limit from postal orders. To do so would be to put the Post Office in the position of a banker. The system of postal orders was established to afford facilities for sending small remittances; it was never intended that these orders

should be a form of currency; and if they were allowed to pass from hand to hand the Post Office would be deprived of the commission on the issue of new orders. His hon. friend referred to the question of universal penny postage and said it was ridiculous that one should be able to send a letter to India for a penny while unable to send it for the same amount across the English Channel. The Imperial penny postage so far could not be considered remunerative from the revenue point of view, nor was it so intended. It was established to promote facilities for the cultivation of closer relations with our fellow-subjects beyond seas; it was justified by its political and Imperial results rather than by financial results. On the ground of cultivating closer relations with our colonies the penny postage could be justified; but there was no justification for the enormously greater sacrifice that would be involved in making the rate universal for postage with all the nations of the world. The money order system was now the subject of inquiry by a departmental committee, and that inquiry was not yet completed, and all he could say was that he had hopes that the Department might be able to make some changes which would be in the direction of giving greater facilities to the public, but it would be very rash for him to speak on the subject until he was in possession of fuller information. His hon. friend also referred to the subject of a parcel post with the United States, and he contrasted the arrangement which had been made with an express company in America very unfavourably with that made between the German Post Office and the United States Post Office. It was no fault of the British Post Office that a parcel post convention had not been concluded with the United States. More than once the United States Government had been approached on the subject, but that Government had not seen their way to enter into such a convention until quite recently. In the circumstances, the best arrangement possible had been made with one of the great express companies, which gave greater facilities than the public had had before. Since then the United States Government had expressed willingness to enter into negotiations,

Mr. Austen Chamberlain.

which were now proceeding. As the hon. Member for Canterbury was not present, he would not go over the whole list of what the hon. Member described as postal reforms.

There appeared to be considerable misconception on the part of the public as to the financial results of the halfpenny post. Suggestions were continually made to him that if he would only extend the halfpenny post in this, that, or the other direction, an enormous business would be done, and doubtless with commensurate results in revenue. Practically all the halfpenny postal business was carried on at a loss. It was not a question of weight, but of handling. Postal packets could not be collected and delivered by the Post Office so that there should be any profit obtainable out of the halfpenny. Possibly the expenditure and revenue on post-cards might just about balance, though he was doubtful about this. But the halfpenny was the charge for carriage through the post, and he could not agree that in addition the material should be supplied free. A large trade had developed in private post cards, and any proposal to issue cards free would meet with considerable opposition; and, as it would mean a loss of revenue, it was a step he was not inclined to take. Speaking generally, the halfpenny post was unremunerative, and when he was asked to extend it to all magazines and *bonâ fide* periodical publications, he could only say that the financial results would be so serious that he was altogether unable to assent to a proposal of that kind. He did not understand how it could be justified without a further extension to books and tradesmen's catalogues, which were as much a means of spreading business as the advertisements tradesmen inserted in magazines. A limit, it had been said, should be placed on Post Office revenue, beyond which the growth should be devoted to postal reforms. For his own part he thought that those who made the revenue of the Post Office by the transmission of their correspondence through the post were entitled to a fair proportion of the additional profits in the shape of additional public facilities. He held, unlike his hon. friend the Member for Canterbury, that the Post Office always ought to be a revenue earning

Department. The Committee would be under a great misconception if it supposed that the proportion of the total revenue of the country which was contributed by the Post Office was a growing one, or that the proportion of profit obtained by the Post Office was greater in regard to its turnover than it had been in past times. On the contrary, there had been a steady decrease both in the proportion of national expenditure met out of the Post Office surplus and the proportion of every £1 of Post Office revenue which went to the Exchequer. He thought that at the present time it was about 4s., and that twenty years ago—though he was a little afraid of fixing dates from memory—it was 6s. 8d. At any rate, he was perfectly confident that there had been a steady decline in that proportion. First of all, he thought it was right that the public who used the Post Office should share in the prosperity of the Post Office, and have such increased facilities from time to time as could be afforded; but he did not think it would be right to sacrifice all idea of making the Post Office a revenue earning department, or of giving up this great source in relief of the general taxation which had to be borne by the public. [AN HON. MEMBER: What about postal orders for the colonies?] That was a matter which he had under consideration, but in regard to which he could not make any announcement at present. There was an obvious difficulty in having a general interchange of the infinite series of different forms of postal orders in the British Colonies all over the world. He would be very glad if the issue of postal orders could be extended so as to facilitate their use between this country and the colonies, and, as he had said, the matter was under his consideration. He knew the importance of many of the other questions which had been raised by his hon. friend the Member for Canterbury, but he was unwilling to weary the Committee by going further into them at the present moment.

MR. TENNANT (Berwickshire) said he could not help thinking that it was a pity the hon. Member for Canterbury had not been present to listen to the reply of the right hon. Gentleman

the Postmaster-General, because if the hon. Gentleman had been in the House probably the Postmaster-General would have still further enlightened and interested the Committee upon the many points raised in the encyclopedic speech of his hon. friend. He himself would have been interested to hear from the Postmaster-General what answer he would have given as to charging penny postage to Shanghai and Hong Kong, and 2½d. to Egypt. Other points made by the hon. Member for Canterbury were that the Postmaster-General was responsible not only for the Teutonic appearance of our penny stamps, but also for the continuous dishonesty of some of the officials on the Post Office staff. He thought the right hon. Gentleman could not be held responsible for that.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said that perhaps the hon. Gentleman would permit him to say a word on that subject which he had overlooked. He meant the reference of the hon. Member for Canterbury to the character of the staff and the number of dismissals that were made from it. The total number of dismissals from the staff of 180,000 men was, he thought, last year, about 1,000. Well, that was 45 per cent. of a half per cent., which he thought the Committee would acknowledge to be a very small proportion. As to what had been said by his hon. friend in regard to ex-soldier candidates for positions in the Post Office service, he thought that when they were first tried credit was given rather too easily to the recommendation of military officers who were anxious to obtain employment for the men who had served with them; but greater care was now being exercised in the selection of these old soldiers for the Post Office service.

MR. TENNANT said he was sure that the Committee had heard with great satisfaction that statement by the right hon. Gentleman. A question had been raised by his hon. and gallant friend about the disfranchisement of this class of civil servants; and he was bound to say that he had been rather surprised that that matter had been raised the previous week by his hon. friend the Member for Battersea. He could assure

his right hon. friend the Postmaster-General, that, so far as the county which he represented was concerned, no such pressure as had been alluded to, had ever been brought to bear upon him from the Post Office officials. Another matter to which his hon. and gallant friend had alluded, and which was of great importance, was the scale of pay of the women employed in the postal order clearing house and the savings' bank department. That was a class who felt much aggrieved that their wages had been reduced suddenly and without reason assigned. Up to 1897 they were paid at the rate of £65, with an annual increment of £3; but that rate had been reduced to £55 a year with an annual increment of £2 10s. a year.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN dissented.

MR. TENNANT: Do I understand my right hon. friend to say that no salaries have been reduced?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: No existing salaries were cut down: but the scale of payment of new entrants was altered.

MR. TENNANT said that that did not alter the fact that the scale of payment of women in the department which had hitherto been £65 per annum was reduced to £55 for new-comers. The point really was, did they get as good a class of women for that reduced salary? Were women of education and some degree of standing encouraged to apply for these posts? He could not help thinking that it was a bad precedent for the Government to set—to make a profit out of the wages of the women they employed. He had in his possession a statement issued by the Association of Women Clerks in the Post Office, which showed that on an average their weekly expenditure was 7s. 6d. for rent, 5s. 6d. for board at their residence, and 4s. 6d. for board at the office. Their outlay for travelling expenses was 1s. 6d., and 2s. for laundry. That came to more than £52 a year for living and other necessities, leaving only £3 a year for the annual holiday, recreation, and the hundred and one demands on a woman in employment.

Mr. Tennant.

He was bound to say that that wage did not seem sufficient to give to this particular class of women, if they wanted to get good women and improve their quality. An hon. Member said that the manners of some of the women employed in the Post Office left something to be desired. He did not wish to minimise that complaint. He thought that in some cases the charge was justified. But that did not apply to the class of women to whom he was alluding—the women in the Post Office Savings Bank and the Postal Order Clearing House—who had to do responsible work in which very large sums of money were involved, and who did not come in contact with the general public in the same way as the other class to which reference had been made. He sincerely trusted this matter would be referred to the Committee of which the right hon. Gentleman had spoken. Perhaps he was rather late in the day, but might he ask the right hon. Gentleman whether this class of women to whom he was referring had been specially referred to the Committee, or did they only come under the general headings to which the right hon. Gentleman had alluded?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I do not propose to refer them specially to the Committee.

MR. TENNANT said that in that case he should be forced to support the reduction moved by his hon. friend. It appeared to him that there was a very strong case for these women, and he sincerely trusted that the right hon. Gentleman had not a closed mind on the subject; because the reduction in their salaries had excited a great deal of attention and had created much agitation.

* MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton) said that he had been engaged for a considerable time in pressing upon the Government and the House the necessity for granting a Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry into the grievances of the postal staff; and he could not say that he had received with any satisfaction the original announcement of his right hon. friend as to the composition of the Committee he proposed to appoint. Still less did he think that the statement the right hon. Gentleman had made

that day had given him hope that the proposed Committee would really make a settlement of what had long been a troublesome subject to the House of Commons. The narrow scope of the reference to the Committee, and the exclusion from its consideration of the class mentioned by the hon. Member who had just sat down, would, of necessity, lead to further agitation, and therefore there would be no solution of the difficulty which they all desired to put an end to. He was bound to say that, believing there were many real grievances right through the postal service, he felt that the scope of the proposed inquiry was far too restricted, and that they would be forced to demand further consideration for the excluded classes. There could be no ground for excluding the "tracer" class of telegraphists from the inquiry and the women referred to, both of whom were of the less organised and silent class, and who it might have been expected would, on that account, have obtained a sympathetic hearing from the head of the Department. He felt that in preventing the Committee from considering the claims of these persons, they were practically putting a premium on agitation within the postal service. The hon. Member for West Islington and the hon. Member for Newington denounced the Committee in strong language and maintained that a Parliamentary Committee would be a more proper tribunal. He did not wish to associate himself with all the strong language that had been used; but he would say in perfect sincerity that he was at a loss to understand why a Parliamentary tribunal should be such a bad one; or why hon. Gentlemen should have to seek the protection of his right hon. friend against their constituents. He had taken a somewhat active part in connection with the redress of Post Office grievances, and he had never received a communication from any of his constituents who were postal servants, on the subject. There were 180,000 postal employees distributed all over the country. Therefore, their power over Members of Parliament was practically a negligible quantity; and it was only by becoming acquainted with the hard facts in their own constituencies that hon. Members

had been led to take up Post Office grievances.

It had been said, not only this year, but in previous years, that the Postmaster-General in approaching the question of the pay and condition of service in the Post Office should have regard to the pockets of the taxpayers. That seemed to him to be a very obvious principle; and one which he should have thought would apply not only to the question of wages but also to the general administration of the Post Office. He should like to point out to his right hon. friend an instance, within his own knowledge, which pointed to the necessity for economies in the telegraphic service, and which economies would do something to provide funds for better pay for the staff without recourse to the public purse. In a house in the country in which he was born there was a Post Office telegraph installed. A few years ago, at the suggestion of the Post Office authorities, that telegraph was converted into a telephone. But now the authorities refused to allow telegraph messages to be telephoned. Instead, telegrams were brought up from a railway station three miles away at a cost to the State of 7d. and, as regarded himself, the loss of several hours in delivery. He managed, however, to get quick replies and at the same time effect an economy for the State of 7d. on each message. There was a friendly fishmonger living in the town, and if he wished to get a prompt reply to telegrams he sent the telegram addressed to the care of the fishmonger who telephoned it to him.

*THE CHAIRMAN: That will arise on the Telegraph Vote.

*MR. HAY said he was merely giving an illustration as to how the Post Office expenses in the particular office to which he was referring could be reduced. The result was that the Post Office wasted money where it might be saved, or fairly expended in improving the conditions of service of the postal staff. In stating that the unestablished class would not be included in the terms of reference to the Committee, his right hon. friend added that they could leave the employment of the Post Office at

any time, and find a living wage in another sphere. But that did not appear to him to be an answer to the grievances of which the unestablished class complained. Surely, the Post Office should carry out the principle laid down by the Prime Minister two or three years ago that the State should be a model employer; and it was because he believed that there was a considerable number of men and women employed in the Post Office on the unestablished staff, whose pay and conditions of service were not such as a model employer would permit that he would vote for the reduction. The history of the question showed that the Government had never, of its own accord, proposed a single improvement in the lot of the postal employees. It was, therefore, idle to dispute the right of these men and women to an inquiry. If the recommendations of the Tweedmouth Committee were reasonable it was quite clear that the treatment of these men and women up to that time had not been reasonable. He regretted that the right hon. Gentleman should have restricted the range of the inquiry, and that the time of the House of Commons would have to be taken up in considering the demand of the persons who were excluded for a redress of their grievances.

MR. DELANY (Queen's Co., Ossory) said he could not understand why the right hon. Gentleman, when he recognised the necessity of appointing a Committee, went outside the House of Commons. Surely there were Members of the House of Commons who were independent, and who had a practical knowledge of all matters to be considered. He wished to call attention to certain postal appointments which had been made in Ireland. He did not wish to misrepresent the action of the right hon. Gentleman or his Department, but his view was that such appointments were given in Ireland mainly to Army pensioners and to police pensioners. If he were wrong he was open to correction; but he would cite an instance which occurred in his own constituency. There was a vacancy in Castletown, and a policeman's wife was appointed to it. A memorial was signed by the parish

Mr. Claude Hay.

priest, the County Councillors, the District Councillors, and other representative men, and sent to the right hon. Gentleman in favour of the appointment of a Mrs. Murphy, who occupied very suitable and central premises. But notwithstanding that memorial, the policeman's wife was appointed, although she was living in a small hut.

MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.) said the House and the country owed a debt of gratitude to the hon. Member for Canterbury, whom they acknowledged as the author of a great number of the best reforms which had been undertaken by the Post Office for twelve or fifteen years past. Whilst congratulating the Postmaster-General on the great ability which he had brought to bear on the administration of the Post Office, he could not help thinking the right hon. Gentleman was too prone to work the Post Office as a revenue producing concern. That, in his opinion, was an entirely wrong principle. The public who largely produced that revenue ought to share in it to a much larger extent, in the shape of reforms. The Post Office ought to be a model employer, and, while dealing generously with the public, ought also to take care of the employees. The postmasters and sub-postmasters numbered something like 22,000, and he wished to know whether the right hon. Gentleman could not bring the grievances of these officials within the scope of the Committee. In a great number of cases those who had become sub-postmasters had had to abandon that position owing to the smallness of the remuneration. The postmaster at Bradford, who retired a week ago, had stated that he had eighty sub-Post Offices under his charge, the whole of which, with the exception of fifteen, had changed hands. The right hon. Gentleman had said that if they did not like the position of sub-postmaster they could give it up, but it was not an easy thing for a small tradesman who had paid £5 for a safe, and £1 1s. for having a letter box fitted into his window, and other little expenses in altering his premises for the purpose of a Post Office, to throw up his position and sacrifice the £8 or £10 he had paid. Seeing that it cost the

Post Office £50 to transfer a Post Office from one man to another, would it not be better to give a little better pay and make it worth a man's while to keep the position rather than make a transfer. Having regard to the new issue of postal orders he would also like to know whether postmasters and sub-postmasters would have to give a further guarantee. They now, as he understood, gave a guarantee for £200. There was a general feeling also that an increased commission should be given to sub-postmasters with regard to postal packets. The increase to four ounces for letters was a great benefit to the public, but the sub-postmasters, who had to weigh the packets in order to see that they were just under four ounces weighed the same number of packets for one penny as they did when they were smaller. As a matter of fact there was throughout the postal service an impression that, while there had been some reforms, what was given with the one hand was taken away with the other. He therefore urged the right hon. Gentleman to reconsider the question whether he could not bring the case of the postmasters and sub-postmasters under the Committee. He repudiated the suggestion that the House of Commons could not produce a Committee to suit the right hon. Gentleman in a matter of this kind. There would be no difficulty whatever in forming a Committee of five, six or seven members which would be absolutely impartial, and in the decisions of which the Post Office officials would have some confidence. With regard to pressure, he had received no pressure of any kind from the Post Office officials. He had had pressure exerted against him by publicans, brewers, and Church committees, but such pressure he had always disregarded. He would also like to know whether the question of allowances would be reconsidered. Allowances, it would be remembered, were granted to men who were brought into the inside service from the outside, and thus debarred from participating in the Christmas boxes. The Tweedmouth Committee said that system of allowances should be reduced, but the Post Office had abolished them altogether. That was another of the reductions in the emoluments of

the Post Office officials which gave them the impression that what was given with the one hand was taken away with the other. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be able to clear the minds of men of all feeling of discontent. The price of lodgings and house rent had increased to a large extent, and he trusted the inquiry of this Committee would be so thorough and satisfactory that nothing would be heard of further complaints for many years.

SIR GEORGE BARTLEY (Islington, N.) said that some years ago he was interested in a system under which the postage of parcels was paid on delivery, and it would be interesting to hear from the Postmaster-General whether any steps were likely to be taken towards the introduction of such a system. It would enormously develop trade, and be of special value in connection with agriculture, fishing, and similar industries, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be able to give a favourable reply.

MR. HARMSWORTH (Caithness-shire) thought that a very inadequate reason had been given for the delay of the mail trains to which he had directed attention in a Question to the Postmaster-General.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said he had satisfied himself by careful inquiry that the time allowed for stoppages was insufficient for the mail labour which now arose at wayside stations. In the main, it was not the fault of the railway company, and he would see whether a remedy could be devised by separating the traffic in some way.

MR. EMMOTT (Oldham) hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be able to get the impartial Committee he was seeking. Personally, he was not an advocate of a House of Commons Committee for this particular purpose, but the success of the inquiry depended on whether its personnel commanded the confidence of the parties concerned. Many business men were not impartial when a question arose between employers and employed,

Mr. Schwann.

and it would certainly be more difficult to get five impartial business men than to get five impartial Members of the House of Commons. He hoped, therefore, that the right hon. Gentleman, if he found any difficulty in forming his Committee, would not adhere too strictly to his self-denying ordinance. It might be possible to have two partisan members of the Committee, or at any rate two impartial Members of Parliament, who would be quite as good as anybody from outside. He suggested that a representative of the employees should be appointed, even though he sat as an assessor without a vote. But he could not agree that no pressure was put upon Members, because a great deal of his time was taken up by communications from Post Office people, and the lesson he drew was that they had, or thought they had, some grievance. Unless, therefore, the Committee commanded their confidence, its decision was not likely to settle the matter. With regard to the salaries of women clerks, he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would reconsider his decision not to refer the matter to the Committee. It was difficult to understand why the scale of payment for beginners had been reduced. The expense of living in London for a single woman was considerably higher than it used to be, and many appeals had been made, but without result. £55 a year was not a living wage for single women of the class the Post Office required. These clerks were appointed after examinations which were held all over the country, and frequently girls were brought up from the country to London without in the least knowing how high the cost of living was, and they then found that the salary was quite inadequate. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would either deal with the matter himself or refer it to the Committee.

MR. MARSHALL HALL (Lancashire, Southport) thought it would be a pity to interfere with the constitution of the proposed Committee, but he thought the scope of the inquiry might be well extended so as to include women. They had to guard against rendering the work of the Committee nugatory, and unless the tribunal had the confidence of the employees it would do no good whatever, because the employees would say they had not had a proper hearing.

The suggestion of the hon. Member for Oldham was a very good one, and its principle might be extended so that the employees should not only be given a representative on the Committee but should also be allowed to nominate the man they wished to represent them. Whether the representative sat as an assessor or not, was really immaterial, because if they had somebody in whom they had absolute confidence to watch over the proceedings, they were much more likely to be satisfied with the result of the inquiry. There was one other matter to which he wished to refer. Some years ago there were in the corner of all stamps some little letters, by means of which it was possible to tell at what particular time a particular stamp was printed. When stamps were used for revenue purposes it was sometimes very material to ascertain definitely when a stamp was issued, because by that means it was possible to tell approximately about when a document was brought into existence. He had recently had an instance in the Courts where receipts were put forward which were brought into existence two years after the date they purported to bear. Such a thing would have been almost impossible if the stamps had had the date in the corner in the way he had described, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would see his way to revive that custom.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.) said the Postmaster-General was hardly correct in his statement that a postman could split up his annual leave for the purpose of attending the meetings of his Federation. He had to take his leave whenever his superior officer directed, so that he could not have a day now and a day at another time to augment the ten days special leave. If the right hon. Gentleman would increase the special leave he would deprive the men of a strong ground of complaint. If a man in the north of Ireland had to attend a meeting to be held on a Sunday in London it was necessary for him to leave home on Friday evening, and he was unable to get back until the following Tuesday. It therefore took him four days to attend one meeting, and as the Federation had four meetings in the year that meant a total of sixteen days. If the Postmaster-General would extend the

special leave from ten days to sixteen days it would be a great boon to the men. It was all very well to say that there was no opposition to combination on the part of the men, but if the rules of the Post Office made combination so difficult, the right to combine became a farce. Another point in the matter was that a postman who left his duties to attend the meetings of his organisation had to pay for a substitute, but at the same time receive no pay himself. This was a severe restriction, which might very well be relaxed. The men were very hard worked and as a rule extremely honest, and some consideration should be shown to them. By the rules of the Post Office only persons in the employ of the Post Office were entitled to make representations to the Postmaster-General. That made it more difficult for postmen to attend to their business, and if the Postmaster-General would consent to listen to a representative of the men it would do away with much of the necessity for the men to leave their work and appear themselves. With regard to the proposed Committee, the right hon. Gentleman had said that the officials asked for an independent Committee, and that he was going to give them a Committee which was independent, because it was not composed either of Members of the House of Commons or of officials connected with the Post Office. Surely he did not suggest that he could not get an independent Committee composed of Members of Parliament. If his only purpose was to get an independent Committee, why did he say it was to protect Members of the House from the importunity of postal officials? Personally he had never been annoyed by communications from Post Office employees, but he had been annoyed by the Women's-Rights man and still more by the Deceased-Wife's-Sister's man. Other Members, however, might have had a different experience. The reference to the Committee was so limited in its scope that the inquiry was certain to leave many sores untouched. As proposed it would deal with the wages of only 45,000 out of 180,000 persons, so that about 135,000 would still be dissatisfied, with the result that the

agitation would go on until eventually another Committee was appointed. As a tribunal was being set up it was a pity so to restrict the terms of the reference, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would yet reconsider his decision.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said that two points had been raised to which he had not before referred, and as to which the Committee were entitled to a reply. With regard to whether pensioners and Army men should have a preference over other equally deserving local inhabitants, all he had said was that he would not exclude any man because he was a pensioner or had been in the Army. With regard to the introduction of the "Cash-on-delivery" system, he could assure his hon. friend the Member for North Islington that personally he was favourably disposed to its introduction. He thought it would be a great benefit to the public, and not least to the smaller consumer, producer, and dealer. He was sorry to say, however, that that was not the universally accepted opinion, and when some time ago it was thought that the Post Office might carry out this reform, the Postmaster-General of the day was overwhelmed with protests from District Councils, and other local bodies, against the introduction of a system which they thought would serve the interests of the big men in the big towns at the expense of the little men in the little towns. Even the Chambers of Commerce carried by a small majority a resolution protesting against the introduction of such a system. Under these circumstances all he could say was that if the public desired this reform they would not find him unfavourably disposed towards it. He believed it would be a great advantage, and if there was a general desire for it, he thought the Post Office might be able to undertake the extra work. With regard to the printing of revenue stamps to which the hon. Member for the Southport Division had referred, that was rather a matter for the Inland Revenue authorities. He would call their attention to the matter, and see whether anything could be done.

Mr. James O'Connor.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR asked whether the right hon. Gentleman would make a statement with regard to the fourteen days leave.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said he had already dealt very fully with the matter, and the discussion would never be brought to an end if hon. Members controverted his statements and expected him to re-argue the case. The hon. Member had said that the postal officials were not generally allowed to split up their annual leave, and that therefore it was useless to them for the purpose of attending to the business of their organisations. He shared the desire of the hon. Member that that business should, if possible, be conducted by postal servants. He had received a great number of applications from postal servants, who put their grievances before him with admirable clearness, and it was much more satisfactory for him to deal with the men directly than through any outsider. He could therefore assure the hon. Member that he had not the least desire to place unnecessary obstacles in the way of the men themselves conducting the affairs of their organisations. But the men had represented their case rather differently from the hon. Member, because their complaint had been, not that they were unable to use their annual leave for the purpose, but that they were obliged so to use it, and that it was very unfair to expect them to give up any part of what ought to be their holiday for the purposes of attending to the work of their organisations. A service like that of a Post Office required a certain amount of regularity, and unlimited special leave could not be given. The present limit had been fixed in consequence of abuses of the previous system. He did not think it was an unfair allowance, and he really could not undertake to revise it. This Vote had now been under discussion for a considerable time, and he ventured to appeal to the Committee to allow a division to be taken on the reduction which had been moved.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston) said there was a growing feeling of disappointment that the Committee which the right hon. Gentleman was going to appoint was not to be a Select Committee of Members of this House. He thought the right hon. Gentleman could have

obtained all the impartiality he could obtain anywhere else, by appointing Members of the House. He hoped, if the Committee was formed in the way that had apparently been decided, the right hon. Gentleman would take care that one of the five members would be a representative of trade combination—someone accustomed to deal with trade matters from the point of view of the employees. In that way he would obtain more confidence for the Committee than if he appointed only a Committee of what he described as business men. They did not want another Tweedmouth Commission. They wanted this matter settled once for all. He thought also that the right hon. Gentleman should consider the position of sub-postmasters. He was glad to hear the Postmaster-General say that he was considering the position of the smaller sub-postmasters throughout the country. They were a most deserving class, and if the right hon. Gentleman could devise some means of giving these sub-postmasters some consideration for length of service, he would make the service all the more popular. He had himself occasion lately to look into a case where a man had been for fifty years a sub-postmaster. He had done his work with great efficiency, and at considerable pecuniary sacrifice, and when he retired he was not eligible for a pension, and there was no means, or, at all events, willingness, on the part of the Postmaster-General to recognise his long and praiseworthy service. If the right hon. Gentleman could find some means by which that could be rectified, he would do something for which those interested would be grateful. He thought also that the women in the service ought to receive some consideration from the right hon. Gentleman. The wage at present was not sufficient to induce the best class of women to come into the service.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN :
They are very anxious to get into it.

SIR WALTER FOSTER said they were no doubt very anxious to get into it, but they did not know how far £55 a year went in a place like London. They were discontented afterwards, and it was discontent in the service that the right hon. Gentleman should try to avoid. It was one of the worst elements they could

have in a public Department. He thought the young women should have better remuneration for their services. He was sorry to say that the Committee must go to a division on this Vote as a protest against the right hon. Gentleman's unyielding attitude on the re-purchase of stamps. By the proposal he had made, he was doing something which was very hard on the poor, and interfering with trade, especially the trade of the smaller and poorer class of tradesman. He could not see why they should be charged 5 per cent. instead of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. as formerly on stamps re-purchased. Now that the Post Office had decided not to re-purchase less than one pound's worth, it would be easier to receive the stamps in bulk than in the small lots hitherto accepted. Poor persons, such as agricultural labourers, who received remittances of 1s. 6d. per week from their children, would be unable to receive them in stamps and realise them at the Post Office. The senders would have to pay a $\frac{1}{2}$ d. or a 1d. to get a postal order. He thought that would cause vexation. He was sure, also, that small traders would be vexed by the attitude the right hon. Gentleman had taken in this matter. A more cumbrous method than that proposed in connection with the re-purchase of stamps he could not conceive.

MR. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green) expressed regret that the Postmaster-General had not acceded to the appeal made to him to extend the scope of the inquiry. The Committee which had been promised would not meet the requirements of the case. He might tell the House that the grievances felt by the postal servants in Ireland were deep. They were told that the Committee which the Postmaster-General had promised to appoint, was to be an impartial Committee, but he believed that, so far from dealing with the case, it would have the effect of accentuating the grievances of the men, and that the complaints would all come up again next year. The right hon. Gentleman had alluded in very severe terms to the speech of the hon. Member for West Newington. He did not know whether the right hon.

Gentleman had informed himself with reference to the feelings entertained by the postal servants with reference to the promised inquiry. He knew from correspondence he had had from people in his own country that this inquiry would give no satisfaction. It was simply throwing dust in their eyes, and so far from the right hon. Gentleman gaining credit for establishing the Committee, the postal servants would rather make their arguments stronger for the redress of the grievances of which they justly complained. It was said that the Committee was to consist of business men, but the House did not know who these men would be. He did not believe they could have an impartial inquiry unless they had on the Committee a Member of this House or a representative of the postmen themselves, who would be able to give a sympathetic ear to the grievances. He did not know whether the right hon. Gentleman had read the official journals with reference to this matter, but he thought the course taken by the Postmaster-General was a thorough vindication of the strong line followed by the hon. Member for West Newington. He would read to the House the opinion of the Dublin men. They said—

“Inadequate wages does not by any means constitute the only grievance of postal employment. The promotion question, the proper sanitation of Post Office buildings, the pernicious system of secret reporting, civil rights, etc., are all matters of urgent importance, and must be looked into.”

Nevertheless the right hon. Gentleman ignored all these claims and promised a Committee for the purpose of looking into the question of the wages of the section of postal servants who were best able to look after themselves.

What was to be done for the young men coming into the postal service? Young men in Ireland came into the Post Office service and received the magnificent salary of 6s. a week, and on becoming proficient they got 12s. He was struck with the observations of the hon. Member for Canterbury when he alluded to peculation on the part of postal servants. The hon. Member suggested that this might be due to the appointment of soldiers and men of that kind. He himself would not say that an old soldier was more susceptible to temptation than others, but his

own opinion was that the frauds were due to the system under which they paid men the starvation wage of 12s. a week. It was not creditable to the State or the House of Commons that there should be men well out of their teens, in the postal service receiving 12s. a week—a wage which was not equal to that of a street scavenger. He would ask the right hon. Gentleman not to take his information from the official mind in this matter, but rather from the men who were most interested in the matter. Let the Post Office appoint a Committee satisfactory to the men, and not one like the Tweedmouth Committee, which would be discredited from the very first. The proposed Committee would be discredited, and he warned the postal servants to have nothing to do with it. They had gained a point in bringing the right hon. Gentleman to see that there were grievances. Let a full measure of inquiry be granted, and not merely an inquiry in regard to one item picked out. The Postal Servants' Committee in Ireland said—

“It is difficult to say whether this Committee will be accepted or not by the Joint Committee of Postal and Telegraph Associations, but if we may be allowed to express our own humble opinions on the subject, the acceptance of such a Committee would considerably retard the final settlement of the postal question. The proposal is simply a red herring drawn across the track, and should not be touched with a forty-foot pole.”

He would now read the opinion of Englishmen with reference to this Committee—

“This very doubtful concession is calculated to secure the safe passage of the Post Office Vote, throw dust in the eyes of some of our Parliamentary friends, and defeat the object for which we have so long striven.”

He hoped the postal servants would take to heart the opinion given by their organisation, and have nothing to do with the Committee which was to be appointed to deal with one particular subject.

“We say plainly that the Committee the Postmaster-General proposes to appoint will not be acceptable to us. It is not the sort of tribunal we should have confidence in; the scope of its inquiry will be too limited, and its power to see that its recommendations are carried out will be *nil*. Inadequate pay is not the only grievance of postal servants; there are other evils equally serious that demand reform.”

He appealed to hon. Members whether it was fair for the right hon. Gentleman to complain that the time of the Committee

had been occupied for four hours last week, and four hours again that day, when he offered a Committee of Inquiry which could not be acceptable to those most interested in it. The right hon. Gentleman the Postmaster-General meant well, but he should get himself out of the hands of his officials, who did not really wish to see this great question settled. The action of the right hon. Gentleman proved that the Tweedmouth Commission had been a failure, and that the wisdom of the men had been justified. The proposed inquiry could not end the matter; the agitation would come on again and again until the Government did what was right to a much maligned body of men. This was a question which vitally affected Ireland. It was not a simple question of the appointment of Mrs. Murphy. He protested generally against the manner in which Post Office appointments were made in Ireland. Mrs. Murphy's case was only typical. It was only those who had the biggest interest with the right hon. Gentleman who got the best appointments, and not those who had given the best years of their life to the service. That was not a system to induce the best young men to enter the service. He had brought the matter before the right hon. Gentleman on many occasions, and he knew that in reply, the right hon. Gentleman had not given him his own views, but the stereotyped answers of the officials. Take the cases of the young men in Dublin who had served all their lives in the Post Office, and who knew their business well; but just because there was an individual who wanted to

curry favour with the "powers that be," a bad mark was made against them. Was it to be conceived that there was not a person on the whole staff of the Dublin Post Office who could be promoted to a responsible situation? The young men on the staff had been educated in the best schools and were of the very best material in Ireland, but they had no chance of gaining promotion if they had not the knack of making friends with their superiors, and strangers were put over their heads. He had no fault to find with Englishmen getting appointments in Ireland if they were the best appointments, but he objected to Englishmen being pitchforked into positions over the heads of Irishmen who had given their whole lives to the service of the State. The same complaint as he now made had been made by the leading merchants and citizens of Dublin, but no redress had ever been vouchsafed to them. He trusted the right hon. Gentleman the Postmaster-General would widen the scope of the inquiry, so that the grievances of the young men in the Post Office service in Ireland should be ventilated.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 204; Noes, 122. (Division List No. 78.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Allsopp, Hon George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James

Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Boulnois, Edmund
Bowles, Lt.-Col. H. F. (Midd'x)
Bowles, T. Gibson (Lynn Regis)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brymer, William Ernest
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt Hon J (Birm)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. JA (Worc)
Chaplin, Right Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer

Clare, Octavius Leigh
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Right Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, T. L. (Down North)
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S)
Cranborne, Lord
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Crossley, Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Dewar, Sir T. R. (Tr. Ham'lts)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.

Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Jos. C.
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
 Duke, Henry Edward
 Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hn. Ailwyn Edward
 Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
 Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
 Flower, Ernest
 Forster, Henry William
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Gardner, Ernest
 Garfit, William
 Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (*St. Albans*)
 Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
 Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nairn*)
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
 Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Hall, Edward Marshall
 Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
 Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Ld. G. (*Midx*)
 Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashfd*)
 Harris, Frederick Leverton
 Haslett, Sir James Horner
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick G.
 Henth, James (*Staffs., N. W.*)
 Helder, Augustus
 Helme, Norval Watson
 Henderson, Sir Alexander
 Hoare, Sir Samuel
 Hogg, Lindsay
 Houston, Robert Paterson
 Hutton, John (*Yorks, N. R.*)
 Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
 Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
 Johnstone, Heywood
 Keswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 Knowles, Lees
 Lambton, Hon. Fredk. Wm.
 Laurie, Lieut.-General
 Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
 Lawrence, Sir Jos. (*Monm'th*)

Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*)
 Lawson, J. A. Grant (*Yorks. N. R.*)
 Lee, A. H. (*Hants, Fareham*)
 Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
 Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
 Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
 Llewellyn, Evan Henry
 Lockie, John
 Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
 Lodge, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S.*)
 Lonsdale, John Brownlee
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowther, C. (*Cumb. Eskdale*)
 Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*)
 Lucas, Reginald J. (*Portsmouth*)
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 Macdonochie, A. W.
 McArthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
 McCalmont, Colonel James
 McKillop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)
 Majendie, James A. H.
 Manners, Lord Cecil
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Milvain, Thomas
 Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 More, Robt. Jasper (*Shropshire*)
 Morgan, David J. (*Walthamstow*)
 Morrison, James Archibald
 Murray, Chas. J. (*Coventry*)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
 Myers, William Henry
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 Palmer, Walter (*Salisbury*)
 Pease, H. Pike (*Darlington*)
 Pemberton, John S. G.
 Percy, Earl
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pretzman, Ernest George
 Purvis, Robert
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Reid, James (*Greenock*)
 Remnant, James Farquharson
 Ridley, Hn. M. W. (*Stalybridge*)

Ridley, S. Forde (*Bethnal Green*)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
 Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
 Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
 Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Roys, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W.
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
 Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Seely, Chas. Hilton (*Lincoln*)
 Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (*Isle of Wight*)
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*)
 Sloan, Thomas Henry
 Smith, Jas. Parker (*Leamarks*)
 Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
 Stanley, Edward Jas. (*Somerset*)
 Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
 Stewart, Sir Mark J. M. Taggart
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strutt Hon. Charles Hedley
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Sir Edgar (*Exeter*)
 Walker, Col. William Hall
 Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (*Taunton*)
 Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (*Notts.*)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
 Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)
 Wilson, J. W. (*Worcester, N.*)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (*Yorks.*)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Worsley-Taylor, Hry. Wilson
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir Alexander Acland-
 Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allan, Sir William (*Gateshead*)
 Allen, Charles P. (*Glouc. Stroud*)
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Atherley-Jones, L.
 Austin, Sir John
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Bell, Richard
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Brigg, John
 Burns, John
 Burt, Thomas
 Caldwell, James
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Condon, Thomas Joseph
 Cremer, William Randal
 Crooks, William
 Cullinan, J.
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
 Davies, M. Vaughan- (*Cardigan*)
 Delany, William

Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Duffy, William J.
 Dunn, Sir William
 Edwards, Frank
 Ellis, John Edward
 Emmott, Alfred
 Evans, Sir F. H. (*Maidstone*)
 Evans, Saml. T. (*Glamorgan*)
 Fenwick, Charles
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*)
 Fuller, J. M. F.
 Gilhooly, James
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Grant, Corrie
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Harmsworth, R. Leicester
 Hayden, John Patrick
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
 Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.

Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
 Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristol, E.*)
 Holland, Sir William Henry
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Jones, David Brynmor (*Sw'nsea*)
 Jones, William (*Carmarvonsh.*)
 Joyce, Michael
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Law, H. Alex. (*Donegal, W.*)
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Leamy, Edmund
 Leigh, Sir Joseph
 Leng, Sir John
 Levy, Maurice
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lough, Thomas
 London, W.
 Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift

M'Kenna, Reginald
 M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
 M'Laren, Sir Charles Benj.
 Markham, Arthur Basil
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*)
 Murphy, John
 Nannetti, Joseph P.
 Nolan, Joseph (*Louth, South*)
 Norman, Henry
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Brien, Patrick (*Kilkenny*)
 O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)
 O'Connor, Jas. (*Wicklow, W.*)
 O'Connor, T. P. (*Liverpool*)
 O'Dowd, John
 O'Kelly, J. (*Roscommon, N.*)
 O'Mara, James
 Palmer, Sir Charles M. (*Durham*)
 Paulton, James Mellor

Philipps, John Wynford
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Price, Robert John
 Reddy, M.
 Reid, Sir R. Threshie (*Dumfries*)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Rigg, Richard
 Roberts, John Bryn (*Elifion*)
 Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Rose, Charles Day
 Runciman, Walter
 Samuel, Herbt. L. (*Cleveland*)
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Shaw, Charles E. (*Stafford*)
 Shipman, Dr. John G.
 Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
 Soares, Ernest J.
 Strachey, Sir Edward
 Taylor, Theo. C. (*Radcliffe*)

Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, Sir A. (*Glam., E.*)
 Thomas, David Alfred (*Merthyr*)
 Thomas, F. Freeman (*Hastings*)
 Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
 Toulmin, George
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Tully, Jasper
 Walton, Joseph (*Barnsley*)
 Wason, E. (*Clackmannan*)
 Wason, John Cathcart (*Orkney*)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, O. (*Merioneth*)
 Wilson, H. J. (*York, W. R.*)
 Young, Samuel
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Weir and Mr.
 Butcher.

Question put accordingly, "That a sum not exceeding £6,267,400 be granted for the said service."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 122 ;
 Noes, 199. (Division List No. 79.)

AYES.

Allan, Sir William (*Gateshead*)
 Allen, Charles P. (*Gluoc. Stroud*)
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Atherley-Jones, L.
 Austin, Sir John
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Bell, Richard
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Brigg, John
 Burns, John
 Burt, Thomas
 Caldwell, James
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Condon, Thomas Joseph
 Cremer, William Randal
 Crooks, William
 Cullinan, J.
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
 Davies, M. Vaughan (*Cardigan*)
 Delany, William
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Duffy, William J.
 Dunn, Sir William
 Edwards, Frank
 Ellis, John Edward
 Emmott, Alfred
 Evans, Sir F. H. (*Maidstone*)
 Evans, Saml. T. (*Glamorgan*)
 Fenwick, Charles
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*)
 Fuller, J. M. F.
 Gilhooly, James
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Grant, Corrie
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Harmsworth, R. Leicester
 Hayden, John Patrick

Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale
 Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
 Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristol, E*)
 Holland, Sir William Henry
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Jones, David B. (*Swansea*)
 Jones, Wm. (*Carnarvonshire*)
 Joyce, Michael
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Law, Hugh Alex. (*Donegal, W.*)
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Leamy, Edmund
 Leigh, Sir Joseph
 Leng, Sir John
 Levy, Maurice
 Lewis, John Herbert
 London, W.
 Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 MacVeagh, Jeremiah
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
 M'Laren, Sir Charles Benj.
 Markham, Arthur Basil
 Morgan, David J. (*Walthamstow*)
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*)
 Murphy, John
 Nannetti, Joseph P.
 Nolan, Joseph (*Louth, S.*)
 Norman, Henry
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Brien, Patrick (*Kilkenny*)
 O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)
 O'Connor, Jas. (*Wicklow, W.*)
 O'Connor, T. P. (*Liverpool*)
 O'Dowd, John
 O'Kelly, James (*Roscommon, N.*)
 O'Mara, James

Palmer, Sir C. M. (*Durham*)
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Philipps, John Wynford
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Price, Robert John
 Redmond, William (*Clare*)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Rigg, Richard
 Roberts, John Bryn (*Elifion*)
 Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
 Runciman, Walter
 Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
 Samuel, S. M. (*Whitechapel*)
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (*Stafford*)
 Shipman, Dr. John G.
 Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
 Soares, Ernest J.
 Strachey, Sir Edward
 Taylor, Theo. C. (*Radcliffe*)
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, David Alfred (*Merthyr*)
 Thomas, F. Freeman (*Hastings*)
 Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
 Toulmin, George
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Tully, Jasper
 Walton, Joseph (*Barnsley*)
 Wason, Eugene (*Clackmannan*)
 Wason, J. Cathcart (*Orkney*)
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, O. (*Merioneth*)
 Wilson, H. J. (*York, W. R.*)
 Young, Samuel
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Mr. Lough and Captain
 Norton.

NOES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
 Allsopp, Hon. George
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Arkwright, John Stanhope
 Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
 Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
 Bain, Colonel James Robert
 Baird, John George Alexander
 Balcarres, Lord
 Baltour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (*Manch'r*)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (*Leeds*)
 Banbury, Sir Frederick George
 Bartley, Sir George C. T.
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
 Bignold, Arthur
 Bigwood, James
 Bill, Charles
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
 Boulnois, Edmund
 Bowles, Lt.-Col. H. F. (*Middx.*)
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brymer, William Ernest
 Bull, William James
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Cavendish, R. F. (*N. Lancs.*)
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbysh.*)
 Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (*Birm*)
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. A. (*Worc*)
 Chaplin, Right Hon. Henry
 Chapman, Edward
 Charrington, Spencer
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Clive, Captain Percy A.
 Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Right Hon. Jesse
 Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
 Craig, Charles Curtis (*Antrim S.*)
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Cross, Alexander (*Glasgow*)
 Crossley, Sir Savile
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Cust, Henry John C.
 Davies, Sir H. D. (*Chatham*)
 Dewar, Sir T. R. (*Tr. Ham'ts*)
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Jos. C.
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
 Duke, Henry Edward
 Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellows, Hon. Ailwyn Ed.
 Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne

Fisher, William Hayes
 FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
 Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
 Flower, Ernest
 Forster, Henry William
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Gardner, Ernest
 Garfit, William
 Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (*St. Albans*)
 Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
 Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nrn*)
 Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Hall, Edward Marshall
 Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Ld. G. (*Midx*)
 Hamilton, Marq. of (*London'dy*)
 Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashf'd*)
 Harris, Frederick Leverton
 Haslett, Sir James Horner
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick G.
 Heath, James (*Staff's., N. W.*)
 Helder, Augustus
 Henderson, Sir Alexander
 Hoare, Sir Samuel
 Hogg, Lindsay
 Houston, Robert Paterson
 Hutton, John (*Yorks, N. R.*)
 Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred
 Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
 Johnstone, Heywood
 Kewick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 Knowles, Lees
 Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
 Laurie, Lieut.-General
 Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
 Lawrence, Sir Joseph (*Monm'th*)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*)
 Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks, N. R.*)
 Lee, A. H. (*Hants, Fareham*)
 Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
 Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
 Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
 Llewellyn, Evan Henry
 Lockie, John
 Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Bristol, S.)
 Lonsdale, John Brownlee
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowther, C. (*Cumb. Eskdale*)
 Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*)
 Lucas, Reg'd J. (*Portsmouth*)
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Macdonia, John Cumming
 Maconochie, A. W.
 M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
 M'Calmont, Colonel James
 M'Killop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)
 Majendie, James A. H.
 Manners, Lord Cecil
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Milvain, Thomas
 Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
 Moon, Edward Robert Percy
 More, Robt. Jasper (*Shropshire*)

Morrison, James Archibald
 Murray, Chas. J. (*Coventry*)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
 Myers, William Henry
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 Palmer, Walter (*Salisbury*)
 Pease, H. Pike (*Darlington*)
 Pemberton, John S. G.
 Percy, Earl
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Purvis, Robert
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Reid, James (*Greenock*)
 Remnant, Jas. Farquharson
 Ridley, Hon. M. W. (*Stalybridge*)
 Ridley, S. F. (*Bethnal Green*)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
 Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
 Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
 Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W.
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
 Samuel, Harry S. (*Lincolne*)
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Seely, Charles Hilton (*Lincoln*)
 Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (*Isle of Wight*)
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*)
 Sloan, Thomas Henry
 Smith, Jas. Parker (*Lanarks.*)
 Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
 Stanley, Edward Jas. (*Somerset*)
 Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
 Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Sir Edgar (*Exeter*)
 Walker, Col. William Hall
 Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir W. H.
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (*Taunton*)
 Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (*Notts*)
 Williams, Colonel R. (*Dorset*)
 Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
 Wilson, J. W. (*Worcestersh., N.*)
 Wilson-Todd, W. H. (*Yorks.*)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (*Bath*)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Worsley-Taylor, Hry. Wilson
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir Alexander Acland-
 Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN
 claimed, "That the Original Question
 be now put." Original Question put accordingly.
 "That a sum not exceeding £6,267,500
 be granted to His Majesty, to complete

the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the salaries and expenses of Post Office Services, the expenses of Post Office Savings Banks, and

Government Annuities and Insurances, and the collection of the Post Office Revenue."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 199; Noes, 95. (Division List No. 80.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hn. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (*Walsworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Manch'r*)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Boulnois, Edmund
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (*Middx.*)
Brassey, Albert
Brymer, William Ernest
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Cavendish, R. F. (*N. Lancs.*)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*)
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt Hon. J. (*Birm*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A. (*Worc*)
Chaplin, Right Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Craig, Charles Curtis (*Antrim, S*)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Alexander (*Glasgow*)
Crossley, Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Davies, Sir H. D. (*Chatham*)
Dewar, Sir T. R. (*Tr. Ham'ts*)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph C.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duke, Henry Edward
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton

Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose-
Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (*St. Albans*)
Godso, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nrn*)
Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hamilton, Rt Hn. Ld. G. (*Midx*)
Hamilton, Marq. of (*London*)
Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashf'd*)
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Heath, James (*Staff's., N. W.*)
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hogg, Lindsay
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hutton, John (*Yorks, N.E.*)
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnstone, Heywood
Kestwick, William
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon. Fredk. Wm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (*Monm'th*)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*)
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks, N.R*)
Lee, A. H. (*Hants, Fareham*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockie, John
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S*)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (*Cumb. Eskdale*)
Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*)
Lucas, Reginald J. (*Portsmouth*)
Macdonna, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
McArthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
McAlmont, Colonel James
McKillop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)
Majendie, James A. H.

Manners, Lord Cecil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robt. Jasper (*Shropshire*)
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Murray, Chas. J. (*Coventry*)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (*Salisbury*)
Pease, H. Pike (*Darlington*)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretymann, Ernest George.
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Ridley, Hon. M. W. (*Stalybridge*)
Ridley, S. F. (*Bethnal Green*)
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
Samuel, S. M. (*Whitechapel*)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Seely, Chas. Hilton (*Lincoln*)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (*Islc of Wight*)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*)
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Jas. Parker (*Lanarks.*)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Stanley, Edward Jas. (*Somerset*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stewart, Sir M. J. M. Taggart
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (*Exeter*)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrand, Rt Hn Sir William H.
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (*Taunton*)
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (*Notts*)
Williams, Colonel R. (*Dorset*)
Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)

Wilson John (*Glasgow*)
 Wilson, J. W. (*Worcestersh., N.*)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (*Yorks.*)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*)

Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.

Younger, William
 TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir Alexander Acland-
 Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allan, Sir William (*Gateshead*)
 Allen, Charles P. (*Glouc., Stroud*)
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Atherley-Jones, L.
 Austin, Sir John
 Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Bell, Richard
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Brigg, John
 Burns, John
 Caldwell, James
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Condon, Thomas Joseph
 Cremer, William Randal
 Crooks, William
 Cullinan, J.
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
 Delany, William
 Doogan, P. C.
 Duffy, William J.
 Dunn, Sir William
 Edwards, Frank
 Ellis, John Edward
 Emmott, Alfred
 Fenwick, Charles
 Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*)
 Fuller, J. M. F.
 Gilhooly, James
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Grant, Corrie
 Griffith, Ellis J.

Harmsworth, R. Leicester
 Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
 Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristol, E.*)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Jones, David B. (*Swansea*)
 Jones, William (*Carnarvonshire*)
 Joyce, Michael
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Law, H. Alex. (*Donegal, W.*)
 Lawson, Sir Wilfred (*Cornwall*)
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Leamy, Edmund
 Leigh, Sir Joseph
 Leng, Sir John
 Levy, Maurice
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lough, Thomas
 London, W.
 Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 McKenna, Reginald
 McKillop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
 McLaren, Sir Charles Benjamin
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*)
 Murphy, John
 Nannetti, Joseph P.
 Norman, Henry
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)

O'Dowd, John
 O'Kelly, J. (*Roscommon, N.*)
 O'Mara, James
 Palmer, Sir Charles M. (*Durham*)
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Philipps, John Wynford
 Price, Robert John
 Priestley, Arthur
 Redmond, William (*Clare*)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
 Roberts, John H. (*Denbighsh.*)
 Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
 Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
 Shipman, Dr. John G.
 Soares, Ernest J.
 Strachey, Sir Edward
 Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, David Alfred (*Merthyr*)
 Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
 Toulmin, George
 Walton, Joseph (*Barnsley*)
 Wason, E. (*Clackmannan*)
 Wason, John Cathcart (*Orkney*)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, Osmond (*Merioneth*)
 Young, Samuel
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Schwann and Mr.
 Weir.

It being half-past Seven of the Clock,
 the Chairman left the Chair to make his
 Report to the House.

Resolution to be reported To-morrow ;
 Committee to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

OLD BRIDEWELL BURYING GROUND
 BILL (LORDS) [BY ORDER].

[SECOND READING.]

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed,
 "That the Bill be now read a second
 time."

*MR. PAULTON (*Durham*, Bishop
 Auckland) said he hoped that the terms
 of his Resolution would make it plain to
 the House on what grounds he desired
 to move the rejection of the Bill. With
 the details of the Bill he was not con-

cerned, but the question of principle. He
 objected to it because it sought to enable
 a private landowner greatly to enhance
 the value of his property by converting
 into a building site, land which he was
 debarred by existing public statutes
 from utilising for that purpose. This
 land formed part of Old Bridewell
 Hospital which for nearly 200 years had
 been used as a house of correction, and
 this particular portion was used as a
 burial ground for prisoners and other
 persons. The site was closed as a bury-
 ing ground by order of the Home Office
 in the middle of the nineteenth century.
 The validity of the order was contested,
 but the decision upon that point was
 entirely immaterial to the question
 which he had to ask the House to decide.
 In 1892 the Home Secretary made an
 order for the removal of human remains
 buried in this place, but the ground was
 then and had always been an open space,
 and as such it came under a series of
 public statutes dealing with open spaces.

In 1881 the Metropolitan Open Spaces Act was passed to facilitate the acquisition of disused burial grounds and other lands for use as public gardens and spaces, and in 1884 a further Act was passed which made it unlawful to erect any buildings upon a disused burial ground. This legislation was strengthened in 1887 by an amending Act in which the meaning of the words burial ground was defined in such a manner as unquestionably to apply to the land which was now the subject of discussion. It was not necessary to labour the point, because it was obvious that if the owner had any title to build on the land he would not have come forward with this Bill. The sole purpose of this Bill was to exempt a particular owner—Lord de La Warr—from the provisions of the Act, and thus to enhance the value of his property. Parliament had followed a definite and continuous policy in this matter, and he hoped that it would not be departed from. He trusted they would maintain the broad principle which they had laid down. Whether an open space was required in this neighbourhood, which was now the centre of the printing trade, was quite immaterial to his argument; if the land adjoined Hyde Park the argument would be the same, that Parliament ought to sustain and defend its own clear and definite policy on this matter. This was no small question. There were still some 170 disused burial grounds within the metropolitan area which might be affected by the Bill, and if Parliament passed this measure it would be open to the owner of any of them to ask for a similar exemption. It was quite possible that Christ's Hospital might be quoted as a precedent for the course the promoters desired to take, but Christ's Hospital afforded no real precedent for such a case as this, inasmuch as no question of public benefit or utility could be adduced in support of this proposal to enhance the value of a private estate. He most earnestly urged Members who had regard to the policy of maintaining open spaces to support his Motion. He begged to move.

MR. COHEN (Islington, E.) thought the poverty of the case of the promoters of this Bill was shown by the facts that

they relied on the case of Christ's Hospital. But in that case the House departed from its ordinary practice because of the great public interests involved. The very assertion of that case would imply that unless public interests were affected the sacred principle of Parliament would not be abrogated. He seconded the Motion.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out from the word 'That,' to the end of the Question, in order to add the words 'this House declines to sanction a Private Bill, in contravention of general public statutes concerning open spaces, for the express purpose of enhancing the value of a private estate.'"—
(*Mr. Paulton.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

*MR. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) said he did not rise for the purpose of stating the case of the promoters of the Bill. He had not been instructed by them in the matter, but he had had the advantage of having them before him as well as the hon. Member who moved the Amendment, and it might therefore be convenient if he placed his views before the House. It seemed to him the point at issue was whether this particular ground was or was not, a disused burial ground. If it was, no doubt the contention of the hon. Member who moved the Amendment was correct; but it seemed to him that if that view were adopted by the House very great injustice would be done. For this reason it appeared that the predecessors in title of the present owner let the land, not for the purpose of being used as a burial ground but for eleemosynary purposes. A very great number of years ago the leases were from time to time renewed, and came to an end only a short time ago. Without consulting the owners in fee, without even informing them, the lessees buried a certain number of persons in a portion of the land, and it was now claimed that this land was set aside as a burial ground and had become such within the meaning of the statute. He ventured to say that the Acts quoted by the hon. Member could never have contemplated such a state of things as

this that had arisen. Every ground on which cricket was played was not a cricket ground, and every piece of ground on which a burial had taken place was not a burial ground. A place where a murder had been committed and the murdered person had been buried did not become from that fact a burial ground. The words, "burial ground" must have some legal meaning; it must be a ground set apart for that particular purpose with the owner's knowledge and consent. If he let the hon. Member opposite a town house having a little garden at the back, and if through domestic affliction the hon. Member utilised that garden for the purposes of burying the deceased, would the hon. Member claim that that ground was a burial ground within the meaning of these Acts? It would be done without his knowledge or assent as the owner, and against his wish. If that were so, he would be deprived of the rights of ownership in fee of that land, and it would be impossible for him at any future time to erect a house upon it. The facts of this case reminded him of the Chinese custom. The Chinese, he believed, attached very great sanctity to any place where a Chinaman was buried, and if they wanted to stop any public improvement or the making of a railway they proceeded to bury a certain number of Chinamen on the spot, and for all time the place became sacred. It seemed to him that in this matter the City of London had been following Chinese tactics. As there appeared to him to be a doubt as to the law in this case, he submitted that the House should send the Bill to a Committee, and as the matter appeared to hang entirely on the interpretation of statutes which, after having heard the statements of the promoters and the statements of the Opposition, seemed to him to be in doubt, and that it was not an easy matter for a layman to solve, he suggested that if the House sent the Bill to a Committee upstairs, they should specially add to that Committee two or three legal gentlemen of large practice who would be willing to devote a couple of hours to the matter, which he believed could be easily settled in a day. If his suggestion were carried out he would personally see the Chairman of the Committee of Selection, point out the

nature of the Bill to him, and ask him whether he could not see his way to select two gentlemen of undoubted legal ability and large practice who would be willing to give up an afternoon to the consideration of this highly technical question.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley) had no doubt whatever that this was a matter which ought to be settled by the House itself, and not by a Committee. The proposition of the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means was a rather curious one. His proposition was that they should incorporate two or three lawyers of large practice into the Committee, but there was no guarantee that the incorporation of any such Members would strengthen the Committee. The right hon. Gentleman was extremely doubtful as to whether it was a burial ground, but the promoters had no doubt upon the subject, for they called it a burial ground in the Bill, and they came here with this Bill because, believing it to be a burial ground, they wished to get a better title. He ventured to assert that the case put forward by the Chairman of the Committee was wholly illusory. Was it conceivable that burials could have taken place in that ground secretly between 1699 and 1844? There was a curious passage in the preamble of the Bill as presented to the House of Lords. On page 2 it was stated that the piece of ground being of great value as a building site, licence had been obtained from the Home Office for the removal of the human remains therefrom, with a view to the utilisation of the land for building purposes. That was an allegation that the Home Office gave permission to remove the remains, in order that land of great value might be used for building purposes. He ventured to say that sanction was given for no such reason, and to have given it would have been to override the statute. He thought the promoters of the Bill deserved the severest censure for putting such a misleading statement in their Bill; in another place, on page 3 of their statement, they alleged that it was only by a stretch of imagination that this place could be regarded as a burial ground. But his reply was that it was a burial ground, and as that was the crucial point at issue a decision on it ought to be come

Mr. J. W. Lowther.

to on the Motion for the Second Reading of the Bill. There was no need whatever to send it upstairs. This was purely a question of principle. If they passed the Bill that day they would virtually be passing its preamble for the Committee upstairs, and they would be sanctioning the principle of allowing a public Act to be overridden for the private profit of an individual.

MR. BUTCHER (York) said he had always felt that the House was at a disadvantage in discussing the merits of a Private Bill with the whole House, and, in considering whether or not a Bill should be given a Second Reading he attached the greatest weight to the opinion of the Chairman of the Committee, who was better versed in the practice and in the facts than they were. Without expressing any opinion on the point whether or not this was a burial ground within the meaning of the Act, he felt this was a fair case to go before a Private Bill Committee, and he held, therefore, they ought to accept the advice of the Chairman, and send the Bill upstairs. They had this further fact that the Bill had come down from another place where it was fully discussed before a Committee. It would, therefore, be a strong measure now to refuse it a Second Reading. The hon. Member, in moving the rejection of the Bill, drew a somewhat lurid picture of the terrible dangers they would be bringing upon their heads by reading the measure a second time. He talked of fatal precedents, and alarmed some of his hon. friends to such an extent that they were disinclined to trust a Committee. These fears were, he thought, wholly visionary and unreal. What were the real facts? His hon. friend founded his Motion on the only ground possible: he alleged that the Bill was in contravention of a public general statute. If he could establish that he had a good case against the Bill, but he had failed to do so.

AN HON. MEMBER: Why is the Bill wanted?

MR. BUTCHER said the Bill was required because doubts had arisen as to whether this place came within the provisions of the Open Spaces Act. It would be for the Committee upstairs, after hearing the evidence, to decide whether

or not this was a burial ground within the meaning of the Act. As to whether the Bill was in contravention of a general public Act, that was a legal point. The facts before the House showed that it was a doubtful question. The land, they were told, was never consecrated and never set apart as a burial ground. If that were the case then there was absolutely not a shadow of foundation for contending that it came within the statute. Again, the question arose, if the land had been set apart as a burial ground, whether it ought not to be preserved as an open space for ever. These were questions as to which grave doubts existed. Let the House consider, if it should turn out that the facts presented to the Committee upstairs should show that the land had really not been set apart as a burial ground, what a gross injustice it would be doing the owner of the property by preventing him building upon it. Further than that, if the land ought to be set apart as an open space, within the meaning of the statute, the public had absolutely no right over it, and no access to it.

*SIR JOSEPH DIMSDALE (City of London) said the last speaker in his concluding sentences had declared that this could not be an open space because it was not accessible to the public, but he must be as well aware as any Member of the House that there were plenty of open spaces on which no building could be placed. The Chairman of Committees had given them some most interesting statistics, and had dealt with the question whether this piece of land was really a burial ground. But it was a most extraordinary thing that if for two or three centuries burials went on in this ground under the eyes and supervision of a quasi-public body they were so absolutely private that neither the public nor the Government of the day knew anything about it. The right hon. Gentleman had referred them to Chinese tactics and had suggested that the Corporation went in for the same mode of procedure, and he wound up by saying that the Bill ought to go before a Committee, and, with the assistance of two or three lawyers, could be settled after a couple of hours' discussion. But

the Courts were open to the persons interested, and that was the authority to which they ought to appeal. Neither the Corporation of London nor the London County Council was opposing this Bill in a selfish or cavilling spirit. It was purely upon principle that these great representative bodies were acting, and it was a matter of pure indifference to them whether it was a question of a small area of 748 yards, with a small residential population around it, or of a large area and teeming population. As a matter of fact the needs of the population were of far greater moment in the City of London, small as might be the residential population, because there were thousands of employees to whom a few yards of open space were of vital importance. They were, therefore, taking up this question as custodians of the public interest. In 1887 an Act was passed, and added to the Bill of 1884 which embodied as "Burial Grounds" any ground, whether consecrated or not, which had been set apart for the purposes of interment. This greatly strengthened the Disused Burial Grounds Act of 1884. They contended that the Old Bridewell burying ground came within the meaning of that Act. The promoters of the present Bill stated that no steps had been taken hitherto to secure this old ground as an open space. But it was only when this was attempted by the introduction of this Bill that such an opportunity arose. For many years the space had been carefully kept under supervision, and it was probably owing to the efficiency of that supervision that the introduction of this Bill was rendered necessary. What was Parliament asked to do? It was asked to abrogate the provisions of a public Act for the pecuniary benefit of an individual landlord, to take a course, in fact, which Parliament had refused to adopt over and over again. He might, perhaps, be permitted to quote two important instances in which Parliament had shown its determination not to depart from the Act of 1884. In 1886 the Charterhouse desired to build upon a portion of their burial ground in the quadrangle, and this the House refused to sanction. In 1898 the Inner Temple desired to get the leave of Parliament to build over a portion of the Temple Gardens fronting the Embankment, and this was refused,

Sir Joseph Dimsdale.

it being held that the Thames Embankment Act of 1862 provided that the land should be preserved as an open space. The Corporation, as the sanitary authority for the area in which this land was situated, and the County Council, as the authority for the enforcement of the Burial Ground Act of 1884, opposed this Bill, not on account of the amount of land involved, or on account of the resident population, but because they felt that the Bill was wrong, and because if Parliament permitted it to proceed it would create a precedent which it would be very difficult indeed to upset in the future.

He would like to correct some of the inaccuracies which had been promulgated with regard to the City of London, in the statement issued by the promoters of the Bill. The Corporation, it was said, were the owners of a large estate adjoining the land referred to in the Bill, and had during the last twenty years leased nearly the whole for building purposes without setting aside any portion as an open space. But this was not a parallel case, for the Embankment site of the Corporation never was a burying ground, and it was never subject to any Act of Parliament. It formed a portion of the security upon which the Corporation had borrowed money for works of public utility, and they were bound to use the land to the best financial advantage possible. It was further asserted that the Corporation themselves built upon part of the old burying ground of Bridewell, and that they had placed bodies there without authority under their lease. This was quite erroneous. These acts were done not by the Corporation of the City of London, but by the governors of Bridewell Hospital who formed a separate and independent body, although bearing the name of a Corporation. As a matter of fact the Corporation of London had not even a majority on the governing body of Bridewell Hospital, and no part of the income of the hospital, whether derived from land or otherwise, was in any way under the control of the Corporation. Reference had also been made by the promoters to the action which Parliament took recently with regard to Christ's Hospital. This again had nothing in common with the present application. Parliament gave effect to a scheme which had been passed more than ten years before. It was a scheme

for the benefit of a great charity—one of our greatest—to enable it to continue its useful career for the benefit of the community in general. No one deprecated the removal of Christ's Hospital from Newgate Street more than he did himself, but the scheme was one for the public good. He trusted that the House would see that the Bill was propounded, not for any great public use or for the extension of the happiness of the community, but merely to try by a small Act to override the Acts of 1884 and 1887 for the benefit of an individual landowner. He, on behalf of the City, gladly supported the Amendment, and hoped the House would decline to set such a precedent as the Bill would create.

SIR JOHN ROLLESTON (Leicester) could not conceive a piece of land that could be preserved as an open space with less utility than the piece here concerned. It was situated in the heart of the newspaper world, where residents were getting fewer and fewer. On public grounds he objected to its preservation as an open space. If the Bill passed, the ground would in a very short time be covered with a mass of buildings which would bring in a large contribution to the rates, in which a large number of people would be employed, and from which, if they were put to the same use as surrounding buildings, would issue a large amount of general wisdom, philosophy, and information.

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea) said the City Corporation, as the sanitary authority for this particular district, was supported in this matter by the London County Council, the authority under the Burials Act for the preservation of disused burial grounds as open spaces. The Bill was opposed to public sentiment, to the objects of the Burials Act of 1884, and to all the statutes dealing with the preservation of disused burial grounds. The very fact that the Bill was called the Bridewell Burial Ground Bill, disposed

of the hypothesis advanced with much ingenuity by the Chairman of Committees.

MR. HELDER (Whitehaven) pointed out that the Bill had been before the House of Lords, and it was only fair that the usual course should now be followed by sending it to a Committee of the House of Commons. The ground had never been open to the public, and a careful examination of the case would show that it was really a piece of private ground which might very properly be built upon.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY (Camberwell, Peckham) said the only question before the House was whether or not the Bill should go to a Committee. Whether it was a good or a bad Bill did not at present concern the House; that question could be decided only by a Committee before which evidence could be adduced and the whole matter inquired into. By agreeing to the Second Reading the House would not be giving an instruction to the Committee to sanction the principle of the measure; they would simply say it was a matter for inquiry. The proper course was to send the Bill upstairs.

MR. CAUSTON (Southwark, W.) held that this was a question, not for the House of Commons, but for the Law Courts. If the piece of land was a disused burial ground it ought to be kept as an open space; if it was not, let it be built upon, and then the Law Courts could decide the question. As a London Member, knowing the value of these open spaces in crowded districts, he would certainly do his best to preserve disused burial grounds as open spaces for the people of London.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 71; Noes, 118. (Division List No. 81.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Anstruther, H. T.
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Right Hon. John
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George

Bignold, Arthur
Brassey, Albert
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. A. (Worc)
Charrington, Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. F.

Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S)
Crossley, Sir Savile
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison (York)

Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Forster, Henry William
 Gardner, Ernest
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G. (Mid'x)
 Haslett, Sir James Horner
 Heath, James (Staffords N. W.)
 Helder, Augustus
 Hutton, John (Yorks, N. R.)
 Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
 Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
 Lawson, John Grant (Yorks. N. R.)
 Llewellyn, Evan Henry
 Long, Rt. Hon. W. (Bristol, S.)
 Lowther, Rt. Hon. J. W. (Cum. Penr.)

M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 M'Calmont, Colonel James
 M'Killop, Jas. (Stirlingshire)
 Milvain, Thomas
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Myers, William Henry
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Percy, Earl
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Purvis, Robert
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Rattigan, Sir William Henry
 Reid, James (Greenock)
 Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)

Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
 Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
 Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
 Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ)
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
 Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir William H.
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Wilson, John (Glasgow)
 Wilson, J. W. (Worcester., N.)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
 Wylie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Mr. Butcher and Mr.
 Henniker Heaton.

NOES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
 Allen, Sir William (Gateshead)
 Allen, Charles P. (Glouc. Stroud)
 Arkwright, John Stanhope
 Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir H.
 Austin, Sir John
 Bailey, James (Walworth)
 Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Bell, Richard
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Brigg, John
 Bull, William James
 Burns, John
 Burt, Thomas
 Caldwell, James
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Chapman, Edward
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Right Hon. Jesse
 Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
 Crean, Eugene
 Cremer, William Randal
 Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
 Cullinan, J.
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
 Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chatham)
 Delany, William
 Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Jos. C.
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Duke, Henry Edward
 Dunn, Sir William
 Edwards, Frank

Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
 Evans, Sir F. H. (Maidstone)
 Fenwick, Charles
 French, Peter
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Flavin, Michael Joseph
 Flower, Ernest
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Garfit, William
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Grant, Corrie
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
 Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur G.
 Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
 Johnstone, Heywood
 Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
 Joyce, Michael
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Law, H. Alex. (Donegal, W.)
 Lawrence, Sir Jos. (Monm'th)
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Leamy, Edmund
 Leng, Sir John
 Levy, Maurice
 Lough, Thomas
 London, W.
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 MacVeagh, Jeremiah
 M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
 Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
 Murphy, John
 Nolan, Joseph (Louth, S.)
 Norman, Henry
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 O'Dowd, John

O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Rea, Russell
 Reddy, M.
 Remnant, Jas. Farquharson
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
 Rose, Charles Day
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
 Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
 Shipman, Dr. John G.
 Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
 Soares, Ernest J.
 Stewart, Sir Mark J. M. Taggart
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strachey, Sir Edward
 Sullivan, Donal
 Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
 Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
 Thomas, F. Freeman (Hastings)
 Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.)
 Toulmin, George
 Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
 Ure, Alexander
 Wallace, Robert
 Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
 Wason, J. Cathcart (Orkney)
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Younger, William
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Paulton and Mr. Alban
 Gibbs.

Main Question, as amended, put, and
 agreed to.

Resolved: That this House declines to
 sanction a Private Bill, in contravention
 of general public statutes concerning
 open spaces, for the express purpose of
 enhancing the value of a private estate.

SUPPLY [EIGHTH ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland,
 Penrith) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE
DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1903-4.

REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £536,790, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the expenses of the Post Office Packet Service."

Mr. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty) complained of the miserable service and insufficient accommodation provided by the Post Office Packet Service to the Western Islands of Scotland. He thought a Department which was making £4,000,000 a year profit ought to spend more upon the services in the poor districts. He could not understand why the Post Office should be so mean and niggardly towards the Western Islands of Scotland. Was it because they were represented by only a few hon. Members in the House? If they were represented by as strong a body as the Irish Members they would have no difficulty in wringing out of Ministers a little more money to help them. In the Island of Lewis there was a population of 30,000 people, and during the fishing season he had seen the mail steamer there overcrowded with fishermen and girls to such an extent as to be positively dangerous in rough weather. If any disaster did happen to those steamers the responsibility would be upon the heads of those who employed such wretched old timbered-up steamers for carrying the mails. The North British Railway had been voted £260,000 for the development of industries, and yet they refused to contribute a farthing towards assisting the fishing industry. The Post Office ought to insist upon the North British Railway acting more generously in regard to the conveyance of the mails. Some of the mail packet steamers provided the most wretched accommodation for second-class and steerage passengers, and they had occasionally to be packed like herrings in a barrel. It was disgraceful that such a state of things should be allowed, and proper arrangements should be made for the comfort of the passengers. It was the duty of the Post Office, in making their contracts, to

see that the steamers not only gave proper facilities for carrying His Majesty's mails, but also provided proper accommodation for the public. The mail steamers were invariably late, with the result that the mails were not delivered at Stornoway and other places at the proper time. How could they expect rotten old boats like those employed, to keep proper time? Monstrous charges were made by these steamers for short runs. If there happened to be a few sheep or bullocks to be brought from some of the other islands the mail steamers were told off to pick them up, instead of being kept for the special work for which they were paid. The steamers now employed by the Post Office were totally unfit for the work, and better provision ought to be made. Miserably small subsidies were paid all along the line, and the right hon. Gentleman ought to put his hand into his pockets more liberally and provide better subsidies. He moved a reduction of Item A by £100.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item A be reduced by £100, in respect of contracts for conveyance of mails in the United Kingdom."
—(Mr. Weir.)

*MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland) said the contention of the Post Office was that they were already paying more in subsidies than the returns of the service justified. He did not think that that was a fair contention. He did not think that even the Postmaster-General would contend that the mails should be conveyed at the cheapest possible rates irrespective of all other considerations. The Post Office ought to do all it could to further the material welfare of all portions of His Majesty's dominions. There was a totally inadequate mail service to Lerwick. There were during certain times of the year only three mails in the week, and it was said that sometimes they practically all arrived together. Lerwick was the capital of the important county of Shetland, and the material prosperity of the whole county was deeply bound up and centred in a mail service more suited to the circumstances and requirements of the people. The service from Lerwick

to Fair Island was also very irregular and unsatisfactory, though the subsidy in this case was ample, he believed, to give the residents of Fair Island a much better service. The service between Thurso and Kirkwall and Stromness was also very often hours late, and he believed the fault was at this end, and the railway companies should be compelled to keep their regular hours or else the delay in arriving at Kirkwall and Stromness was not only inconvenient but dangerous. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to improve the services. He was sure the great attention which the right hon. Gentleman was paying to his Department would lead to a much better state of things if he would make inquiries into this matter.

MR. JOHN DEWAR (Inverness-shire) said he must congratulate the Postmaster-General on the great improvements that had been made in the last two years. On one island in his constituency the news of the death of the late Queen was not received until nine days after it occurred. Since then, he was glad to say, the island had been given a telegraph station. The irregularities of which they complained were chiefly due to the steamer service, which was a monopoly. He wished to support the Post Office and the right hon. Gentleman in trying to get a better service in the Western Islands. They had now got a much better train service, and if they could only induce the proprietors of the small steamers to improve their service by providing better, safer, and faster boats they would be satisfied. No doubt the service did not pay the Post Office, for they paid £3,000 a year for a service to Stornoway, and they only got about £1,200 a year out of it. He, however, desired to support the Post Office in trying to break down this monopoly.

MR. CULLINAN (Tipperary, S.) called attention to the mail service between England and Ireland for which the sum set down in the Vote was £98,000. Undoubtedly the service was very good, but it was very often late, and in recent times, especially in the south of Ireland, there had been serious complaints regarding the late delivery of mails. This

Mr. Cathcart Wason.

was owing to the lateness of the boats on their arrival at Kingstown. The trains carried the mails to the towns on the main lines, but on the branch lines when the trains were late there was no means of conveying the mails without delay. The result was that the mails were eight and ten hours late at several important towns in the south and west of Ireland, and that meant a delay of twenty-four hours for business people. The Post Office gave a large subsidy to the railway companies. The Great Southern and Western Company was allowed a delay of forty minutes at Kingstown, but only a delay of twenty minutes was allowed at Limerick Junction. He asked the Postmaster-General to see that there was uniformity in the time allowed for the delay of trains, so that the mail service might be carried out more effectively.

*MR. ALFRED DAVIES (Carmarthen Boroughs), referring to an item of £4,660 for outward New York Saturday mails, stated that this item related to the Cunard system, and he therefore presumed that he was in order in discussing the Cunard Mail Service. It must be admitted that we had not a good mail service as regards speed of delivery from this side to New York. We had not taken advantage of the best means at our hands. On the North German Lloyd and other lines they had post offices on board, and the mails were sorted before arriving at New York. By this means, when those steamers arrived in New York the mails were delivered much quicker than those by the Cunard Line. On the latter line there was no means of sorting the letters, and the mails were forwarded to the Central Office in New York on arrival, whereas the mails by those lines which sorted the letters *en route* were forwarded to their respective post offices, and thereby delivered some hours earlier. He had taken the trouble to get from the Postmaster of New York a statement giving the date and hours of arrival and hours of delivery at New York of the mails by the Cunard Line and also those by steamers with travelling sorting offices on board. This statement showed that there was a good deal of delay in the deliveries through the sorting not

being done on board the Cunard Line. He had forwarded this statement to the Postmaster-General when he was representative in the House of the Postmaster. It was hardly fair to British owners that this should be so. He felt that British owners should receive every advantage in these days of keen competition. More especially was this sorting arrangement necessary in the case of the Cunard Company, as their steamers as a rule arrived on Saturday, the day on which the outgoing mail steamer sailed. He had himself suffered a good deal of inconvenience in New York through this delay in the delivery of the Saturday's mail, as it had been the sole cause of his being unable to reply to correspondence by the outgoing steamer of that day. The next mail steamer generally left New York four days later, so the urgency of this question was manifest. He appealed to the Postmaster, whom he felt sure was anxious to have an arrangement up-to-date, to take this matter up. He looked for a satisfactory reply, in which event he would not support the reduction proposed.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said the question of the mail services to the western islands of Scotland had come before the House on numerous occasions. He appreciated the remarks of the hon. Member for Inverness-shire, who had frankly expressed his knowledge of the difficulties with which the Post Office had to contend. These difficulties were very great indeed. Other Members who spoke on the same subject had shown no appreciation of what the Post Office had done or of the difficulties.

MR. WEIR: I received many benefits for the Western Islands before the right hon. Gentleman became Postmaster-General, and therefore I did not think it necessary to thank him for favours which I received from other hands.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said it was worth while to get that assurance from the hon. Member. If hon. Members who complained had been in his position they could not have done more than he had done. He thought the principles which ought to guide the Post Office in these matters were

common property in all quarters of the House. They all recognised that the primary duty of the Post Office was to convey the mails, and not to run steamers for passenger excursions or for cargo. They considered that in making arrangements for the carriage of the mails they ought as far as they could, without unduly trespassing outside their proper sphere of influence, and without involving an undue burden on the taxpayers, to endeavour to make the mail service as useful as possible. The hon. Member for Ross-shire and the hon. Member for Orkney had said that in dealing with remote districts with a scattered population, the Post Office authorities ought not to limit their consideration of the facilities to be provided to the question of the revenue that could be secured. What the Post Office did in regard to these remote districts was to spend part of the money made in the large centres of population in providing postal facilities for them. The revenue derived from the conveyance of correspondence to and from the remote districts went but a small way to meet the cost, and the only question for the Post Office was the amount they ought to pay for that service. He was glad to hear both the hon. Member for Orkney and the hon. Member for Inverness-shire acknowledge that the subsidies paid by the Post Office with regard to certain services were good and ample, and they were supported by the hon. Member for South Tipperary in regard to the service from Holyhead to Kingstown. The real difficulty in regard to the Western Islands was one which was known to all Members who were acquainted with the district. It was that the service of boats was practically a monopoly in the hands of one firm, who, by their power of controlling business and by the fact that they and they alone, could offer to traders the facilities which traders must have, were really in a position, he would not say to impose any terms on the Post Office, but to resist some petitions which he should think might reasonably be accepted if there were a little healthy competition. He did not himself think that the service was carried on with the enterprise and vigour which were necessary to a successful undertaking.

and he did not believe that it could be maintained indefinitely under present conditions. All he could say for the Post Office was that they would gladly take advantage of a better service if they could get one. When the hon. Member for Ross-shire came to him on the subject he frankly pointed out the difficulty in which the Post Office found themselves and he invited him to use his influence with railway companies and shipping firms with the view to inducing them to start a rival service. The hon. Member went to the North British Railway Company, the Highland Railway Company, to traders, and to landlords, and he came back empty-handed. If none of these people would look at the question of starting a rival service, he must not blame the Post Office if they could not bear the whole cost of doing so. He was very much in the same position with regard to the mails to Orkney. There he would gladly give a better service if he could obtain one at a reasonable cost. The price they had to pay now was out of all proportion to the revenue derived from the service, and he had not seen the opportunity of getting a better one at any price which he could look at. He had not had his attention called to the services between Kirkwall and Thurso, and Shetland and the Fair Isle until now, but he would look into these matters. The irregularities in the Irish mail train service, of which the hon. Member for South Tipperary had complained, were now receiving consideration. The delays were in some measure due to the abnormal pressure of traffic on the days when the American mails were carried.

MR. CULLINAN said the American mails came one day in the week, but the missing of the branch line trains occurred as frequently as four days a week.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said he was aware it was not all owing to the American mails, but that was one of the difficulties. He thought it might be possible to meet the difficulty. In regard to the service generally the Post Office authorities did their utmost to secure punctuality and despatch in the running of mail trains, but their powers over the railway companies were not so drastic as some hon. Members seemed to imagine.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain.

Motion by leave, withd. awn.

Original Question again proposed.

*SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee) called attention to the mail services between the United Kingdom and the United States. During the past winter there had been more complaints than for many winters past, of the slowness of the boats which had been put on for the services. On seventeen occasions the boats crossing westwards had taken more than ten days, while owing to the careful selection by the Department at Washington none of the boats coming eastward had even once taken that length of time. This showed that there was not the same watchfulness on the part of the postal authorities at home as in America, in the despatch of the mails. Slow boats had been put on and kept on the passage for a much greater length of time than in previous years. So much was this the case—he regretted it very much from the point of view of the prestige of our mercantile marine—that those who desired to have communications delivered with ordinary rapidity now almost invariably selected the German boats for sending their letters. The British lines should keep up their speed, instead of slowing down as they had been doing. Some time ago there was considerable excitement as to the transfer of several British companies to an American interest. He regretted to say that it was the boats of the companies whose interests had been transferred to the other side of the Atlantic that were most to be complained of in this respect. Although there were differences of opinion with regard to the policy of giving an increased subsidy to the Cunard Company, many heard with satisfaction of the arrangement which had been made with that Company to put first-class boats of the greatest speed on that passage. He asked the right hon. Gentleman whether he was in a position to state if other arrangements had been made with the Cunard Company, if the new vessels were contracted for, and if their construction was to be proceeded with. He did not wish in any way to reflect upon the Post Office further than to say that there was room for more attention being paid to the selection of the boats which carried the mails in winter.

*MR. ALFRED DAVIES said he wished to suggest the institution of a travelling sorting office on the Atlantic passage, but he would save the time of the House by not speaking again on the subject, as he understood the Postmaster-General would now reply to his recent speech on this subject in the discussion just closed.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said he could assure the hon. Member for Dundee that it was his desire to use British ships in carrying British mails for the benefit of British trade, but the Post Office were bound at times to employ foreign ships. He believed that the mail service to which the hon. Member had referred had not been altogether satisfactory this winter. Too many of the fast boats had been laid up, and they had been too much dependent on the slower boats of the White Star Line for the Wednesday mail service. The new agreement with the Cunard Company was still matter of negotiation between the Government and the Company, and only that morning he had been dealing with proposed mail clauses for incorporation in the contract. He hoped they should come to an agreement soon, and, in accordance with the promise given by the Prime Minister, the House of Commons would have an opportunity of discussing it. While negotiations were proceeding he trusted the Committee would not expect him to make any further statement on the subject. The hon. Member for Carmarthen was anxious that arrangements should be made for a travelling Post Office on the Atlantic passage so that the mails might be sorted on shipboard. He believed he was right in saying that very little would be gained by such an arrangement, at all events as

regarded the mails coming from America to this country. We could deal so very rapidly with the mails when they arrived on this side that very little time would be saved by a travelling Post Office on shipboard. It was not quite the same as regarded the voyage to the other side, and it was quite true that the mails on the outward voyage would be able to be dealt with more rapidly than under present conditions. From time to time the Post Office had made inquiry as to what rates would be charged for accommodation on board these large fast steamers. Of course the accommodation required would be very considerable and very expensive in the fast liners; but neither his predecessors nor himself had yet seen any compensating advantages which would accrue from the great increase of expense involved. He was trying to find out whether in connection with the new contract some arrangement could be made for a Post Office of the kind. Hitherto he had not been successful, but the negotiations were not yet concluded, and he could promise the hon. Gentleman that he would not lose sight of the matter.

*MR. ALFRED DAVIES asked whether the Postmaster-General could inform the Committee what space would be required on shipboard for a travelling Post Office and what would be the extra expense

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said he could not give any figures.

MR. J. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid.) said he wished to refer to the India and China mails and the slow speed of the British vessels. The P. & O. had perhaps the slowest mail steamers which went either to India, China, or Australia. The

speed was only twelve and a half knots; and any one could see that such a slow rate was altogether inconsistent with modern requirements. It was much less than that of the German boats, and the reason was that the P. & O. obtained such a large subsidy from the Post Office that they were able practically to drive every competitor out of the field. The P. & O. received a subsidy of £245,000 for the India and China mails, and £85,000 for the Australian service. In addition to that the P. & O. Company got £12,000 to £13,000 from the Admiralty under the absurd view that practically every mail steamer should be put on the list of armed cruisers, whether they were suitable or not for the purpose. The result was that the Admiralty were saddled with slow-going vessels. That was why the two new Cunard steamers were to be built to be equal to the German quick mail vessels. So far as speed was concerned, the British mail steamships were greatly behind those of other countries, and he was glad that the matter was to be dealt with by the building of two new swift vessels for the Atlantic passage. At the present moment we were sending our mails to Peking *via* Shanghai. The P. & O. boats took thirty-two days to go to Shanghai, and other six days were consumed in forwarding the mails up to Peking. Now, letters were being delivered within nineteen days by the Siberian railway. He understood that the contract with the P. & O. Company expired within two years, and he hoped that the Postmaster-General would, in considering the renewal of any contract, take into view the altered circumstances of the case. When the railway through Manchuria was in fair working order,

Mr. J. Caldwell.

the mails could also be sent to Japan in nineteen days. Germany was our great competitor in trade with the Far East, and if she could send her letters in nineteen days, whereas ours took forty days, it was obvious that that was not a position in which this country should be allowed to remain. In 1867 the amount of the mail contract for India and China was £450,000 a year, and the speed was slow. Ten years later, a new contract was entered into at the reduced rate of £360,000, and the speed was increased. Ten years later the contract was renewed at £265,000, while the speed was again increased. It had been long ago pointed out that while the speed increased, the less was the subsidy given. Quite naturally so; because at first the trade between this country and India was comparatively small. But the trade doubled within twenty years, and in order to cater for that traffic, the P. & O. Company were compelled to increase the speed of their first-class ships. The P. & O. Company had a capital of £2,300,000, and the amount which the Government paid that Company in subsidies would cover a dividend of 15 per cent. on their capital stock. That gave the P. & O. Company an enormous power over every other competitor. The P. & O. Company came to an arrangement with the German and French Companies, whereby the Bombay trade was left in the hands of the P. & O. Company, allowing therefore, the German and the French shipping companies to beat the British in the China trade. There was no reason whatever why British vessels to India and China should be slower than the vessels of any other country. A year and a half ago he was on board a P. & O.

steamer on the China station, and the captain found he was going too fast, and accordingly slowed down to half speed so as not to get into port that night but the next morning. The reason was that the contract was coming near to an end, and that if the Post Office asked for increased speed the Company might ask for an increased subsidy. It was of the greatest importance to have speedy communication between this country and India; and it was because of the slow speed of the P. & O. steamers that a great impetus had been given to the German Baghdad railway route to the East. The Postmaster-General should press the P. & O. Company to give a greater speed than at present. It was perfectly true that they gave the speed provided for by their contract. When that contract was being entered into Sir Thomas Sutherland stated in the House that there need be no fear of the speed of other lines, because the P. & O. Company would be compelled by the competition to keep up with the increases of speed on the other lines. That prediction, however, had not been fulfilled. When he was in India eighteen months ago he found complaints universal against the monopoly and the high rates of the P. & O. Company. Now, we had a fleet which was practically doing nothing in peace times. Why should not our fast cruisers and scouts be utilised for carrying the mails? He ventured to say that if a contract were offered to other people than the P. & O. Company they would build vessels to steam eighteen or twenty knots an hour for the mail service.

He would like to know whether the Postmaster-General had made any arrangements for carrying letters by the Siberian Railway to China. At present letters took nineteen days to Peking by that route, but the time would be shortened immediately

when the railway round the great Lake Baikal was completed, and the permanent way was improved. At present the speed of the railway service between St. Petersburg and Irkutsk was nineteen miles an hour, and after that fifteen and a half miles an hour, but it was obvious that when the improvements in the line were made the speed all through would be increased, and the time for the journey to Peking reduced to nine or ten days, which would also be the period for a service to Japan *via* the Manchurian Railway. It was to the interest of this country to have the speed of the mail steamers to India increased to nineteen or twenty knots per hour at once, and if that were done cold water would be thrown on the projected Baghdad railway, and we should have an all-British service mail between British ports. He did not mention these matters from any point of hostility to the Government. The contract was there when the Postmaster-General came into office; but he would point out that on every occasion since 1867, whenever the contract was renewed the amount was always a great deal less. In 1867 the Government paid a subsidy of £450,000 a year. Ten years afterwards the amount was reduced to £360,000, and ten years after that there was a further reduction of £100,000. It was obvious, therefore, that the contract should be for a short period, and that they should not allow any shipping company to secure a monopoly. At present officers proceeding to India had to travel second class, because the fares were so high. That was because the Company had a monopoly as the result of the subsidy paid to it. He hoped that the Postmaster-General would be able to give the Committee some information with regard to the mail service to the East, and how the matter was likely to be dealt with.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said he agreed that this was one of the most important mail services. Notice had been given to terminate the existing contract, under the provisions of the contract, in order that the Government might consider what arrangements might be made for the future. It was a service in which Australasia and the Government of India and our colonial dependencies in the Far East were interested as well as ourselves, and they would have to be consulted. They, as well as the Post Office at home, shared the desire of the hon. Gentleman that in the new contract we should obtain greater speed at a lower price. A great number of questions, some of them of great importance, arose under this contract; and he proposed to refer them for consideration, in accordance with precedent, to an inter-Departmental Committee, in which the other offices concerned, the India Office, Colonial Office, Admiralty, and others, would be represented, as well as the Post Office; but the Committee would not expect him to lay down any hard and fast lines at that stage. Wherever it was possible he preferred to send British mails by British routes; but if the Siberian Railway offered a regular service which was much more expeditious than we could obtain by sea, he had no doubt we should be obliged to make use of it. Communications were now passing with the view of seeing on what terms the Siberian train service would be at our command for the purpose of sending mails to Peking and the Far East. The Government had not yet been able to come to any agreement with the authorities, and he was therefore not able to make any more definite statement on the subject. It was suggested that the Post Office followed some foolish notions of its own in regard to the services to the Admiralty to be covered by the mail subsidy. It was entirely for the Admiralty to say what ships were required as armed cruisers or mercantile cruisers. The only desire of the Post Office in this matter was to make the service as useful as it could be made to the nation in all respects, and the Committee would rightly blame them if in making a mail contract involving payment of a considerable subsidy they did not consult the Admiralty as to any conditions they would like to have inserted. Nothing was paid for ships for naval purposes which the Admiralty did not think worth having. Messrs. Holt's offer, which had been referred to, was to build for a portion of the service a special class of ships, carrying nothing but mails and the attendants. Whether arrangements of that kind would be very fruitful, and what margin of staff they would have to allow for sickness on the voyages, the Committee could form as good a guess as he could; but an inter-Departmental Committee had come to the conclusion that it would be undesirable to entertain this service, because it would be useful for the mails only and afford no correlative or collateral advantage such as our ordinary mail services did, and would be more expensive. There were many questions which would have to be carefully considered before a new contract was made; and he had little doubt, if they could not fulfil all the expectations that were entertained in some quarters, that at all events they would be able to secure a

better service than it was possible to obtain when the present contract was entered into five years ago.

*MR. HENNIKER HEATON said he wished to submit a point of view which ought to engage the attention of the Committee. Up to 1861, the mail subsidies were always charged to the Admiralty; and he thought the Committee would agree with him that the whole of the mail service to India should not now be charged to the Post Office. Mail subsidies were given for four reasons; first, to encourage shipbuilding; second, to maintain the British dominion of the seas; third, to provide an auxiliary naval force; and fourth, to carry the mails. The Committee, he hoped, would agree with him that the subsidies should be put on a proper basis and not charged entirely to the Post Office. As regarded the American mail service, 3s. per lb. was paid to British ships, and only 1s. 8d. to foreign ships. The Committee should be quite honest, and at least not charge the Post Office with the extra 1s. 4d. That should be charged to some other Department. With reference to the P. & O. contract, the Company could not be expected to do more than they were doing at present. They were now more than fulfilling their contract with several days to spare, but he hoped his right hon. friend would be able to get better terms. But did his right hon. friend expect competition? Did he think he would secure competition against their astute friend, Sir Thomas Sutherland. Although the P. & O.

fulfilled their contract to the letter, the result of that contract was to practically put away all British competition. Only the other day the British Consul in Japan reported that passengers were dissatisfied with the P. & O. and were travelling by the German and French steamers. A very large proportion of Australians also travelled by the French and German vessels, which supplied the only competition to the P. & O. That was the state of affairs; and he thought it was utterly useless to expect that they would ever be able to get competition against the P. & O.

MR. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.) said he wished to know whether the Departmental Committee which the right hon. Gentleman proposed to set up would merely consider the renewal of the contract with the P. & O., or would it have the power to consider generally the question of the better conveyance of the mails to India, Australia, and China. The P. & O. had had a monopoly for a great number of years, and had neglected the China service in order to maintain the monopoly between this country and Bombay. They were a trading company, and no one could blame them for that; but it was almost inconceivable that during the principal part of the passenger season they did not run a weekly service to Bombay. It was impossible to get a weekly service from London to Bombay without a change of steamers. That ought not to be. A company enjoying such a large subsidy ought not to put its passenger to such inconvenience. For his part, he thought that they should do away with the subsidy altogether. They did not pay a subsidy to carry the mails to Cape Colony.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said that the difference there was that the Cape Government made the contract, and the Home Government paid the Cape Government. The Cape Government paid the subsidy.

MR. BUCHANAN said he thought he was right in stating that in former days they did not pay any subsidy for the conveyance of the mails to the Cape. Certainly, the postal service to the Cape was a great deal better than the service to India. If the whole matter had been thrown open to competition during the last twenty years they would probably have had a much better service to India than they had at present. He did not think that the P. & O. Company had any claim on the consideration of the Postmaster-General. Again, he would ask whether the Departmental Committee would consider the whole question *de novo* or would merely negotiate with the P. & O. for the renewal of the contract.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said the Committee would not accept any offer until they had reported to him. They would consider any offers for an alternative service that might be submitted to them, and that might appear to them to be desirable.

MR. BUCHANAN asked if an alternative service would be invited.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said that he would be delighted to hear from any company which was prepared to make an offer, without sending out invitations.

MR. CALDWELL said the usual practice of the Post Office was to give notice to terminate a contract two years beforehand, and to invite tenders. He thought the Postmaster-General ought now to invite tenders from companies willing to tender, in order that they might be able to make the necessary preparations. In any event, he did not think the Postmaster-General would have any difficulty in getting an extension of the contract for one year, as the new contract would certainly not be as favourable as the existing contract. They were in this position with regard to the mail service to the East, particularly to China—the P. & O. only supplied a fortnightly mail; the Germans and the French also supplied a fortnightly mail each. This country was, therefore, in a position to send six mails to China every month. They paid no subsidy for four of these mails, although they paid £245,000 a year to the P. & O. for the other two. It was only the subsidy given by the Government that enabled the P. & O. to pay 15 per cent. dividend.

And, it being Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again upon Wednesday.

COAL MINES (CERTIFICATES) BILL.

Read a second time, and committed for Wednesday.

Adjourned at seven minutes after
Twelve o'clock

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 12th May, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with:

London County Council (General Powers); Great Central Railway.

And also the Certificate that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with.

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (No. 2).

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

Bangor Corporation Bill [H.L.]—(Petition for additional provision); Examiners' Certificate of non-compliance with the Standing Orders referred to the Standing Orders Committee on Tuesday next.

Great Northern and City Railway Bill. Reported, without Amendment.

Shephed Urban District Gas Bill [H.L.]. Reported, with Amendments.

Stoke Newington Borough Council Bill. Reported, with Amendments.

Exeter Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Preston and Horwich Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Lord Hylton be proposed to the House as a Member of the Select Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Lord Aberdare. Read, and agreed to.

Broadstairs Gas Bill. The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The orders made on Tuesday last and yesterday discharged, and Bill committed.

Bangor Corporation Bill [H.L.]. The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill

was withdrawn. The orders made on the 27th of April last and yesterday discharged, and Bill committed.

Belfast Water Bill [H.L.]. Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the Committee having found that the petitioner had no *locus standi* before them; read, and ordered to lie on the Table. The orders made on the 9th of March and the 28th of April last discharged, and Bill committed for Thursday next.

Southampton Harbour Bill [H.L.]. Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Oldham Corporation Bill [H.L.]. Report from the Select Committee, That it is not expedient to proceed further with the Bill; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

Macclesfield and District Electric Tramways Bill [H.L.]. Report from the Select Committee, That the promoters do not intend to proceed further with the Bill; Ordered that the Bill be not further proceeded with.

Scarborough Gas Bill. Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; and referred to the Examiners.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill (No. 66); Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill (No. 67). Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; to be printed; and referred to the Examiners.

PETITION.

LAND REGISTERS (SCOTLAND) BILL [H.L.]

Petition against: of the Society of Solicitors, Airdrie; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

JOURNAL COMMITTEE.

Report from, that the one hundred and thirty-fourth volume of the Journals (1st and 2nd Edw. VII., 1902) with

an Index, was ready for delivery; read, and ordered to lie on the Table; and the said volume ordered to be delivered in the same manner as the preceding volumes of the Journals have been delivered.

COLONIES ANNUAL.

No. 384. St. Lucia (Report for 1901);
No. 385. St. Vincent (Report for 1901).

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS (STRAITS SETTLEMENTS CURRENCY COMMITTEE).

Report, Minutes of Evidence, and Appendices.

RAILWAY AND CANAL TRAFFIC ACTS, 1854 TO 1894.

Fourteenth Annual Report of the Railway and Canal Commission; with Appendix.

MINES AND QUARRIES.

Reports of His Majesty's Inspectors of Mines and Quarries, for the year 1902.

Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table.

RAILWAY COMPANIES' POWERS ACT, 1864.

Certificate of the Board of Trade, authorising the Yorkshire Dales Railway Company to raise additional capital.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1894 AND 1896.

Foreign Animals (Amendment) Order of 1903 (No. 2).

INDIA.

I. (Finance and Revenue Accounts.) Finance and Revenue Accounts of the Government of India, for the year 1901-1902.

II. (Estimate.) Estimate of revenue and expenditure of the Government of India, for the year 1902-1903, compared with the results of 1901-1902.

III. (Home Accounts.) Home Accounts of the Government of India.

Laid before the House [pursuant to Act], and ordered to lie on the Table.

NEW PEER.

The Lord Willoughby de Broke sat first in Parliament after the death of his father.

NEW BILL.

DIVORCE BILL [H.L.].

A Bill to amend the law relating to Divorce. Was presented by the Earl Russell; read 1st; to be printed; and to be read 2^a on Tuesday the 23rd of June next. (No. 65.)

THE LICENSING ACT, 1902.

VISCOUNT CROSS: My Lords, I beg to give notice that on Thursday next I shall call the attention of the House to the recent decision of the Court of King's Bench on the Licensing Act, 1902, in the case of the Commissioners of Police for the Metropolis against Donovan, and ask the Lord Chancellor whether, in consequence of that decision, he will bring in a short amending Bill.

House adjourned at half-past
Four o'clock, to Thursday
next, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 12th May, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH.

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz.:—

Frinton-on-Sea Sea Defences Bill [Lords]; Wellington (Salop) Gas Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

Commercial Gas Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

London United Tramways Bill; New Hunstanton Improvement Bill. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Castleblaney, Keady, and Armagh Railway (Extension of Time) Bill [by Order]. Second Reading deferred till Monday, 25th May (Evening Sitting).

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (Housing of Working Classes) Bill. Read a second time, and committed.

Dundee Royal Lunatic Asylum Order Confirmation. Bill to confirm a Provisional Order under The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to the Dundee Royal Lunatic Asylum, ordered to be brought in by The Lord Advocate and Mr. Solicitor-General for Scotland.

Dundee Royal Lunatic Asylum Order Confirmation Bill. "To confirm a Provisional Order under The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to the Dundee Royal Lunatic Asylum," presented accordingly; and ordered to be considered upon Thursday.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 12). Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Blackpool, Conway, and Spalding, and the Darenth Valley Main Sewerage District, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Grant Lawson and Mr. Walter Long.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13). Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Dover and Yeovil, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Grant Lawson and Mr. Walter Long.

Local Government Provisional Orders (Poor Law). Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the city of Oxford, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Grant Lawson and Mr. Walter Long.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 12) Bill. "To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Blackpool, Conway, and Spalding, and the Darenth Valley Main Sewerage District," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. (Bill 193.)

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13) Bill. "To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Dover and Yeovil," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. (Bill 194.)

Local Government Provisional Orders (Poor Law) Bill. "To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the city of Oxford," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. (Bill 195.)

Metropolitan District Railway (Various Powers) Bill. Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Gas Light and Coke Company Bill. Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table.

Gas Light and Coke Company's Acts Amendment Bill. Reported (Parties do not proceed); Report to lie upon the Table.

Wellingborough and District Tramroads Bill. Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

STANDING ORDERS.

Resolution reported from the Select Committee.

"That, in the case of the Strabane and Letterkenny Railway Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with. That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill, provided that all reference to the Great Northern Railway Company (Ireland) be struck out

of Clause 21 of the Bill. That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with."

Resolution agreed to.

East Ham Improvement Bill. Reported from the Police and Sanitary Committee, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Midland Great Western Railway of Ireland Bill. Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act for re-arranging the boundaries of the Dioceses of Bristol and Gloucester and Bath and Wells." (Bishopric of Bristol Bill [Lords]).

PETITIONS.

BURGH POLICE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Glasgow, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

COUNTY COURTS JURISDICTION EXTENSION BILL.

Petitions in favour: from Grewe; and Lincoln; to lie upon the Table.

CROFTERS' HOLDINGS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Sutherland, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

COAL MINES REGULATION BILL.

Petitions in favour: from Renishaw Park; Maesteg District; Tygwynbach; Coynant; Caedefaid; Cynon; Bryn; Caerau; Bryncoch; Treshencyn; Ewrt-y-Bettws; Crynant; International; Garw Ocean; Aber; Tynewydd; Havannah and Southport Pits, Parr; Little Lever; Glynea; Great Mountain; Glan Garnant; Burry Port; Llancaiach; Hartshead Llangynwyd; Cefn Brithdir; Bedford; Park; Leigh; Westleigh; Breton; and Abram Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

DETENTION OF POOR PERSONS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Balinagie, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING LAW (COMPENSATION FOR NON-RENEWAL) BILL.

Petition from Raunds, against; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Petitions for alteration: from Perth; Ross; Greenock; and Paisley; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Perth, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Perth, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL.

Petitions in favour: from Heckmond-wike; Linthwaite; Marsden; Whitfield; Sandbach; Crewe; Gomersal; Ecclesall; Batley; Hazel Grove; Hollingworth; Hyde; Scarborough; Pendleton; West London; Ravensthorpe; Wingate; Haworth; Skinningrove; Masbrough; Galashiels; Earby; Barnoldswick; Salterforth; Coalville; Paisley; Tunstead; Water Lumb; Duntocher; York; Manchester; Leicester; Cymmer; Aylesbury; Coventry; Broughton Astley; Bristol; Clifton; Lumb in Rossendale; Dunfermline; Bedlington; Desborough; Rushden; Hebden Bridge; Wood Green; Mytholmroyd; Llanelly; Finedon; and Reading; to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC HOUSES (HOURS OF CLOSING) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Glasgow, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Petitions for alteration of Law: from Saint Austell; and Brighton; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE DISPUTES BILL.

Petitions in favour: from Renishaw Park; Maesteg District; Tygwynbach; Coynant; Caedefaid; Gynon; Bryn; Caerau; Bryncoch; Treshencyn; Ewrt-y-Bettws; Crynant; International; Garw Ocean; Aber; Tynewydd; Havannah and Southport Pits, Parr;

Little Lever; Glynea; Great Mountain; Glan Garnant; Burry Port; Llancaiach; Hartshead; Llangynwyd; Morlais; and Abercrave Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EAST INDIA (ESTIMATE).

Copy presented, of Estimate of Revenue and Expenditure of the Government of India for 1902-3, compared with the results of 1901-2 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 156)

EAST INDIA (FINANCE AND REVENUE ACCOUNTS).

Copy presented, of Finance and Revenue Accounts of the Government of India for 1901-2 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

EAST INDIA (HOME ACCOUNTS).

Copy presented, of Home Accounts of the Government of India [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 157.)

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1894 AND 1896.

Copy presented, of the Foreign Animals (Amendment) Order of 1903 (No. 2) [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

RAILWAY AND CANAL TRAFFIC ACTS, 1854 TO 1894.

Copy presented, of Fourteenth Annual Report of the Railway and Canal Commission, with Appendix [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

MINES AND QUARRIES.

Copy presented, of Reports of His Majesty's Inspectors of Mines for the year 1902 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

RAILWAYS (CERTIFICATES) (YORKSHIRE DALES RAILWAY COMPANY).

Copy presented, of Draft Certificate of the Board of Trade authorising the Yorkshire Dales Railway Company to raise additional capital [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

POST OFFICE (PARCEL POST BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND THE NETHERLANDS).

Copy presented, of Parcel Post Agreement, with detailed Regulations,

between Great Britain and the Netherlands [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

NATIONAL DEBT ACT, 1883 (TERMINABLE ANNUITIES).

Copy presented, of Treasury Warrant, dated 1st April, 1903, regulating the Terminable Annuity held on behalf of the Supreme Court of Judicature [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 158.]

TAXES AND IMPOSTS.

Return ordered, "showing (1) the Rates of Duties, Taxes, or Imposts collected by Imperial Officers; (2) the Quantities or Amounts taxed; (3) the Gross Receipts derived from each Duty; (4) the Net Receipts and Appropriations thereof in the year ending the 31st day of March, 1903; and (1) the aggregate Gross Receipts derived from all such Duties, Taxes, or Imposts under the principal heads of Revenue; (2) the aggregate Net Receipts; (3) the charges of Collection; and (4) the Produce, after deducting these charges on each of the ten years ending the 31st day of March, 1903."

"And, Notes to show any changes in the Taxes, Duties, and Imposts consequent upon the acceptance of the Budget Proposals of 1903 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 313, of Session 1902)."—(Mr. Goddard.)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Education Act, 1902—Church Training Colleges.

MR. MORRELL (Oxfordshire, Woodstock): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Education if he will state whether the power to supply or aid the supply of education, other than elementary, covers the provision of scholarships in existing diocesan training colleges; whether the local education authority stands in the same relation to the diocesan training colleges as it does to the Church elementary schools; and to what extent it is intended that the local educational authorities shall manage or control Church training colleges within their area.

(Answered by Sir William Anson.) The answer to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative. The answer to the

second part of the Question is in the negative, since the Act does not put the local education authorities into any necessary relation with such colleges, though it provides the authorities with financial powers, which can be used for aiding such colleges if the authorities choose and if the colleges are willing to accept aid. The answer to the last part of the Question is that the management or control (if any) of such colleges within their area by local education authorities is a matter for arrangement and mutual consent.

Collection of Death Duties in Scotland.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether it is in contemplation of the Board of Inland Revenue to centralise the collection of the death duties in Edinburgh for the whole of Scotland; and, if so, will he say whether consideration has been given to the inconvenience this will cause to the law agents in Scotland outside of Edinburgh, and the additional expense to the public; and whether, before altering the present system of collection, opportunity will be given to the legal profession and civic representatives of Scotland to point out the effect of the change.

(Answered by Mr. Arthur Elliot.) The assessment of death duties in Scotland is already centralised in Edinburgh. The collection of the duties, when assessed, will continue as now to be made either locally or at the head office at the option of the payers. The primary purpose of what is proposed is to give to those who wish to avail themselves of the privilege greater facilities for transmitting their accounts and correspondence direct to the head office than are accorded under existing regulations. Incidentally, in connection with this change, it becomes necessary to define more accurately than has hitherto been done the functions of local officers, but changes in this respect concern the internal administration of the Department, and will not affect the convenience of the outside public.

Military [and Naval Works Acts, etc., Finances.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, Cleveland): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether any prospective borrowings under the Military Works

Acts, Naval Works Acts, Telegraph Acts, and Land Registry (New Buildings) Act will be repaid from sums allotted for the purpose in the Departmental Estimates or from sums allotted to the fixed debt charge.

(Answered by Mr. Ritchie.) Annuities providing for interest and Sinking Fund on the sums borrowed will be charged on the Estimates as hitherto. No part of the fixed debt charge goes for this purpose.

Belfast General Valuation.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): To ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether, considering the delay with the Irish Valuation Committee's proceedings and the fact that a number of witnesses expect to be examined, and that it was expected this Committee would report before further steps would be taken on the Belfast valuation by Sir John Barton, it will be arranged to defer the general valuation in Belfast for another year.

(Answered by Mr. Atkinson.) The revaluation lists cannot come into operation in Belfast before April, 1904. There is no intention to postpone beyond that date the enforcement of the revaluation, which has been accepted without appeal by more than seven-eighths of the ratepayers.

Indian Army—Precedence of Regiments.

MAJOR EVANS GORDON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether, in considering the scheme for renumbering the regiments of the Indian Army, the existing precedence of regiments will be preserved.

(Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.) In the event of a renumbering, provision will be made for the maintenance of the existing precedence of regiments on ceremonial occasions.

Vivisection at the University College, London.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY (Camberwell, Peckham): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the dog operated upon in the

theatre at University College on 2nd February was killed immediately after its removal from the theatre.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.) The answer is in the affirmative.

Details of Revenue (Post Office) Estimates.

MR. BIGNOLD (Wick Burghs): To ask the Postmaster-General if he will state when the details of pages 69, 70, and 71 of the Revenue (Post Office) Estimates will be available for the use of Members.

(Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.) I understand that copies of a Paper containing the details referred to have now been delivered at the Vote Office, where they can be obtained by Members.

Somaliland Operations—Passage Home for Wounded Officers.

COLONEL LEGGE (St. George's, Hanover Square): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether, seeing that under the Indian regulations officers of the Indian establishment who are invalided home sick or wounded, as a result of active service, have to bear the expenses of the journey out of their private purse, he can see his way to relaxing this rule in the case of officers serving with the Somaliland Field Force.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.) These officers are employed on Imperial service and would, if invalided, be treated under Imperial service rules and get free passage if sent home on medical board leave.

Duke of York's Military School—Reasons of Removal from Chelsea.

MR. WHITMORE (Chelsea): To ask the Secretary of State for War if he can now state whether it has been decided to remove the Duke of York's Royal Military School from Chelsea; and, if so, what are the grounds on which this decision has been arrived at, and what use it is proposed to make of its site.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.) It has been decided to remove the Duke of York's School from Chelsea. As has already been stated in this House, the

existing buildings are inadequate and the site is unsuitable for any increased accommodation. The question of the disposal of the site has not been settled.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Loan of War Office Exhibits.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been directed to an exhibition held in Manchester and Leeds under the patronage of the First Lord of the Treasury, the Commander-in-Chief, and other official persons; whether he is aware that Government property lent by the War Office has not been returned; and, seeing that the promoter of this exhibition is an undischarged bankrupt and an ex-convict, can he say what steps, if any, were taken to ascertain the position of this man; what sums, if any, have been handed over to the naval and military authorities, what was the advertised object of these exhibitions; and will he say what steps it is proposed to take for the recovery of the Government property lent, and for the payment due to the different regimental bands for their services.

* THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (MR. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): My attention has been directed to this case. As regards the War Department property lent to the exhibitions, the application came, in the first instance, from the proprietors of the *United Service Gazette*; due security was taken for the goods by means of a personal guarantee and of an "all risk" insurance policy at Lloyd's, and no loss, therefore, can fall on public funds. As regards the money taken at the exhibitions, I am not aware that any sums have been handed over for charitable purposes. As regards the military bands, the proprietors of the *United Service Gazette* have been asked for an explanation, but have not up to date replied. I feel, in view of what has occurred in this and some other cases, it will be necessary to lay down that in future no War Office exhibits will be sent to any but national exhibitions or to exhibitions which have a genuine and close connection with the Army.

CAPTAIN NORTON: The right hon. Gentleman has not answered as to what steps, if any, were taken to ascertain the position of this man, who purported to be the proprietor of the *United Service Gazette*, and who was an undischarged bankrupt and ex-convict.

*MR. BRODRICK: As I say, the steps taken were to communicate with the proprietors of the *United Service Gazette*, who were the originators of the application, and having satisfied ourselves as to their being men of substance and responsibility, we did not go further into the question of their standing.

CAPTAIN NORTON: I will call attention to this matter on the Estimates.

MR. FLYNN (Cork N.): May I ask what the intelligence officers of the War Department said about it?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order.

Disposal of Useless Guns.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE (Bristol, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will explain why the 6.9 muzzle-loading guns of the Old Needles Battery, Isle of Wight, were thrown into the sea when discarded from use; and will he state how many of them there were; and whether any estimate was made of their value as old iron.

*MR. BRODRICK: The guns in question were of wrought iron and their price as old iron would not cover the cost of freight anywhere. There were six guns.

Northern Nigeria—Additions to the Protectorate.

MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he will state what are the military and administrative responsibilities incurred by the military advances in Nigeria to Kano and Sokoto; over what area of country and in respect of what population and races these responsibilities apply; whether any charge, and in that case what, has fallen or is estimated to fall on the British Exchequer up to 31st March, 1904.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): Three provinces or administrative districts (those of Sokoto, Katsena, and Kano) will be added to the thirteen provinces previously established in Northern Nigeria, and to each of these provinces the administrative system of the Protectorate will be extended. The responsibilities thus incurred will include the duties of keeping the peace, protecting the people from exactions by their native rulers, rendering the roads safe to traders, and stopping the traffic in slaves. The area of the new provinces is roughly 100,000 square miles. The inhabitants are Hausas and Fulani. It is not possible to give an estimate of their numbers. It is not anticipated that any additional charge will fall on the Imperial Exchequer up to the 31st of March, 1904.

South African Administration— Naturalisation of Aliens.

MR. JOHN ELLIS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he will state what period was fixed for the naturalisation and enfranchisement as British subjects of aliens in those countries respectively when the civil administration of the Transvaal and Orange River Colony commenced; whether the period has since been altered, and, if so, how it now stands; whether this is a matter requiring the sanction of His Majesty's Government; whether this has been given; and in what Parliamentary Paper the complete rules and regulations on the subject are to be found.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: No arrangements for naturalisation were possible at the commencement of civil administration. Ordinances dealing with the subject have now been passed in both colonies, and have been assented to by His Majesty, under which the period of qualifying residence is fixed at five years. These Ordinances have not been included in Papers presented to Parliament.

MR. JOHN ELLIS: May I ask whether they will be laid on the Table?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Of course there is not the slightest objection, but I do not like to burden the House with

unnecessary Papers. If the hon. Gentleman desires it they shall be laid.

Sierra Leone Rebellion.

MR. LAWRENCE (Liverpool, Abercromby): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, since rebels and the late enemies of His Majesty have in South Africa been allowed, as an act of grace, compensation for their losses sustained during the war, he will reconsider his decision and extend a similar act of grace to those traders who have lost their stock-in-trade owing to the recent rebellion in Sierra Leone, either at the hands of the rebels or of His Majesty's forces.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I regret that I cannot reconsider the decision. His Majesty's Government have not granted any compensation to rebels in South Africa, and such relief as has been granted to our late enemies has been provided in redemption of special pledges.

British Trade in the Congo Basin.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what reply has been made by the French Government to the definite proposals as to British trade in the free trade portion of the French Congo within the Congo basin or maritime zone, which were laid before the French Government by His Majesty's Government.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord CRANBORNE, Rochester): Negotiations are in progress with the French Government. It would be inconvenient to make known any single element of these negotiations until we are further advanced towards a conclusion.

British Railway Enterprise in South West Persia.

MR. REGINALD LUCAS (Portsmouth): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can announce any intention on the part of His Majesty's Government of encouraging British railway enterprise in South West

Persia so as to ensure that the development of those regions may not be carried out by foreign capital and energy to the detriment of British trade and interests.

LORD CRANBORNE: My hon. friend is aware of the answer which I made in this House on March 25th of last year†; a fuller statement was made by Lord Lansdowne in another place last week on the same subject‡. For the moment there is no question of the development of railway enterprise in Persia.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): Will the noble Lord give us any indication of what that answer was?

LORD CRANBORNE: The more important answer was delivered by the Secretary of State himself in the House of Lords last week, and I happen to know that my hon. friend was a very attentive listener.

London Education Authority.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether his attention has been called to Section 5, Sub-section 3, of the London Government Act, 1899, which provides that the Local Government Board may, if they think fit, on the application of the London County Council and a majority of the London Borough Councils, make a Provisional Order for transferring to all the Borough Councils any powers exercised by the County Council; and whether, seeing that under this clause it would be possible for the London County Council to transfer its powers as local education authority, he intends to take any steps in connection with the London Education Bill to prevent the application of this provision as regards education questions.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir WILLIAM ANSON, Oxford University): A Provisional Order for such a transfer of power can only be made if the Local Government Board, the London County Council, and a majority of the Borough

† See (4) *Debates*, cv., 987.

‡ See (4) *Debates*, cxxi., 1343.

Councils are agreed in its favour, and as the Local Government Board would presumably consult the Board of Education before taking action in the matter there seems no reason to fear that the provisions of the London Government Act to which the hon. Member refers are likely to be applied with undue haste or want of consideration.

MR. LOUGH: Then does the hon. Member acknowledge that these arrangements mean the transfer of the local education authority to the Borough Councils?

[No answer was returned.]

Irish Teachers' Pension Fund.

MR. SAMUEL YOUNG (Cavan, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he can state the time when the revision of the Irish Teachers' Pension Fund will be completed, and when its publication may be expected; and whether any addition will be proposed to the existing pensions.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (MR. ARTHUR ELLIOT, Durham): The Irish Teachers' Pension Fund is not at present under revision. The last quinquennial investigation into the fund was completed in 1901, and there will not be another until 1906.

Irish National Schools—Damage by Storms.

MR. ROCHE (Galway, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in the case of injury to a national school caused by the recent storm, the Commissioners of National Education have power to make a free grant or a loan to the manager to execute the necessary repairs; and, if not, will he say who is responsible for such repair.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (MR. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): The hon. Member does not say whether he refers to a vested or a non-vested school. If the latter, there is no power in the Commissioners to make a grant or loan for the purpose mentioned. If the school be

vested, a grant may be made under Rule 82 (b) of the Code in aid of the cost of repairs rendered necessary by storms.

Listowel Union Accounts.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Listowel Board of Guardians have asked the Local Government Board to grant a sworn inquiry into irregularities alleged by them to have occurred in connection with the recent audit of their accounts by Mr. Ellis; and, if so, will he explain why Mr. Ellis has been allowed by the Local Government Board to re-examine the books of the Board of Guardians and of the Listowel Rural District Council, as to which he had previously given a certificate of audit, pending the decision of the Local Government Board as to whether the sworn inquiry asked for will be held; and will he state whether the Board of Guardians made any protest against this permission being accorded; and whether a sworn inquiry will be ordered.

MR. ATKINSON: The inquiry mentioned has been asked for. The matter is not one for a sworn inquiry, but rather for a careful examination of the books and accounts of the union, together with an investigation into the irregularities alleged to have been committed by the auditor, both of which will forthwith be made. Until the officer is found to have acted irregularly the Local Government Board cannot interfere with him in the performance of his duties.

MR. FLAVIN: How came it that this auditor was sent down to re-examine the accounts while certain charges were pending against him?

[No answer was returned.]

Irish Constabulary Vote.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he will consider the propriety of taking the Constabulary Vote before the Committee stage of the Irish Land Bill, and on a day most convenient to Members representing Irish

constituencies, in order to afford opportunity for explanation and discussion upon the policy of the contemplated reduction of the Royal Irish Constabulary, and the methods by which it is to be effected.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I have not been able to consult my right hon. friend the Chief Secretary on this point, but I should think it would be possible, by arrangement between the two sides of the House, to bring this Vote on at an early day should it be so desired. But I do not think the Committee stage of so important a Bill ought to be delayed in order to find time to discuss the Estimates.

Minister of Agriculture.

MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he is in a position to announce the appointment of a Minister of Agriculture.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am not, Sir.

Parliamentary Procedure—Hour of Meeting.

MR. JOHN ELLIS: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of the acceleration of business arising from various causes, which has become evident since the alteration of the Standing Order fixing the meeting of the House at two o'clock, he will consider whether the House might not with advantage meet at half-past two.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: In answer to the hon. Gentleman I have to say that the question he has raised is one which, I know, interests largely hon. Gentlemen on both sides of the House. Everybody would like, and nobody more than His Majesty's Ministers, to have a rather longer interval between the morning's work and the afternoon sitting of the House. I find that it has been proved by experience that Questions on ordinary days take far less time than we had at one time reason to fear they would, and that a large margin of the time now allotted to Questions within the afternoon sitting is devoted to general business. There are, I think, three observations to be made.

In the first place, the House might probably like to see the operation of this new Standing Order for a whole session before it considers a change. My second observation is that I do not think I could suggest a change unless I was practically assured that it would be unanimously accepted without long discussion; and, thirdly, I do not think any change ought to be adopted which would materially curtail the amount of time we have now every afternoon for the discussion of public business. I am by no means sure that I should find anything like unanimity on the proposal that we should begin Questions twenty minutes later, and yet take public business, as under the Standing Order, at five minutes to three. In other words, I have no ground to believe there would be anything like unanimity on the proposal that we should take Questions at half-past two and conclude them as at present; because a certain number of gentlemen would feel that, although half an hour was ample, and more than ample, for Questions on almost every day, the case might arise when it was found that it was not. The matter is not as simple as it appears, and I cannot give any pledge at present.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): The matter is one of great interest, and I would suggest that an opportunity should be given to the House to express an opinion on the subject. From what has reached me I believe that if there is not unanimity there would be such a body of opinion in favour of the change as would justify the right hon. Gentleman in acceding to something like my hon. friend's proposal.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): May I be allowed to say that the Irish Members on my side of the House would be in favour of a later meeting, but only on condition that the time available for Questions when required is not diminished. We believe that such a change as is suggested would not really deprive the right hon. Gentleman of much time which is at present devoted to public business, but we cannot as a Party consent to any diminution of the period at present reserved for Questions.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I should like to point out that the alteration suggested would involve the amendment of many Standing Orders.

MR. ELLIS: Only three.

*MR. SPEAKER said there was no question before the House and no general debate could be allowed.

THE TWELVE O'CLOCK RULE.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: In consequence of the information which has reached me I think I am justified in saying that there is no chance of the discussion on the Budget Resolutions, limited as it must be for reasons already stated, going over twelve o'clock; and under those circumstances I do not propose to move the Motion for the suspension of the Twelve o'clock Rule which stands in my name.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

MR. HALSEY reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Members from the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure: Mr. Walter Long (added in respect of the Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill), and Sir Charles Dilke; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. Guest (in respect of the Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill), and Mr. Charles Seely.

MR. HALSEY further reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had added to the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, the following fifteen Members in respect of the Prevention of Corruption Bill [Lords]: Mr. Attorney-General, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Channing, Mr. Cohen, Sir Frederick Dixon-Hartland, Sir William Dunn, Mr. Edmund Faber, Sir John Gorst, Sir William Holland, Mr. Kearley, Mr. Lough, Sir Albert Rolit, Sir Walter Thornburn, Mr. Lawson Walton, and Mr. Whittaker.

MR. HALSEY reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had added to the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure,

the following fifteen Members in respect of the Burgh Police (Scotland) Bill: Sir William Arrol, Mr. Asher, Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Caldwell, Colonel Denny, Mr. Charles Douglas, Mr. James M'Killop, Mr. John Morley, Mr. Nicol, Mr. Pirie, Sir Charles Renshaw, Sir John Stirling-Maxwell, Mr. Solicitor-General for Scotland, Mr. Cathcart Wason, and Mr. Wylie.

Reports to lie upon the Table.

WAYS AND MEANS.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

CONTINUANCE OF ADDITIONAL CUSTOMS DUTIES ON TOBACCO, BEER, AND SPIRITS.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet) complained that the Resolution was not on the Paper, and condemned the singular want of proper arrangements for debating finance, the main business of the House of Commons. They had recently been informed that no general discussion could take place at that stage on the Budget scheme. Two or three years ago he made a suggestion, which was understood at the time to be accepted by the Government, that the first Resolution should be passed *pro forma* on the night of the introduction of the Budget and that the general debate should take place on a subsequent Resolution. The Prime Minister appeared at the time to approve the suggestion, and although some difference of opinion had since arisen he would mention that the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouthshire, for one, held that a promise had been given that this course should be adopted in the future. The promise, however, had not been fulfilled, and considerable inconvenience was the result on the present occasion. He trusted that another year the arrangement he had indicated would be established; that the Resolution required to complete the proceedings on the first night should be treated as a formality, and that a general debate on the principle of the

Budget should be allowed on a later Resolution. It was hardly treating the House with that consideration which ought to be displayed towards the representatives of the people to call on it to consider these Resolutions without a preliminary discussion on the Budget scheme as a whole. The main function of the House of Commons was to deal with the finances of the country, and that work ought not to be scamped; they ought to have ample scope for discussion all round. There was, he believed, a Resolution to come on later which would afford an opportunity of discussing the general finance of the Budget, but it would be inconvenient to take the debate on that, as he did not wish to anticipate the representations which were to be made to the Prime Minister with regard to one of the sensational features of what he could not help calling an unfortunate Budget.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon) said he was not sufficiently familiar with the circumstances which had been alluded to by his right hon. friend to be able to say whether there was an undertaking or *quasi* promise as to the arrangements for debating the Budget. He understood that the general debate was usually taken on the first Resolution, and if it was the general opinion that the discussion could be concluded on the first night it could not be carried over by agreement. No such general feeling had been expressed on the first night, when the first Resolution was disposed of. The discussion of the other Resolutions must be germane to their subject matter, and therefore he was afraid that the discussion desired by his right hon. friend could not proceed at that stage, but he would remind the House that an opportunity for general debate would be again afforded on the Second Reading of the Finance Bill.

MR. JOSEPH WALTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley): Will ample time be given for it?

MR. RITCHIE: I do not suppose that any Government would desire to curtail any opportunity, which hon. Gentlemen desire, to discuss such an important question as their financial proposals. As

the hon. Member knows the proposals before the Committee are provisional, and when the House adopts them it does not in any way prejudice the course it may choose to take when the Finance Bill comes on.

SIR JOHN GORST (Cambridge University) wished to associate himself with what had fallen from the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Thanet in objecting to the method of discussing financial questions which seemed to have grown up during the last two or three years. Formerly, when the Chancellor of the Exchequer introduced his Budget, no financier of any reputation thought of discussing it on the night of its introduction. Only formal remarks were made or questions asked on that night, the general discussion being reserved for Committee of Ways and Means. Now the Chancellor of the Exchequer said that general discussion could only be taken on the Second Reading of the Bill, and as debate on the Second Reading was restricted and entirely different from the free and useful manner in which discussions were conducted in Committee of Ways and Means, he objected to the House being deprived of an ancient privilege. The effect of discussion in Committee of Ways and Means was that the Government sometimes modified its proposals before the Budget Bill was introduced. He did not suppose that there was any prospect of a modification of the present scheme of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but he must protest against the House being deprived of the opportunity it formerly enjoyed of discussing in an informal manner in Committee of Ways and Means the financial proposals of the Government.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.) said he too wished to associate himself with the protests of the two right hon. Gentlemen who had spoken against this departure from the invariable rule of the House in the case of the Budget. In his opinion it was due to the mistake that had been made of allowing the first Resolution to be taken the night of the introduction of the Budget. Mr. Gladstone was always hostile to any general discussion of the Budget on the night of its introduction; he always

reserved his opinion for the subsequent stage in Ways and Means. The first Resolution was, as a matter of form, allowed to be carried the first night, when new taxation was imposed, in order to protect the revenue; but in this instance the Chancellor of the Exchequer was in the position of not having to impose new taxation, and therefore it was not necessary to carry the first Resolution on the first night. The right hon. Gentleman, however, proposed the renewal of the Tea Duty. There was a very thin House and not a very full debate, and he was sorry a division was taken. He trusted that the present practice would not be quoted as a precedent, and that in future the House would, apart from the debate on the first night, have the fullest opportunity of discussing in Committee of Ways and Means the Budget proposals as a whole. In future they ought not to pass any Resolution on the first night excepting those imposing new taxation, which might be required for the protection of the revenue.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) insisted on the great importance of the House retaining its right to discuss the Budget as a whole in Committee of Ways and Means, as such discussions were usually very fruitful of suggestions. The most important feature of this year's Budget was the remission of the Corn Tax. As that was not embodied in a Resolution it could not now be discussed in Ways and Means, but must be reserved for the Second Reading, when it would be mixed up with other questions in a single speech debate. That, he submitted, was a most unsatisfactory state of things.

MR. BLAKE (Longford, S.) thought this was really an important question with reference to the efficient conduct of the business of the House. It was of the utmost consequence that they should have a general debate on the Budget under circumstances which permitted freedom and frequency of speech. It was deplorable that the Government should have taken advantage of the willingness of the House to give them their first Resolution on Budget night in order to deprive it of his constitutional right to discuss the Budget as a whole, in Committee of Ways and Means. The Government were not alone to blame for this. The Opposition Leaders

had cast upon them an equal duty to protect the rights of the House, and they too had failed in their duty.

MR. RITCHIE said it was far from his intention, or the intention of the Government, to take any advantage of the House. He acted on Budget night according, as he thought, to precedent. He did not desire to shirk the general discussion of the Budget; on the contrary, he should have been glad if that discussion could take place in Committee of Ways and Means. But he acknowledged that there was a good deal in the argument, and if he should have again to bring in a Budget he should take care that the House was not put into the position in which, to his regret, it now found itself.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs) said it was clear that the House, for one reason or another, had been deprived of the opportunity of discussing the Budget generally in Committee of Ways and Means, and he understood the right hon. Gentleman to agree that it was not desirable there should be any restriction on the facilities given to the House for such a debate. They might, therefore, hope that on the many other occasions on which the right hon. Gentleman might have to impose or abolish taxes, he would see that the House did not lose its opportunity as had been the case this year. He desired particularly to refer to the absurd system of inviting the House to agree to Resolutions which they had never seen. He had protested against it again and again, and had never been able to understand what the *raison d'être* of that extraordinary practice was. There was no blame attaching to the right hon. Gentleman, because it had been the universal practice.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Only recently.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said he could not go back to the prehistoric times to which the experience of the hon. Member extended. He remembered only about thirty-five years. His remarks applied to all Resolutions upon which Bills were to be founded. Long and elaborate Resolutions were

read hurriedly from the Chair, to which the House was invited to say "Aye" or "No." One could perfectly understand the necessity of withholding from publication a Resolution for a new tax, which it was necessary to keep dark until the Budget had been announced. There could be no possible objection to that; but as to the other matters, as the right hon. Gentleman seemed to be in a reasonable and improving turn of mind, he hoped he would let the Committee know why such proceedings could not be altered, so that the House of Commons should not be invited to agree to a Resolution of which it was entirely ignorant until it was read from the Table. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had met the Committee very well with regard to Budgets of the future. It might be said that it was an easy thing to give away the Budget arrangements of the future in order to facilitate the Budget arrangements for the present year. But whether easy or not it was a gracious and kindly thing, and for his part he was indebted to the right hon. Gentleman.

MR. JOSEPH WALTON reminded the Chancellor of the Exchequer that last year the necessary Resolutions were taken on the Budget night, on the distinct understanding that the general discussion should be allowed when the Income Tax Resolution was proposed, and he asked whether there was anything to prevent a similar course being adopted on the present occasion.

MR. RITCHIE said that that was really not in his hands at all.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER said the right hon. Gentleman had met the Committee in a very reasonable spirit, and as far as he was concerned he would take no further steps in the matter.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) said that the Chairman, as well as the Speaker, had often permitted discussions when the Chancellor of the Exchequer, or the Leader of the House had said that a certain course might be for the general convenience. The point raised by the hon. Member for Barnsley was well worthy of consideration, and he hoped

it was not too late to adopt the course he had suggested.

*THE CHAIRMAN: No general discussion is permissible on this Resolution. The ordinary rule of the House is that the discussion must be relevant to the Motion before it. There are certain exceptions to that rule. One exception is in the case of the first Budget Resolution, the second is the first Vote for Army Services, and the third the first Vote for Navy Services. With those three exceptions all debate must be relevant to the subject-matter proposed from the Chair. It has happened in the past, when the general discussion has not been concluded on the first night, that, by a general arrangement—the consent of the Chair not being withheld—the discussion has been postponed, and taken on the second, third, or any other of the Resolutions. Of course that is by general arrangement made during the discussion of the first Resolution. Unless that general arrangement is made while the discussion of the first Resolution is going on, a general discussion cannot take place on any of the subsequent Resolutions.

MR. LOUGH said he did not suggest that the general discussion should be taken on the present Resolution, but some further facilities might be granted on one of the future Resolutions. He did not question the ruling of the Chair, but the Committee were always placed in this difficulty on the first night because it was necessary that one Resolution should be obtained.

*THE CHAIRMAN: It has been the custom to take one Resolution or more whenever a new tax was imposed. But where no new tax is imposed it is not necessary to take a Resolution. In this case the difficulty has arisen from the fact that on the first night a Resolution was taken which, strictly speaking, was not necessary, because the duty on tea would have been levied whether the Resolution was taken or not.

MR. LOUGH said that was a most important ruling, because it was suggested on the occasion in question that it was not necessary to persevere with the Resolution. In the course of the discussion

it had been suggested that on the Budget night no serious discussion could take place, and that all they could do was to ask a few meaningless questions. He desired to protest against such a proposition. On the occasion of the last four Budgets the proposals of the Chancellor of the Exchequer had been modified in certain important respects on the first night. He desired certain information with regard to the Resolutions now under discussion. Was it true that the increase of revenue derived during the last two or three years from tobacco, spirits, and beer had not been proportionate to the increase of the duty? Another point was why this duty was brought up annually instead of being fixed like the Sugar or Corn Duties. Had the Government some scheme up their sleeve with regard to the disposal of this revenue?

MR. RITCHIE said he had no scheme in his mind for dealing with these duties, as the hon. Member seemed to suppose. They had been annually proposed on each occasion since their imposition, and if he had introduced a Finance Bill to make them permanent he would doubtless have met with much more difficulty than he was likely to meet with by adhering to the usual practice in this respect. As to how the revenue had been going on, he explained in his Budget speech that during last year, in consequence of the cold summer, not so much beer was drunk, and in consequence of the warm winter not so much spirits was drunk, and therefore the revenue, so far as those two articles were concerned, was not as satisfactory as could have been expected. With regard to tobacco the revenue was on the whole satisfactory.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer to give the actual figures for wines, spirits, beer, and tobacco, in accordance with the usual custom. He had been expecting the revised speech of the right hon. Gentleman, and his statement at the end showing what the taxes had produced as contrasted with previous years. His hon. friend had asked why these Resolutions were proposed annually? The reason was in order that the House of Commons might retain its control over the taxation. They were not now dealing with general

taxation upon spirits, beer, and tobacco, but only with the increase which was put on for the war. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had circulated a Return in which tobacco ranked amongst the articles subject to war taxation, and the amount of that taxation was put down as one of the burdens imposed upon the consumers of commodities with reference to the war. He contended that tobacco had paid no war duty at all. As a matter of fact tobacco was paying less than before the war, and when additional taxation was imposed upon tea and other articles, tobacco was practically exempted. Down to the year 1900, for more than fifty years, there had been no variation in the tax on tobacco except an increase of 4d. made in connection with the war in Europe and the East at the close of Sir Stafford Northcote's Chancellorship of the Exchequer, and which was subsequently remitted by Mr. Goschen. The fixed rate of taxation for tobacco for fifty years had been 3s. 6d. In 1898 the tax was reduced by 6d., and he thought there was no money more unfortunately spent than in that reduction, for the money was simply transferred to the trade and the consumers had no beneficial result from it. Instead of the 6d. being restored the late Chancellor of the Exchequer put on 4d., and therefore the war taxation on tobacco was 2d. less than it was the year before the war commenced. He wanted some information upon that point. The amount received from tobacco in 1898 was £11,433,000; in 1899, when the reduction took place, it went down to £10,993,000; and in 1900 it was £10,880,000. There was an enormous over-payment in the following year in anticipation of additional taxation, because it was expected that this 6d. would be restored. The amount actually paid in the year ending March 31st, 1901, was £12,838,000, and in 1902, with the additional 4d. restored, it was only £10,567,000. Therefore, to say that any taxation was being paid on account of the war was a misuse of language. He wanted the Chancellor of the Exchequer to tell the House what was the amount raised on tobacco in 1903, and then they would know where they were, for they could contrast the amount

Mr. Lough.

of the revenue now being received from tobacco with the revenue of previous years. He thought the result would show that there had been no war taxation paid in respect of tobacco at all.

MR. RITCHIE thought the right hon. Gentleman would agree that it was a mistake to put additional taxation upon an article of consumption, if the effect was to decrease the consumption so as not to bring in sufficient revenue to justify it. The figures given by the right hon. Gentleman appeared to suggest that when the additional taxation was last put on it led to a considerable falling off in the revenue. He did not say that that was due to the taxation, but that the amount received after that taxation was put on, was less than the amount received before.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER: If you put the two years together you get no change at all.

MR. RITCHIE said that at least it was suggested that there was no increase of revenue taking the two years together. He thought the Committee would see that, if so, there was clear evidence that the limit of taxation had been reached, and that it would have been a mistake to have attempted to put on any more additional taxation. If what the right hon. Gentleman had suggested were correct, it would follow that in consequence of the income not being greater than it was before, tobacco had not paid its proper share of war taxation. He really did not know how they could have endeavoured to make tobacco pay a larger sum, except by increasing the rate of taxation, and if the effect of increasing the rate reduced the consumption so as not to bring in any more than it did before, it followed however much they piled on the duty they would not get any more money.

SIR HENRY FOWLER: I have not got the figures for 1903, which is the key to the whole position.

MR. RITCHIE: If the right hon. Gentleman will put a Question on the Paper I will give him the exact details.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee) asked if the Chancellor of the Exchequer really meant that addition to the tax on tobacco resulted in a reduction of revenue.

MR. RITCHIE: On assumption drawn by the right hon. Gentleman from the figures given by him, it would seem that we did not get much more out of the increased taxation on tobacco than we got before it was put on.

SIR JOHN GORST said that for many years previous to 1900 it was the general opinion of the revenue authorities that the tax on tobacco had reached its maximum, and that if they increased it they would so diminish the consumption that they would not get any more money from it. It was contended that the reduction in the consumption would be so great that it would not increase the revenue. The experience of the Customs and Inland Revenue authorities was that tobacco was an article of luxury which the mass of the population gave up in bad times. After that they cut down their expenditure upon alcohol, and the last thing they reduced their expenditure upon was tea and sugar. The experience given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer appeared to show that the view of the Revenue authorities was correct, and that tobacco had reached its maximum.

MR. RITCHIE: I did not say that.

SIR JOHN GORST said in 1902 the revenue was the smallest since 1898. He thought it was quite possible under these circumstances that the Chancellor of the Exchequer might obtain an increased revenue by reducing taxation on tobacco. In that way the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be gratified, and the consumer as well. They ought to put upon tobacco the precise amount of taxation which would raise the maximum of revenue.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) said it was very unfortunate that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had not got the figures for this year. It was quite clear that nothing at all had been produced by the

addition of 4d. on the Tobacco Duty. The right hon. Gentleman said that the two years should be taken together. These two years produced £23,300—an average of £11,650. The produce of the tax before the 4d. was put on was not £11,650. In 1900 it was £10,800, and in 1899 it was £11,000, so that it was quite clear that the right hon. Gentleman was mistaken in thinking that this tax produced nothing at all. On the contrary, it was very productive. It was generally admitted at the time the reduction was made that the consumer had not benefited. It was the producer and the middleman in the trade who got the benefit. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would not leave the Committee under the impression that the addition to the tax did not produce anything. Some of them thought it would have been better to increase the tobacco duty further instead of raising the money required by taxation on corn and sugar.

MR. RITCHIE said it was a matter of interest to know what the amount of revenue raised by the duty on tobacco was. His observations on the subject were based on what had been stated by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Wolverhampton. There was no doubt that the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Poplar had fairly stated the case. There had been an increase. The revenue from the tobacco duty in 1901 was £12,838,000; in 1902, £10,567,000, and in 1903, £12,443,000. The estimate for 1904 was £12,500,000.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) said this was a very important matter. What they were now discussing was really whether these additional taxes they were now asked to vote were justified by the return from them. That turned on the question whether they had brought about an increase or a decrease of the revenue. He agreed with the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Wolverhampton that there had been a decrease as the result of the additional duty. In 1901 the yield was £12,838,000, and in the next year, when the duty was in fuller operation, it was £10,567,000. Although it was true that

in 1903 it was £12,443,000, it was less than in 1900–01. As for the estimate for the year on which they had entered, his opinion was that all the estimates were a bit too high. It seemed to him, from the figures, that the return, in spite of the extra duty imposed, showed a decrease. The doctrine which the right hon. Gentleman had preached was one that had stood the test of experience, and it was also the doctrine of Adam Smith and other economists. There was a point beyond which, if duties were raised, they got a smaller and not a larger amount of revenue. It encouraged smuggling and diminished consumption, and it was a very grave question for the Committee whether these extra duties ought not to be abolished in the interest of the revenue. The Chancellor of the Exchequer by his own figures had made out a strong case for taking that course. He should view with regret the abolition of any of the annual duties. This was one of the occasions on which they could call attention to the burdens which were imposed annually. Those taxes which were imposed permanently by Act of Parliament entirely escaped the notice of the House of Commons. They remained, whatever the people or their representatives might say. The other and the more constitutional method of imposing additional taxation was the annual method, but it was the permanent method that had always received the patronage of the Treasury Bench. The proportion of our revenue raised by permanent imposts on the people, and which was incapable of being changed except by Act of Parliament, was two-thirds, and only one-third was raised by the constitutional method of voting taxes for one year. The effect this year, in consequence of the remission of the Corn Tax and the large amount taken off the Income Tax, which was an annual tax, would be that the proportion of annual taxes would be very much reduced, and instead of there being only one-third there would be considerably less, and the result was *pro tanto* to diminish the power and influence of the House of Commons. If it were true that the effect of the additional duty on tobacco was not to increase but to diminish the revenue, it certainly

Mr. Sydney Buxton.

would be better to withdraw that portion of the duty. The consumer would like it better, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer would get more out of it. He did not think the Committee should pass the Resolution without being satisfied as to what was the true view on that point. What he had said was true also of beer and spirits. He suggested that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, having given the Committee somewhat tardily the figures in regard to tobacco, should now proceed to give the figures in regard to beer and spirits, so that they might know whether the additional taxes had resulted in an increase or decrease of the revenue.

*MR. GROVES (Salford, S.) said that large quantities of tobacco had been withdrawn from bond in the earlier year referred to in anticipation of the duty being increased. When the increase had been put on, the dealer reversed his policy and took the smallest quantity he could out of bond and held the smallest stock possible in anticipation of a reduction of duty the following year. He thought that was the real solution of the question. The same reasoning applied to spirits. In that case there was a rush in the earlier year to take increased quantities of spirits out of bond. They had now arrived at a time when spirits and beer could no longer be subjected to an increase of duty. The figures showed that they had been taxed up to, and beyond the amount they ought to bear. The late Chancellor of the Exchequer made certain pledges in the House in regard to those articles, and he thought the present Chancellor ought to be reminded of them plainly and clearly, at a time when he had a large surplus and when he was giving a greater reduction of the Income Tax than anyone in the House or out of it anticipated. They looked for an early redemption of the pledges referred to.

MR. LOUGH said the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Wolverhampton had reminded the Committee of the reduction of the Tobacco Duty in 1898, but he did not mention a most important fact in con-

nection with that, namely, that the quantity of moisture allowed in tobacco was reduced at the same time. It was said that the yield of the duty would be reduced one-seventh, but it only fell from 11·4 millions to 10·8 millions, so that really the reduction which took place was very slight indeed. The 3s. duty, with the small proportion of moisture, was almost as productive as the 3s. 6d. duty had been. He thought the hon. Member for Lynn Regis had fallen into a mistake in supposing that the 3s. 4d. duty had not realised more revenue. As a matter of fact the revenue had gone up £1,000,000. He was sorry to fall foul of his right hon. friend the Member for Cambridge University for stating that tobacco was a luxury which could be sacrificed. The right hon. Gentleman had stated the view which was largely held in England. But in a country like Ireland, where a great many people consumed no butcher's meat from one year's end to the other, tobacco occupied a different position in the dietary of the people. It was held by many to be a necessity, or, at any rate, it was held to be one of the articles of consumption on which the people could starve better than on any other. In the West of Ireland, when the people, and especially old women, had no dinner at all, they preferred half-a-pipe of tobacco to what would appear to them a luxurious meal. When the Chancellor of the Exchequer reduced the duty in 1898 it was done as a concession to Ireland, and but for the alteration made at the same time in regard to the moisture it would have been a substantial concession. But the English were quite different. They could never tax these two peoples alike with fairness in regard to certain articles. Tobacco was the standard article which illustrated that principle. Until the two Exchequers were amalgamated the duty levied on tobacco in Ireland was never heavier than 1s. per lb. But it was quite different in England, where almost since the year 1800 the Tobacco Duty ranged from 3s. up to 4s. per lb., and yet that high duty had been borne by the people in this country without the slightest murmur and without any sense of oppression in it. That was a point the Chancellor of the Exchequer ought to bear in mind in a debate of this kind. He hoped the Chancellor of the Exchequer would

send for the other figures, as the right hon. Gentleman had got the tobacco figures readily enough. They did not pay sufficient attention to the exactions they took out of the people on whatever pretext. They ought to look carefully at them, because every million they took from the people, in taxation tended to poverty. Therefore, they ought to hear what these new and heavier taxes had produced, and whether they had produced revenue in proportion to their increased rate.

*MR. DAVID MACIVER (Liverpool, Kirkdale) said he altogether dissented from the proposition that the right way of dealing with the Tobacco Tax was to put it at the highest figure possible. He agreed very much with the last speaker in regard to Ireland, and the use of tobacco by the poorer classes of that country, but he thought the hon. Gentleman underrated the extent to which tobacco was used almost as a necessity by working people in this country. He maintained that the great bulk of the Tobacco Tax was borne by the working people, and that it was in fact a tax upon the poorer classes, who ought not to be taxed in that way. Perhaps the Committee, as a whole, did not appreciate how enormous that Tobacco Tax really was. Liverpool was the principal port for dealing with tobacco in this country, and the port where it was bonded and whence it was distributed. There was in Liverpool at that moment tobacco of the actual value, without the duty, of about £5,000,000. The duty on that tobacco, if it was paid now upon the basis of the Resolution before the Committee, would come to about £16,000,000. That was to say the duty on the tobacco in Liverpool now was rather more than three times the actual value of the article. That was a very tremendous tax upon what was, whether treated as a luxury or a necessity, very essential to large numbers of our working classes. It was somewhat inconvenient that those Resolutions should be before the House by word of mouth. If he had the Resolution in printed form he would be very much inclined to put down an Amendment, but any one moving a Resolution which did not appear on the Paper had not got the same chance of that Amendment receiving fair consideration as if

Members knew beforehand what was likely to be brought forward.

MR. RITCHIE: You can move an Amendment, if you care to, on the Finance Bill.

*MR. DAVID MACIVER said that would deal with other subjects, but he was now talking of the particular Resolution before the Committee. He would wish, further, to point out that tobacco was, to an increasing extent, the production of our own colonies, and it seemed to him that it was highly undesirable that those colonies should have the tobacco they grew taxed to anything like the amount of three times its value. He wished to reiterate his entire dissent from the proposition that the proper way of dealing with that tax was to put it up to the highest possible amount, and to express the belief that they ought rather to consider the well-being of the masses of the people and not unreasonably to tax their luxuries.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) said that when the Tobacco Duty was increased during the war objection was raised to it on behalf of the Irish people by the Irish Members, and in the course of the debate it came out that some experiments were being made under the auspices of the new Agriculture Department in Ireland in tobacco growing. The late Chancellor of the Exchequer made the interesting statement that, if these experiments were a success, he could hold out the hope, or assurance he thought it was, that no difficulty would be placed by the Government in the way of tobacco growing in Ireland. At present it was illegal to grow tobacco in Ireland, and what he wanted to ask the present Chancellor of the Exchequer was whether he shared the view of his predecessor on that matter and would repeat his assurance that all legal difficulty in the way of tobacco growing in Ireland would be removed. He understood that the experiments had been a success. He had had some samples of Irish-grown tobacco sent him by a gentleman in County Meath interested in the subject, and had placed them on exhibition in the smoking room. He believed the tobacco was

Mr. Lough,

greatly admired, and that some hon. Members even went the length of trying to smoke it—but he did not know with what result. At any rate, there was sufficient evidence to show that there was something in this tobacco growing in Ireland. He was entirely in agreement with what had been said by the hon. Member for Islington in regard to the pressure of the increased duty on tobacco on the Irish people. There was no doubt it could be very easily shown that the increased duty was felt in Ireland in greater proportion than in this country, and that for many reasons. He remembered pointing out, when the increase of duty was first proposed, that the increase on the ordinary tobacco was altogether out of proportion to the increase on expensive cigars. The increase on the common tobacco used by the masses of the people was very serious, whereas the increase on expensive cigars was a very small matter to those who smoked them. He asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he could not make any alteration this year, whether he would not consider before next year that it would be a just, fair, and paying thing to put a greater tax than existed at present upon expensive foreign manufactured tobacco, and to some extent ease the expense of the common tobacco used by the workingclasses. He believed that more shilling cigars were sold in the House than any other kind, and he thought that people who consume a shilling or one and sixpence worth of tobacco in five or six minutes ought to be compelled to pay a great deal more in proportion than the working classes. He noticed that the hon. Member for Tyrone was laughing. He did not know whether the hon. Gentleman smoked, although he knew that he did not do anything else that was bad. What he said, however, was perfectly true; and a working man whom they might meet going home from his work smoking his clay pipe, paid a great deal more on account of this increased taxation than the hon. Gentleman who went into the smoking room and smoked the most expensive cigars. The Chancellor of the Exchequer might think that this was not a very serious matter, but, as a matter of fact, it was; and he asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he could not hold out some hope of increasing the duty on foreign cigars and tobacco

manufactured abroad, and give relief to the ordinary tobacco manufactured in this country, and used by the masses of the people.

*SIR W. CUTHBERT QUILTER (Suffolk, Sudbury) said he wished the Chancellor of the Exchequer to give his opinion whether the high rate of duty on beer and spirits had to any extent deteriorated the quality of these articles. He had heard it stated that every rise in the duty on spirits had a serious effect on the linings of the stomachs of His Majesty's lieges. That might or might not be so, but, anyhow, some years ago the Government appointed a Committee on poisons, which, for some unaccountable reason, had not yet made its final report, although the public were awaiting it with great interest. Pending its presentation, the Government might be prepared to take some action on this most important matter. He understood that the last rise in the Beer Duty had not been productive of very much extra revenue to His Majesty's Treasury, while he feared that it had been accompanied by a deterioration in the class of materials employed in the manufacture of the national beverage. He hoped that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he had any information on the subject, would give it to the Committee.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick) said he wished to point out that the high duty on tobacco was very oppressive, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would take into consideration the representations which had been submitted to him by Messrs. Goodbody and other manufacturers. As the right hon. Gentleman was aware, there was a certain amount of rivalry between English and Irish tobaccos and American tobaccos, and steps ought to be taken to preserve the home industry as far as possible.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield) said he desired to press on the Chancellor of the Exchequer, not for this year but for some future year, the suggestion of the hon. Member for East Clare—viz., that the more expensive kinds of tobacco ought to pay a proportionate duty in order that the duty might not be paid mainly, as, it

was at present, by the working classes. He hoped that the duty would in future years be made *ad valorem*. Tobacco was now almost a necessity, and he hoped something would be done to make it fall equally on all classes.

*MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington) asked if the right hon. Gentleman could state what was the amount of revenue received from the tax on tobacco and also on cigars.

MR. RITCHIE said he could not answer that. The hon. Gentleman opposite asked whether he was prepared to endorse what his right hon. friend, the late Chancellor of the Exchequer had said with regard to growing tobacco in Ireland. He should like to see what his right hon. friend had said before he said whether he would endorse it or not. On general principles, however, he thought the whole House would be glad if another industry arose in Ireland which would be profitable to the country and to the growers. He could assure the hon. Gentleman that he would regard it with the greatest favour, and render every assistance in his power to the development of any such industry. The hon. Gentleman said that hon. Members had consumed some of this tobacco in the smoking-room, but he did not say what the result was. He hoped it was satisfactory.

MR. FIELD : They are alive still.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND : They were all returned at the last General Election.

MR. RITCHIE said he would have to know the political views of the hon. Gentlemen before he could accept that as a good argument for doing what the hon. Gentleman desired. The matter was, however, one of very great importance to Ireland, and he could readily understand the hon. Gentleman pressing the same view now as he pressed on his right hon. friend. As far as he was concerned, he would have the greatest pleasure in assisting to develop the industry and in giving it every possible encouragement.

Mr. Courtenay Warner.

With regard to moisture, he had received two deputations on the subject, each representing tobacco dealers. The result was very satisfactory ; because while one deputation urged that less moisture ought to be allowed, the other referred to the great advantage of more moisture. Putting the two views together, he came to the conclusion that the House had in all probability struck the happy mean, and that, he thought, was a sufficient reason why he did not attempt to deal with a thorny subject which was a matter of contention between one class of manufacturers and another. His hon. friend had stated that his right hon. friend had given some pledge in connection with the duty on tobacco manufactured in this country and the duty on imported cigars. No doubt there was a great deal of difference between the duties, and he believed it had formed the subject of considerable consideration ; but no means had been found by which an *ad valorem* duty could be imposed without great disadvantage. No doubt the working classes enjoyed a pipe of tobacco, and he would be very glad if they could have it at the cheapest possible rate, but taxation must be raised somehow. Taxation was never popular, and if the working classes did pay a little more for their tobacco because of the great additional cost which had fallen on the country in connection with the war, and the large expenditure the country had to make for its defensive forces, for education, and other matters, he did not believe that they grudged it. If the additional amount of taxation on tobacco was compared with the wages earned by the working classes it would be found to be really very small. His hon. friend spoke of the pledge given by his predecessor with regard to the additional taxation on beers and spirits ; and he said justly, that his right hon. friend did hold out hopes that this additional taxation would be more or less of a temporary character, and that he would be glad when the opportunity arose to deal with it. That was perfectly true. His right hon. friend did use an expression of that kind, but he was sure his hon. friend would agree that when his right hon. friend was speaking about

these duties he was also speaking about the increased duties on commodities in general, and not specially about beer and tobacco, although undoubtedly he did mention them along with the other taxes imposed for the war. But his hon. friend would hardly expect on the first occasion on which taxation was taken off that he should deal with the commodities mentioned. He could not admit that the additional taxation had fallen wholly on the dealers in beer and spirits. No doubt some portion of the taxation might have fallen on the dealers, but he imagined that the great bulk of it had fallen on the consumers in one form or another, either by an increase in price or, if not that, by slightly reducing the strength of the commodities. His hon. friend might deprecate that reduction, but he himself did not think that the consumer was very much worse off. He thought he had now answered all the questions that had been put.

MR. LOUGH asked about the question in reference to the tax on beer.

MR. RITCHIE said he would be glad to answer that if a Question were put on the Paper.

MR. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton) asked if the right hon. Gentleman could exercise any differentiation in regard to the duty on cigarettes. Too many cigarettes were being smoked. He had seen at every turn in London small boys of eight or ten years old smoking cigarettes; and even in Devonshire boys were following that pernicious example. If the right hon. Gentleman could, by some means or other, differentiate the duty and put a higher rate on cigarettes it would be very desirable. They had heard that the stamina of the British race was decreasing very rapidly. He did not take that very seriously; still, cigarette-smoking did not do boys any good, and if the right hon. Gentleman could stop the habit it would be much to the good of the country.

1. Resolved, That the Additional Customs Duties on tobacco, beer, and spirits imposed by sections two, three, four, and five of the Finance Act, 1900 (including any increased Duties imposed by section five of that Act), shall continue

to be charged until the first day of August, nineteen hundred and four.—(Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.)

CONTINUANCE OF ADDITIONAL EXCISE DUTY ON BEER AND SPIRITS.

2. Resolved, That the additional Excise Duties on beer and spirits imposed by sections six and seven of the Finance Act, 1900, shall continue to be charged until the First day of August, nineteen hundred and four.—(Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.)

INCOME TAX.

3. Resolved, That Income Tax shall be charged for the year beginning the sixth day of April, nineteen hundred and three, at the rate of eleven pence.—(Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.)

AMOUNT OF PERMANENT ANNUAL CHARGE.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said this was one of the most important Resolutions the Committee had to consider, and he could not allow it to pass without some further information than that which had been accorded by the Budget speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. In that speech the right hon. Gentleman stated that he proposed to increase the fixed charge for the debt from £23,000,000 to £27,000,000, and the charge being increased had necessitated this Resolution. The right hon. Gentleman had by that speech left the House under the impression that by increasing the fixed charge to £27,000,000 he was, in reality, increasing the new Sinking Fund, which was the balance left after all the charges on the fixed charge had been paid. It was true that the permanent charge was increased, but the Sinking Fund was not increased. There were two Sinking Funds, the old Sinking Fund, which was the balance of realised revenues over expenditure, which went automatically to the reduction of the National Debt, and the new Sinking Fund, which was a fixed charge for the reduction of debt. Out of that fixed charge was paid the interest of the Funded Debt and the Unfunded Debt, the charge on terminable annuities, and the charge for the management of the Debt itself. When those charges had been provided for, what remained formed the new Sinking Fund. As the debt had been largely increased,

the fixed charge had been increased by £4,500,000, and in order to have the Sinking Fund as it was, and no better, it was necessary to increase the old Sinking Fund by £4,500,000, but it had only been increased by £4,000,000. This was a most serious matter. There was an unlimited loan to be raised for Irish landlords, and there was a Transvaal loan, and a further loan of £30,000,000 for the Transvaal, for which this country would be morally responsible inasmuch as it was a liability of a Crown Colony. Besides this the liability in the way of debt placed upon this country was becoming appalling. The increase had been stupendous within the last six months, and he submitted it would be a most imprudent thing to allow the new Sinking Fund to be diminished by an insufficient addition being made to the fixed charge for the Debt. He did not wish to labour these points but they were most important. Debt was far worse than taxes, and when they considered the claim between the Sinking Fund and taxation, the first thing any financier would do, who looked to the future as well as the present, would be to see that the Sinking Fund was ample for the Debt. If he was right in the view he took the old Sinking Fund suffered, which in itself was an additional reason for safeguarding and strengthening the new Sinking Fund. He had found, seen and felt every reason to congratulate the right hon. Gentleman on his Budget, but he deeply regretted that the right hon. Gentleman did not take off 3d. from the Income Tax instead of 4d. and strengthen the new Sinking Fund by the amount received from the other 1d. Our liabilities increased every day, and as they increased prudence dictated that the Sinking Fund should be strengthened. It was the corner stone of our credit and the great source on which we had to rely in times of emergency when expenditure was forced upon us. He earnestly asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Committee to consider this matter.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON asked to be allowed to endorse what had fallen from the hon. Member opposite, namely that it was the duty of the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the House to maintain at the highest point the provision for the reduction of the National Debt.

Mr. Gibson Bowles.

MR. RITCHIE: Hear, hear.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: The Chancellor of the Exchequer merely cheered that statement, but he would have much preferred the right hon. Gentleman to act up to the views he appeared to hold. The fact that the fixed charge was to be £27,000,000 instead of £27,500,000 made a serious inroad into the Sinking Fund. As the hon. Gentleman who had just spoken had pointed out, while we were reducing our debt very rapidly a short time ago, it had been shown how very quickly we got into difficulties, and that therefore in times of peace we should retain a very large Sinking Fund. The House when listening to the Budget speech of the right hon. Gentleman was under the impression that the right hon. Gentleman was going to do a great deal to strengthen the Sinking Fund to still more largely diminish the debt, but the right hon. Gentleman had reduced the fixed charge for that purpose by £500,000, his reason for so doing being that by the reduced interest paid on the debt they were saving about £1,250,000, but the right hon. Gentleman must take into consideration that the debt had increased from £630,000,000 to £760,000,000 and that that reduction in the interest made a very slight addition indeed to the Sinking Fund for the reduction of a debt of £760,000,000. They could hardly expect the Sinking Fund to be maintained at the figure at which it ought to be maintained if these proposals by successive Chancellors of the Exchequer to reduce the amount annually applied to the reduction of the debt were allowed to go without protest.

MR. COHEN (Islington, E.) confessed to a feeling of disappointment at the moderate amount assigned by the Chancellor of the Exchequer for the redemption of debt. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be able to satisfy the Committee as to his intentions with regard to the extinction of the abnormal amount of Unfunded Debt. Unfunded Debt, in the form of Treasury Bills and Exchequer Bonds, was by no means the most economical way of raising money

for the Exchequer. The most advantageous, and he believed the safest, way for the finances of the country to be conducted was to reduce the Unfunded Debt as much as possible. He was surprised at one of the contentions put forward by the hon. Member for King's Lynn. Nothing could be more dangerous than the delusion that this country had in any way assumed responsibility, moral or otherwise, for Crown Colony debts. The liabilities of this country were sufficiently gigantic without it being supposed that we were directly or indirectly responsible for the liabilities of Crown Colonies.

MR. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.) said that some time back, in response to a question, the Chancellor of the Exchequer stated that he could not then indicate his intentions as to the redemption or the extension of Exchequer Bonds which would mature in August. Since then the right hon. Gentleman had appeared to indicate a possibility of some of those Exchequer Bonds being renewed when they became due in the currency of the present year. He hoped he would now be able to inform the Committee how much, if any, of those Bonds were to be paid off and how much would be renewed. On the general subject of the Resolution, there was hardly any more important subject connected with public finance than the question of debt. If that question was important in ordinary years it was still more important this year. This was the first Budget after a great war, in the course of which the National Debt had been enormously increased and the national finances seriously dislocated, and the Committee had a right to expect that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in accordance with the anticipations of his predecessor, would have indicated the financial policy of the Government, particularly with regard to the paying off of the enormous war debt. Instead of that, the right hon. Gentleman had not looked beyond the present year. The only proposal he had made was that the permanent fixed charge should be raised from £23,000,000 to £27,000,000. Included in the permanent fixed charge was to be the whole of the war debts that had accumulated in the last three years, the interest on which amounted to

£4,500,000, while the increase of the permanent charge was only £4,000,000. Even allowing for £1,250,000 due to the reduction of the interest on Consols, the permanent charge for the diminution of the debt had been increased by only £750,000. He thought that was in no way an adequate method of dealing with the enormous accretion of debt. He doubted, moreover, whether it was wise financially to mix up the war debt with the ordinary debt of the country. The Committee were now asked to set aside £27,000,000 for the debt charge out of a net expenditure of £144,000,000. In 1880-1 the net expenditure was £71,500,000, of which the debt charge was £28,000,000, or a percentage of thirty-six against a percentage this year of about twenty. Taking the national income in the same two years as being twice the yield of the Income Tax, the debt charge this year was only 1·5 per cent. of the national income, as against 2·3 per cent. twenty years ago, when the country was much poorer. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had a great opportunity of having the country and the House of Commons with him in making a serious effort to deal with the great increase in the National Debt and the enormous burden entailed thereby on the finances of the country. He believed the country would have been content with a smaller reduction of taxation if it had been satisfied that by bearing the burden a year or two longer it could have made a substantial and permanent reduction of the debt.

SIR JOHN GORST said he should have been willing to join in the protest made by hon. Members if he thought the Chancellor of the Exchequer had done that which they assumed he had done in connection with the Sinking Fund. He understood the Chancellor of the Exchequer in quite a different sense. There was only one way to pay off debt, and that was by raising more taxation than was wanted for interest on debt and Supply services. Although last year £27,500,000 was set aside for the Debt, out of that sum only £5,750,000 had been actually applied to paying off the Debt, while all the rest went to interest and other charges. In the present year it was proposed to set apart £500,000

less, namely £27,000,000, and of that sum £6,600,000 would go to the payment of the Debt. Therefore, nearly £1,000,000 more than last year would be paid this year towards the reduction of the Debt although the amount voted was £500,000 less. The Chancellor of the Exchequer said that £4,000,000 would be paid off the Debt from other sources, and that during the next three years he expected £10,000,000 from the Transvaal loan, and therefore during that period the debt would be reduced by £34,000,000. He estimated that the amount out of the permanent charge of £27,000,000 would be about £9 000,000 in five years applied to the extinction of the Debt. The new Sinking Fund was liable to this weakness, that every year more and more of this fixed charge went to the payment of principal and less to the payment of interest, and that weakness was foreseen when Sir Stafford Northcote initiated the Sinking Fund, for it was then prophesied that no Chancellor of the Exchequer would be able to withstand the temptation to make raids upon the Sinking Fund. Since that time the Sinking Fund had been raided twice. [An HON. MEMBER : Three times.] If the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the course of the next few years endeavoured to provide too large an amount for any one year a future Chancellor of the Exchequer would be sure to raid the Fund again. He thought that for a certain length of time Parliament would stand paying £9,000,000 a year off the National Debt. He did not, however, think that any House of Commons would consent to bear a very large burden of taxation in order to pay off the National Debt at an accelerated pace. Did the House suppose that the people would consent in future years to have £27,000,000 taxation put upon them in order to pay off the National Debt. He did not think they would ever consent to such an arrangement.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee) said that when a Bill such as this originated in a Resolution in Committee he understood that the rule was that such Resolution absolutely governed all subsequent stages of the Bill. The point in this Resolution was whether the sum

of £27,000,000 was large enough or not. Many hon. Members thought it ought to be larger, and if he moved an Amendment it would probably be to make it £28,000,000. Whether they could do that now or not, he did not know, and he was not aware whether, if this Bill passed, such a Motion could be moved at all. If they could not do this the discussion was in the air. He wished to know whether an Amendment could be moved having for its object an increase in the amount, and whether, after the Committee had fixed £27,000,000 in Committee, it was possible to have a larger sum proposed.

*THE CHAIRMAN : I do not think a larger sum can be proposed either now or in Committee. The effect of it would be that it would require more taxation to provide it, and that can only be done on the initiative of the Government. If I were to permit a Motion to raise the amount from £27,000,000 to £28,000,000 the extra amount would have to be found by extra taxation, and that cannot be proposed except by the Government.

*MR. M'KENNA (Monmouthshire, N.) said the point they were considering now was not what would happen five years hence but whether they were making sufficient provision for the Sinking Fund this year. It had been said that although the total sum devoted to payment of interest and redemption of debt had been reduced, more would go this year towards the redemption of debt than last year. That was quite true, but it was the whole principle of the fixed debt charge that every year a larger amount should go in reduction of debt, and it was because of that principle that the House had established the fixed debt charge. What the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Cambridge University overlooked was that since the fixed debt charge was put at £23,000,000 they had added £150,000,000 to the National Debt. All those calculations about what might happen thirty or forty years hence were entirely beside the question. When Sir Stafford Northcote put the fixed debt charge at

£28,000,000, the debt was nearly what it was to-day, and it was estimated that if the payments were kept up the debt would be extinguished in fifty years. Thirty years have now elapsed, and the debt stood where it did when the fixed debt charge was first introduced. The question was, were they now making sufficient preparation in order to pay off the Debt. He asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer to take certain considerations into account. An increase of the Debt in case of a war in the future would take place far more rapidly than in the past. If a European war broke out the cost had been estimated at £1,000,000 per day. In the South African War they spent £1,500,000 a week, and in the case of a European conflict on a great scale it was not too much to say that the burden upon this country would be £5,000,000 per week. It was absolutely essential that in order to be able in case of emergency to raise this vast sum their credit should be good. When Consols were up to 100 it would be time enough to say whether the right hon. Gentleman might not be putting greater burdens on the taxpayers for the redemption of the Debt than was actually necessary. At this moment however he could not say that. It was specially necessary that we should pay off debt at this time, because the Chancellor of the Exchequer was bound in the near future to go to the public to raise further loans in respect of the Irish Land Bill, and he would have to pay larger permanent interest for those loans simply because he was not able to get Consols back to par. When Consols went above par it might become necessary not to make too large purchases in one year in the market. No doubt if Consols went to 114, the figure which they reached some years ago, it might be necessary to reduce the amount of the purchases in the open market, but there was no such excuse at present; and the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be well advised in spending as many millions as he could to force back British credit to the point at which it stood before the war, when the Government could borrow at something under $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.

The right hon. Gentleman was not following on the lines of the precedents which had been created by his

predecessors. There was an alteration made in the Sinking Fund in 1889 by Mr. Goschen, as he then was, when the interest on the debt was reduced from 3 per cent. to $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. At that time the saving to the Exchequer was no less than £1,500,000 owing to the reduction of interest. Mr. Goschen gave £1,000,000 of that to the taxpayers and added £500,000 to the Sinking Fund. At that time there was an actual deficit for the year, and Mr. Goschen was not remitting taxation to the amount of £10,000,000 as now, but he had to impose additional taxation to the extent of £1,000,000. If he had taken the whole £1,500,000 for the benefit of the taxpayers he would not have had to impose so much additional taxation. The Chancellor of the Exchequer at present was under no such temptation as Mr. Goschen. On the contrary, the right hon. Gentleman had to make a Sinking Fund for an additional debt of £150,000,000, and all that he had done was to give £250,000 more than Mr. Goschen gave. At that time Mr. Goschen was paying off the debt at the rate of £7,500,000 a year, whereas the utmost the Chancellor of the Exchequer could do this year was to pay off £6,600,000. The next precedent was to be found in the action of the Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1899. Then the Chancellor of the Exchequer reduced the Sinking Fund. But he took the opportunity of converting a large block of Consols into terminable annuities in order to take temptation out of the way of his successors who might be induced to raid the Sinking Fund, and accordingly he created an annual charge of £1,200,000 which was taken out of the power of being raided. The Sinking Fund had been suspended during the whole course of the war, but these terminable annuities had been continuously paid off, and £1,200,000 had been annually spent in redemption of debt in spite of the suspension of the Sinking Fund. These were the two most recent precedents. The right hon. Gentleman had not acted on similar lines. He had taken this annual saving of £1,250,000 on interest, and he had given back only £750,000 a year out of it. That was all he had done this year in order to meet an additional debt of upwards of £150,000,000. He urged the

right hon. Gentleman to drop the figure of £27,000,000, and to go back to the original figure adopted by Sir Stafford Northcote of £28,000,000 until the time came when he had got all the benefits which he promised himself in the course of the next five years. Until that time he should make the necessary sacrifice in order to restore British credit to the point at which it stood when Consols were at par.

SIR ROBERT REID (Dumfries Burghs) said he agreed that there ought to be a greater reduction of the National Debt, and a larger sum of money set aside each year for the purpose, because our liabilities and debt had greatly increased, and seemed to be rather in the way of increasing than diminishing. There had been added this year a liability of £35,000,000, and they were not told that that was to be the last, or anything like the last, sum they were to be expected to find for the Transvaal. He wished to emphasise the point which the Chancellor of the Exchequer himself admitted a few moments ago that the idea of paying off the National Debt in fifty years by continuing to appropriate £6,000,000 a year was a complete delusion. There were sinking funds and sinking funds in this country. The first and most notable one was when the younger Pitt was going to pay off the National Debt in a short time by means of a sinking fund. There was one connected with the name of Sir Stafford Northcote in 1877 which had done good service and for which the memory of that Chancellor of the Exchequer ought to be held in veneration. He expected to pay off the debt in fifty years. Of course the thing was absurd. There were two things to prevent it. The first was the actuarial process by which it would be paid off if the people were willing to permit it, and it consisted in a progressive increase of the sum of money which each year was appropriated to pay off the remainder of the debt. Everyone knew that after a certain sum of money had been appropriated each year the country would not stand more being paid off that year, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer seized the opportunity of relieving the country of taxation by making a raid on the Sinking Fund. The second thing was, that the idea postulated another

contingency, namely, that the country would keep out of all foreign wars and complications. As soon as a great war, or exceptional trouble, arose the Sinking Fund was at once suspended. It was a complete delusion—he thought the Chancellor of the Exchequer had admitted as much this afternoon—to say that the National Debt would be extinguished in fifty years. It was a pity that a person so free from this kind of delusion should have given the least countenance to the idea that this sum of money would pay off the National Debt in fifty, 100, or 150 years. It was an actuarial calculation having no relation to the actual facts, and it would be a great mistake if the people came to the conclusion that they were to get rid of their National Debt so soon. It did not become him to say how the National Debt could best be got rid of. The National Debt could be treated in a more satisfactory way if we refrained from increasing it, and we would not refrain from increasing it unless we adopted a more statesmanlike way of dealing with affairs, external to this country, than we had done in the last few years.

MR. RITCHIE said he thought he had made it clear in his Budget speech that he did not suppose that we were not going to pay off the debt in fifty years. As he had been for many years at the Local Government Board he was familiar with what he then used to impress upon borrowers—namely, that the local authorities should set aside every year a certain sum to pay off in a limited period the money which they borrowed, usually a maximum of sixty years. He only gave it as an illustration of his argument that by putting aside an annual sum and treating it in that way, we would extinguish the debt in fifty years, thus doing more than was insisted on with regard to local debts. He had made an actuarial calculation to that effect, and he could assure the hon. and learned Member that he would find, if he investigated the subject, that what he had said was correct. It was, of course, unreasonable to suppose that the taxpayers of this country would continue to pay annually such a sum as would extinguish the debt in fifty years. No Chancellor of the Exchequer would ever ask the taxpayers to pay many millions for the purpose of relieving posterity

of all share of the obligations undertaken by previous generations largely for the benefit of future generations. He was glad that the hon. and learned Member had said that he, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, could never imagine that such a process as that was ever in the least likely to be carried out. There were two propositions advanced. One was that the Sinking Fund ought to bear a fair proportion to the Debt; and the other was that we should not in doing this entail upon the taxpayers an undue obligation beyond their powers. Now, he entirely agreed with both these propositions; and he had been guided by the considerations laid down in them. His right hon. and learned friend the Member for Cambridge University had described in clear and forcible language what should be done, and he should only be too happy to leave the matter as the right hon. and learned Gentleman had stated it, for nothing could be more accurate. But he might describe once more what it was that he proposed to do. His predecessor left a fixed debt charge of £23,000,000. In addition to that there were £4,500,000 of interest which was not brought in on the fixed debt charge, but which the Committee would recognise ought to be brought in. That brought the sum up to £27,500,000. But it was impossible for him to overlook the fact that his right hon. friend and predecessor did intend—and so stated to the Committee and with the approbation of the Committee, and he had left a memorandum to that effect in his office—that when the interest became reduced to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. the £1,250,000 which was saved in the matter of interest should go to the taxpayers. He was, consequently, perfectly justified in deducting from the £27,500,000 the sum of £1,250,000, which was the saving in interest—leaving a sum of £26,250,000. But he had added to that £26,250,000 a sum of £750,000, making a total of £27,000,000. He candidly admitted that that addition, in itself, if they had only the circumstances of the present year to consider, would not have been, in his opinion, sufficient for the purpose of extinguishing the new war debt of £160,000,000. But when it was said that we had nothing to do with what might happen during the next four or five years, and that all that we should have to do was to

consider the present year, he entirely disagreed with his hon. friend. A Chancellor of the Exchequer who fixed the amount of the annual charge without regard to what was going to happen in the next four or five years, would be doing wrong. Surely the hon. Gentleman opposite would acknowledge that it was unwise to alter this annual charge more often than was necessary. The hon. Gentleman gave three illustrations of a raid having been made on the Sinking Fund. He himself thought it was desirable that, on the one hand, they should not make the amount of it too burdensome on the taxpayers, and at the same time should fix it at such a sum as would not justify the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the next three or four years making a raid upon it. As his right hon. and learned friend the Member for Cambridge University said, they knew that there was to come this year, out of the loan just so successfully floated, to the Exchequer between £3,000,000 and £4,000,000 from the Transvaal. There was a dispute between them and the Transvaal Government as to the exact amount, but £10,000,000 would also come out of the New Unguaranteed Loan on 1st January next, or whatever might be the date at which it was floated, and £10,000,000 in each of the succeeding two years. It would be absurd for them, in fixing the debt charge, to have no regard whatever to these facts. The result of his arrangements would be that although they only added £750,000 this year to the Sinking Fund or fixed debt charge, in three or four years after this a sum of over £1,000,000 sterling, now included as interest in the fixed debt charge, would cease to be paid when the capital was returned from the Transvaal. In other words, that sum of over £1,000,000 would pass at once from the interest-bearing portion of the fixed charge to the debt-bearing portion of the fixed debt charge. The result would be that by the time the money was paid over to them he anticipated that the debt-paying portion of the fixed charge would amount to about £9,000,000—a larger sum than was ever known in the history of this debt charge—or 1.25 per cent. of the outstanding debt, a percentage which

had never been approached in previous experience and might never happen again.

MR. McKENNA: It might be raided again.

MR. RITCHIE: Yes, it might be raided again, but if, as the hon. Gentleman desired, the debt charge was increased by the equivalent of a penny on the income tax this year, it would amount to £12,000,000 by that time, and a raid would have certainly to be made on it four or five years hence, and most probably it would be made at a shorter period than that.

MR. McKENNA: It would be made anyhow.

MR. RITCHIE: If it was going to be made anyhow, let us have no fixed charge at all. He agreed with the hon. Gentleman that, when Consols were low, it was very desirable that the Government should become purchasers in order to raise the price in the market; but though that was true, the hon. Gentleman must also remember that the Sinking Fund was infinitely more operative now than it used to be; that was to say, when Consols were much below par we were with a given sum of money extinguishing a far larger amount of debt than we were able to do before, with the same amount of money. The hon. Gentleman said that when Mr. Goschen readjusted the debt charge there was a deficit of £1,000,000; unlike himself, who was in a position to remit taxation. But what was the burden of taxation on the people at that time as compared with now. The 15d. Income Tax was an enormous burden, and even after his remissions taxation remained at a very much higher figure than at the time to which the hon. Gentleman referred. He was as strongly in favour of maintaining the Sinking Fund, and at a proper proportion to the Debt, as the hon. Gentleman was. But in considering this matter he was bound to take into account what was to happen in the next three or four years, and the large amount of debt that was being paid off. He should have other opportunities

Mr. Ritchie.

of discussing this matter more in detail, and he would confine himself now to saying that the Government were perfectly justified in the course they were taking. The hon. Gentleman had asked a question as to what the Government were going to do in regard to the Floating Debt. He entirely agreed that it was extremely desirable that we should reduce the Floating Debt, which bore a very considerable rate of interest, and that was what he most desired to operate upon, when he had the means at his disposal; but what he should do he was not at the present moment prepared to say. He hoped the hon. Gentleman would take it from him that he was fully alive to the need for reducing the Floating Debt and by as large an amount as possible, taking all other things into consideration.

4. Resolved, That the amount of the permanent annual charge for the National Debt, under Section 1 of the Sinking Fund Act, 1875, shall be £27,000,000. — (*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

AMENDMENT OF LAW.

5. Resolved, That it is expedient to amend the law relating to the National Debt, Customs, and Inland Revenue. — (*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

Resolutions to be reported To-morrow; Committee to sit again To-morrow.

SUPPLY [21ST APRIL, AFTERNOON SITTING] REPORT.

Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question (6th May), "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the Second Resolution, 'That a sum, not exceeding £51,400, be granted to His Majesty to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the Royal Parks and Pleasure Gardens.'"

Question again proposed.

Debate resumed.

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolutions—

3. "That a sum, not exceeding £27,700, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the Houses of Parliament Buildings."

4. That a sum, not exceeding £36,120, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for Expenditure in respect of Miscellaneous Legal Buildings."

5. "That a sum, not exceeding £30,150, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for Expenditure in respect of Art and Science Buildings, Great Britain."

6. "That a sum, not exceeding £37,500, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for Expenditure in respect of Diplomatic and Consular Buildings, and for the maintenance of certain Cemeteries Abroad."

7. "That a sum, not exceeding £339,000, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the Customs, Inland Revenue, Post Office, and Post Office Telegraph Buildings in Great Britain, and certain Post Offices Abroad, including Furniture, Fuel, and sundry Miscellaneous Services."

8. "That a sum, not exceeding £222,000, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, in respect of sundry public buildings in Great Britain, not provided for on other Votes."

9. "That a sum, not exceeding £119,019, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the Survey of the United Kingdom, and for minor services connected therewith."

10. "That a sum, not exceeding £14,204, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for maintaining certain Harbours under the Board of Trade, and for grants in aid of Harbours."

11. "That a sum, not exceeding £17,980, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for constructing a new Harbour of Refuge at Peterhead."

Agreed to.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen. S.) said he would like to take this opportunity of asking the hon. Gentleman who represented the Office of Works whether he could give some account of the reasons which had caused so much delay in the progress of the building of the new Post Office at Aberdeen. This was a matter which he and his colleague had had occasion to call attention to from time to time. The progress of the work was extremely slow. This no doubt was partly due to the fact that the original plans were enlarged, but even then there was reason to complain that so little progress had been made. He would therefore like to ask how much was to be expended on the work during the present year, and when the work might be expected to be completed. He asked for an assurance that more rapid progress would be made next year and the year after than during the past two years. At present considerable inconvenience was experienced because the business of the Post Office had increased enormously, and the business was carried on in the old premises under great difficulties,

while it had been found necessary to hire additional rooms outside to meet with the congestion. In these circumstances the convenience of the public and employees naturally suffered. He trusted that the hon. Gentleman would be able to give an assurance that there would be more rapid progress.

MR. AILWYN FELLOWES (Huntingdonshire, Ramsey) said it was perfectly true that work, so far as the Aberdeen Post Office was concerned, had been slow. The reasons were, first the alteration in the plans, and secondly the difficulty in obtaining supplies of suitable granite for the different elevations. A sum of money had been set apart for continuing this work, and he was given to understand that the contractors would finish the work in November, 1905, which was the contract time.

Further consideration of 12th Resolution deferred till To-morrow.

SUPPLY [21ST APRIL, EVENING SITTING].

Resolutions reported.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE
DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1903-4.

CLASS II.

1. "That a sum, not exceeding £381,333, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for stationery, printing, paper, binding, and printed books for the public service; to pay the salaries and expenses of the Stationery Office; and for sundry miscellaneous services, including Reports of Parliamentary Debates."

2. "That a sum, not exceeding £52,264, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the salaries and other expenses in the Department of His Majesty's Treasury and Subordinate Departments, including expenses in respect of advances under the Light Railways Act, 1896."

Resolutions agreed to.

Mr. Bryce.

EDUCATION (BORROWING) BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.) said that in moving the Second Reading of this Bill it would only be necessary for him to say a few words to tell the House what the object of the measure was. Under the Education Act, 1902, the local authorities were called upon to take over the management of schools—either Board schools or voluntary schools. They found that owing to the variations in the educational financial year, and also to the fact that in the case of voluntary schools a proportion of the money now payable would be due to the managers, and not to the new authorities, the local authorities would in some cases at one period or another in the first year, possibly also in the second, find a deficiency between the receipts and the necessary expenditure. The Government had endeavoured to meet this difficulty by advancing sums payable to the local authority both through the Education Department and the Local Government Board, and paying them earlier than they would otherwise be paid. But still there were cases where the local authority would possibly find themselves in a difficulty. If they were unable to borrow, it was quite obvious that they must obtain the money by an additional rate in the present year, which would be undoubtedly a hardship on the ratepayers. Therefore, the Government proposed that the local authorities should be given powers, additional to the powers they already enjoyed, to enable them to borrow, and spread the loan over a period of years. The conditions of the loan and the period over which it would run would depend on the sanction and approval of the Local Government Board. The loan itself could only be obtained with the approval of the Department, and the object of the Government was, while enforcing the principles with regard to loans which they had hitherto maintained, to do all they could to spread the payment over a sufficient period of years to prevent the burden being too heavy. He begged to move.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Morley) said he supposed the Bill would not prevent the local authority

levying a rate, if they chose, instead of borrowing.

MR. WALTER LONG : Certainly.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON said that in certain cases there might be balances existing and yet it might be necessary for the local authorities to raise a loan or a rate in order to carry out their responsibilities. It was very well known that a great many schools, mostly of a voluntary character, had now or would have at the end of the school year, considerable balances accruing to them out of the annual grant and the special aid grant. He thought it was rather an extraordinary thing that the local authorities taking over the responsibility for these schools, should either have to levy a rate to carry on the work of the schools or ask for powers to raise a loan, while actually there were balances which would not be handed over to the local authorities remaining in the hands of the treasurers of schools. They ought to have a promise from the right hon. Gentleman that those balances should be handed over to the local authorities, in order that they might be credited to the funds for carrying on the schools. It was an anomalous proposition that the local authorities should have to borrow, while balances were held by the managers of the schools to be used for purposes other than the carrying on of the schools.

MR. WALTER LONG said that the hon. Gentleman did not altogether apprehend what the case was. He referred to certain schools where he believed there would be balances. He himself did not know whether such cases actually existed, but he would point out that there was an easy way to avoid that state of things; and that was by the authorities responsible for these schools taking care that during the time at their disposal the money was expended. The question was settled not by any action on the part of the Government, but by the section of the Act of last year which governed the matter, viz., paragraph twelve of the second Schedule. Under that the money payable was apportioned as between the then existing education

authority in the case of voluntary schools and the new education authority coming into existence on the appointed day. He did not see any reason for the apprehensions entertained by the hon. Member. They had had numerous representations on behalf of the local authorities from all parts of the country and all pointed to deficits. He had heard nothing of balances up to the present.

MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE (Somersetshire, E.), who was almost inaudible in the gallery, was understood to say that the provisions relating to the disposal of the first Parliamentary grants under the new system were not fully discussed last year in the House, or possibly a better arrangement might have been made. The result to the counties had been that in some it had resulted in a large deficit which had to be made up out of the rates. In his county it had necessitated a rate of 4d. in the £, and it was for that reason that the County Councils Association and other bodies had approached the Education Department of the Local Government Board, and afterwards the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to get some provision made whereby the heavy weight on the ratepayers might be lightened. Their proposal was that during the first year the Government, and not the ratepayers, should be called upon to provide the means for starting the new education machinery. The Government had given some grants under this Bill, but not any particular grant for the purposes of starting education, and they thought the Government should have started the new system by greasing the machinery in the first instance. Such a policy would have given the Act a much better start in most counties, and have given the local authorities a great deal of relief. What the local authorities required was working capital to start the work, but the Government having arrived at a different conclusion they must accept with what gratitude they could the introduction of this Bill, which would enable them to spread the deficit over a number of years. He would ask, if he might be allowed, whether four years would be allowed for the 4d. rate to which he had alluded. If some such period was not allowed the burden would be too heavy for the County Council to support.

MR. WALTER LONG said, although he would not commit himself to any definite statement which might be held to govern every case, his idea was that in a case where the rate amounted to 4d. the period given should be four years in order that the amount every year should be as small as possible. That was his general idea.

MR. BRIGG (Yorkshire, W.R., Keighley) said the concession now set forth with regard to this loan being made to the County Councils was most desirable, though it would have been much more satisfactory if the money could have been found at once for setting this Act into operation. Having no money to begin with would result in a certain amount of borrowing, for which interest would have to be paid; but some of the County Councils declined to borrow money at all, and until they obtained sufficient funds from other sources no start would be made at all. If the Government could have seen their way to have advanced the money, as they had done under other circumstances, it would have been far better. He trusted that the extension of time for repayment would be made as long as possible.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) said that this was a serious difficulty in which a good many of the local authorities found themselves, and the work was retarded in consequence. In places where new schools ought to be provided owing to managers giving up the old schools, the local authorities found great difficulty in providing requisite accommodation for the schools, and he did not see how they were to avoid borrowing to enable the educational work to be carried on. These troubles and dangers were all pointed out when the House was discussing the Bill last year, and it was expected that an opportunity would be given on the schedules to deal with temporary provisions and to endeavour to work out a scheme whereby, in the transition from the old system to the new, provision might be made to prevent the difficulties which had now arisen. Owing to the guillotine they had not been allowed to do that, and the result was, that there was this amending Bill to get the local authorities

out of the difficulties they ought never to have been placed in. These difficulties ought to have been foreseen, and they might have been avoided if proper consideration had been given to the Bill. This was one result of the method that had been adopted, and as time went on they would see other results which it would also be necessary to deal with by an amending Bill, owing to their not having done what they ought to have done last autumn.

MR. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton) said the Government were now finding out what an expensive Act this was. The provisions of this Bill, he assumed, would not apply to any loans for building purposes.

MR. WALTER LONG pointed out that the local authorities had already power under the Act of 1870 to raise loans for building. The necessity for this Bill was that the law officers of the Crown advised that purposes for which power was given to raise loans under the Act of 1870 did not cover this purpose.

MR. LAMBERT said that being so covered that point. He would like to emphasise the fact that there were considerable balances in the hands of the diocesan associations which were not grants earned by them, but grants made to them in support of the voluntary schools. A large amount of these voluntary grants were now going to be used for the upkeep of the voluntary schools, in order to relieve the managers from applying for any further voluntary subscriptions for the next few years. That, he submitted, was not quite fair. The proper method for the Government to have adopted would have been to have taken the unexpired balances now in the hands of the diocesan associations for this purpose. But it appeared to him that the Government had so manipulated it that the voluntary subscribers would not subscribe for the next few years, and that the voluntary schools would be kept up by means of these balances. He did not oppose the Bill, which was the natural result of the hasty legislation of last year. Had they been permitted to discuss it without the guillotine being applied these difficulties

would have been pointed out, and there would have been no necessity for this Bill. He would only suggest to the right hon. Gentleman that some provision should be incorporated in it by which these unexpired balances might be brought in to aid the local authorities, and be devoted to education, and not to the relief of voluntary subscribers.

SIR JOHN GORST (Cambridge University) said that this difficulty had existed for many years, and it was entirely a financial one. In the case both of Board and voluntary schools, three-fourths of the cost was paid out of the National Exchequer. That money, however, was not paid in advance, or even at the end of the year; some little time always elapsed before the schools received the money. Consequently the School Boards and the voluntary subscribers in the past had had to finance their schools themselves and provide the money necessary for carrying on the schools for a whole year, before they received the money with which the Government assisted them. That was the case with the whole of the money except the fee grant, which was paid quarterly. It had been a great grievance for many years, and the only way in which it could have been redressed was by the Chancellor of the Exchequer paying the whole grant in quarterly instalments, to do which would have required in the first year an extra sum of over £2,000,000, an amount which no Chancellor of the Exchequer in recent times had been in a position to provide for such a purpose. The new authorities were about to start under the same conditions, and it was to supply the working capital required, until they received the Government grant, that this Bill was needed. He would have been glad if the Government had been able to find the working capital themselves, but as they could not, or would not, it was necessary that the new local authorities should be empowered to obtain it by borrowing for a short time. The matter had really nothing to do with the balances in the hands of managers of voluntary schools or of diocese associations, because those balances were applicable to years gone by. There were no balances applicable to future expenditure, and, therefore, these borrowing powers were necessary.

MR. GEORGE WHITE (Norfolk, N.W.) said the difficulty they were in was that they did not see why the balance in the hands of the correspondents of voluntary schools and of the diocesan secretaries should not be handed over to the local authorities in the same way as the School Board balances would be. He regarded both as public funds granted for the purpose of education, and he believed that a great many others held the view that these balances ought to go to the new local authorities. In the diocese of Norwich the Secretary of the Diocesan School Association had calculated that there would be £35,000 in the hands of correspondents of voluntary schools on the appointed day when the schools were to be passed over to the new educational authority, and he was endeavouring to get those balances pooled, for the purpose of assisting denominational managers to maintain the fabric of their schools. They had already passed several regulations by which denominational managers were relieved of practically the whole of their responsibilities, but now, in addition, they were to have these large balances in the hands of correspondents who had, until now, pleaded that they were in great poverty. They, further, had reason to know that the balances were being increased by starving the schools in the matter of the necessary appliances for educational work. By these encroachments the local authorities, on taking over the schools, would have to meet a much larger expenditure than the normal amount for the purpose of supplying teaching appliances. While he could not oppose the Bill, which was necessary in the difficult position in which they were placed, he must say that it seemed a great injustice that the whole of this money for public funds should be diverted to denominational purposes when the local authorities were in need of money with which to commence the work of the schools.

Bill read a second time and committed for to-morrow.

RAILWAYS (ELECTRICAL POWER) BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (MR. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central), in moving the Second

Reading of this Bill, said that its object was to facilitate the introduction and use of electrical power on railways, by enabling railway companies to acquire the necessary powers by means of Board of Trade orders, instead of leaving them to the more expensive and cumbrous process of coming to Parliament. Board of Trade orders already applied to tramways, and, in a modified form, to the case of light railways. The growth of the use of electric traction had been enormous, and more than half of the tramways in the country now used electricity. He was not prepared definitely to assert that a railway company could not, even without such an order, use electric power as a means of traction. The point was somewhat obscure, but in any case, if railway companies had the power, there were many other things relating to the introduction of electricity which could not be done without a Board of Trade order under this Bill, or without an act of Parliament. The first clause authorised a railway company to use electricity in addition to, or in substitution of any other motive power, to construct and maintain generating stations or other electrical works on land belonging to the company, to sanction agreements between the company and any corporation or person for the supply of electrical power, while permitting the company to subscribe to any electrical undertaking which would facilitate the supply of electricity to the company. It was certain that a company could not at present exercise such powers without special authority. He drew attention to a difference between the powers contemplated in Clause 1 and those in Clauses 2 and 3. Under Clause 1 a simple order of the Board of Trade would be a sufficient authority. Clause 2 contemplated the compulsory acquisition of land; and in such a case it was proposed that the Board of Trade order should only be a provisional order, and that the sanction of Parliament should be required for the purpose contemplated. Under the third Clause an appeal to the Railway Commission was allowed for the revision of fares, the provision of additional traffic facilities to the public by means of through booking or otherwise, and for the modification of any working agreement. Obviously the latter was not a power which could be given without

adequate safeguards. It was therefore proposed that in such cases a company should be at liberty to apply to the Railway Commissioners, and that without the consent of the Railway Commissioners the order contemplated by Clause 3 should not be effective. Clauses 4 and 5 were merely machinery. He thought that the Bill would be of great benefit in promoting the change, signs of which could already be seen, but which he believed would assume much greater proportions in the near future.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) said the President of the Board of Trade had not exaggerated the importance of endeavouring to make provision for the application of electrical power to the existing railroads. The Bill marked a long step forward in the direction of legislating by delegation to an executive Department. That was, perhaps, an indispensable process, because it was impossible for the House of Commons to undertake directly the enormous mass of work which would fall upon it unless it delegated some of its functions to a subordinate authority, whilst retaining some power of control and overlooking. In the present case they went further than usual, because Clause 1 of the Bill authorised the Board of Trade to make orders for a large number of important purposes without first obtaining the sanction of Parliament. He presumed the orders would be published in the usual way and that they would appear in the volume of the Acts and Orders issued every year, so that there would be no difficulty about bringing them to the notice of the persons concerned. The powers, particularly in Sub-sections (c), (e), and (g), were undoubtedly very large, and it might be considered that they went further than existing precedents. On the balance of advantage, however, he thought the proposal of the Bill was a right one. He did not object to Clause 2, but he thought it right that an opportunity should be given of taking objection by way of petitions, against a Provisional Order Bill, where land was to be taken compulsorily. There was a flaw in Clause 3, which gave power to modify any working agreement although the modification was not agreed to by the other party. He hoped that Clause 3

Mr. Gerald Balfour.

would be used by the Board of Trade to require the companies, as a condition to obtaining the consent of the Board to the desired orders, to give certain additional facilities to the public. It was clear that if the company very much desired to have its orders confirmed, it would be in the power of the Board of Trade to impose conditions, for cases were sure to occur in which conditions in the interests of the public might properly be imposed. The safeguard afforded by that clause was evidently required, and the House would not wish to see it removed. There might be points in the Bill to be considered in Committee, but he was glad to think that the railroads would take steps, as was being done in America, to apply electrical traction, and in that way to work the light railway system in connection with the present railroads. It was clear that the full benefit and value of the light railroad system would not be obtained by this country until the light railways were worked in connection with the great arterial lines. When that was done the better it would be for all concerned, and especially for the agricultural and trading communities, who suffered so largely from the very heavy rates they had to pay for the carriage of produce. In that respect he believed the step contemplated by the Bill was a matter for congratulation to the country, and he was glad that the needs of the case were being appreciated. He hoped that the Bill would have a swift passage through the House.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid) said he agreed with what had been said as to the importance and necessity of this Bill. He wished to point out, however, that he thought they might have gone a little further in Clause 2. At the present moment under the Light Railways Act the Board of Trade had enormous powers, and the right hon. Gentleman had unlimited powers to sanction light railways and to take land compulsorily. Surely under those circumstances they might trust the Board of Trade in matters of absolute necessity, such as giving power to take land for the purpose of erecting a generating station. It was necessary in many cases to have a generating station. Why should they interpose a Bill to confirm this when it might

cause an enormous amount of delay? He trusted the Board of Trade would get rid of this difficulty. They could hear the parties interested, and then there would only be one place to deal with them. The Board of Trade would find that by granting the Bill in this form they would be doing a great injustice, because they would be opening the door for some person to appeal and compel them to get an Act of Parliament merely because they were going to take a few square yards of ground. He hoped the Board of Trade would not stultify themselves by putting such power in the hands of anyone. Why not adopt the precedent of having a Joint Committee of both Houses? In a trivial matter of land for a generating station why should they run the risk of an inquiry in the House of Commons' and the House of Lords' Committees? Why not have a joint inquiry of both Houses? Really he did not see the necessity of having an Act of Parliament in a matter of that kind. He thought they might leave the matter in the hands of the Board of Trade with perfect confidence. In order to carry out the Act the Board of Trade would have to make rules and lay them before Parliament. That was a matter which the President of the Board of Trade would have to consider very carefully because those rules would have the effect of statutory enactments. He was not hostile to this Bill, but he wanted to see it working effectively.

*SIR CHARLES RENSHAW (Renfrewshire, W.) said there were hon. Members who would carefully scrutinise the provisions of Clause 2, in order to see that the owners of property were properly safeguarded. With regard to the first Clause of the Bill it contained matters which would receive every year greater attention, because it was becoming obvious to everyone that they were going to have enormous revolutions, not only in regard to railways but in other forms of locomotion. Whatever steps were taken he hoped the existing rights of the railway companies would be preserved. It was a fact that some of the railways were moving in the direction of electrifying some portions of their system without coming to Parliament. He hoped

that whatever rights the railway companies had under the existing law would not be taken away or impaired by this Bill. Under Clause 2 it would be necessary that power should be given to the Board of Trade, carefully protected by an appeal to Parliament, with a view of making it possible to carry out works which were absolutely necessary for the electrification of the line. He hoped that when this Bill was in Committee the proposals in Clause 3 would be dealt with so as to make it absolutely clear that these powers were to apply only to the electrification of railways, otherwise under this Bill they might create the greatest difficulty in the way of operating some of the large railways in the United Kingdom. He welcomed the Bill. He felt it was an indication that the Board of Trade recognised the public necessities in this matter, and he hoped the Bill would become law this session.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.) said he was sure no one would object to the principle of the Bill. The measure would result in many public advantages, and one result, he hoped, would be a clearer atmosphere in some of our railway trains. There were one or two questions he should like to ask the President of the Board of Trade with reference to the Bill. Clause 1 enabled railway companies to subscribe to any company supplying electric power. It was quite possible that railway companies, who would be large users of electric power in the future, might obtain control of a company by purchasing a majority of the shares, and they would be able to place other consumers at a disadvantage. He thought some provision ought to be inserted to safeguard the rights of the existing electrical companies' shareholders and consumers in this respect. He also directed attention to the provisions of Clause 3 in regard to the power to vary the scale of passenger fares. The provisions in Clause 2 of the Bill were extremely generous to the individual. It protected the rights of property to an extent which he believed was entirely unnecessary. Under Clause 3, on the other hand, an order could only vary the scale of passenger fares and afford additional traffic facilities to the public on a railway company applying for an

order. He thought that in view of the great revolution which would take place and make considerable difference in the working expenses of railway companies, those who were interested in the matter from the public point of view should have the power of appealing to the Board of Trade to make such a revision as might appear to be necessary, and particularly that the company should afford additional traffic facilities to the public by means of through bookings or otherwise, or making up different systems, providing junctions, and so forth. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would take these points into consideration, but at the same time he felt bound to say that, so far as the principle of the Bill was concerned, it was excellent.

*MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.) said his hon. friend the Member for Renfrewshire might disabuse his mind as to railway companies being put in the leading strings of the Board of Trade. So far as he understood the Bill it was strictly limited to the electrification of the lines, and the powers proposed to be conferred were limited to that. He agreed with the hon. Member who had just spoken that the provision as to the taking of land in Clause 2 was almost more stringent than was absolutely necessary for the purposes of the Bill. Anyone who had studied the use of electric lines to supplement the great railways in the United States of America, especially in the neighbourhood, must congratulate the right hon. Gentleman most heartily on having introduced this Bill, which would undoubtedly tend to the more rapid development, not only of the railways which had been referred to by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Aberdeen but the general development of suburban traffic round great towns by means of electricity. He believed that the expenditure of running these trains meant a considerable reduction in the cost of traffic, and English railway companies would thus largely benefit by the facilities given under this Bill. The right hon. Gentleman was therefore rendering great service, not only to the public but to the railway companies. He gathered from the President of the Board of Trade that the orders would not be, when made, immediately laid

before Parliament but only presented in an annual report. He thought that was a matter they might take reasonable exception to. It was very important that these orders and regulations with regard to the safety of these lines, the changes in the scales of passenger fares, and so on, should be placed before Parliament, in order that the action of the Board of Trade should be open to the criticism of Members in that House. There were many regulations which it was most important, in the first instance at any rate, Parliament should be able to criticise promptly while there was time to modify them if necessary. He understood the right hon. Gentleman to assent to the proposal that these orders should appear in the annual report on railways. He himself thought it would be better that they should be laid separately before the House of Commons so that Members could challenge the action of the Board of Trade.

*MR. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, Cleveland) said he thought it was a necessary and useful measure. As to Clause 3, which empowered the Board of Trade, on the application of a railway company, to "vary" the scale of passengers fares, he thought the Board of Trade would clearly not be asked to lower them.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said the application might include the lowering of fares.

*MR. HERBERT SAMUEL replied that it might happen, however, that the Board of Trade would be asked on certain grounds to allow a company to raise the fares or to cease running workmen's trains. Later on in the clause the power of appeal was given to the Commissioners against the decision of the Board of Trade, but that appeal was only allowed to any railway company affected by the proposed change. If the appeal was allowed to railway companies, why not also to the local authorities or other persons representing the public who might object to the raising of the fares. Of course, it might be said that the Board of Trade could be trusted to safeguard the rights of the public. If

they could be trusted to safeguard the rights of the public they could surely be trusted to safeguard the rights of the railway companies. If an appeal was desirable in the one case it was also desirable in the other.

MR. BRIGG (Yorkshire, W.R., Keighley) said he felt intense astonishment at the extraordinary scope of the Bill, which remodelled many of the arrangements already made on many railways. Would the President of the Board of Trade include canals as well as railways within the scope of the Bill? They were in an indifferent position, suffered severely from the competition of the railways and he could not see why they should not enjoy the same privileges as the Bill would confer on the railways.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick) asked whether the President of the Board of Trade intended to refer the Bill to the Grand Committee on Trade or to a Select Committee.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said he proposed that the Bill should be dealt with in the ordinary way by Committee of the whole House.

Bill read a second time and committed for To-morrow.

SUPPLY [11TH MAY].

Resolution reported.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1903-4.

REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

"That a sum, not exceeding £6,267,500, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Post Office Services, the Expenses of Post Office Savings Banks, and Government Annuities and Insurances, and the Collection of the Post Office Revenue."

Resolution read a second time.

*MR. SOARES (Devonshire, Barnstaple) said the question which he desired to raise on the Report of this Vote was

the establishment of an agricultural parcel post, and whether the right hon. the Postmaster-General would appoint a Committee to consider the feasibility of such a post—the Committee to consist of Members of Parliament, farmers, and gentlemen skilled in post office work. This was a question of very considerable importance, for, without doubt it would prove a great boon to the cultivators of small holdings and, indeed, lead to a greater development of small holdings. And that was a matter in which increased interest had been taken in consequence of the introduction of the Irish Land Bill. It was not a matter which would affect to any great extent large farmers who possessed the means of sending their produce to market when they liked. Many small cultivators lived a considerable distance from a market town, because by doing so they paid less rent. What was the reason why the cultivation of perishable produce was not more general than at present? It did not arise from the incapacities of the soil, because experts declared that the soil of this country was rich in salts and the other fertilising elements capable of producing good crops. The reason was the difficulty of transmission to market and getting into direct touch with the consumers. In most country districts there was only a market on one day of the week and the result was that the small cultivators were compelled to accept a small price for their produce. This was by no means a trumpery question. No less than £60,000,000 worth of perishable produce was annually imported into this country, including £20,000,000 worth of butter, £6,000,000 worth of eggs, and £250,000 worth of flowers. There was a ready market for flowers, and many ladies in reduced circumstances might make a little profit by cultivating their gardens and selling their flowers. He would give an instance of the difference between London and country in regard to the price of perishable produce. At Barnstaple, the town near which he lived, and which he represented, during the most prolific month of the year eggs were frequently sold at twenty-eight for a shilling, while in the West End

shops in London the lowest price at which eggs were sold in the same month was from eight to ten for a shilling. The difference between eight and twenty-eight was a very wide margin indeed.

There was another question involved in this subject, the health of His Majesty's lieges. Many of the articles which came from abroad were packed by means of chemical preservatives, and it need not be wondered at that there was a steady increase of dyspepsia, not only amongst hon. Members, but in the general community, when one considered the amount of Belgian Borax and French Acid which every dweller in a town was obliged to consume. He knew that there were considerable difficulties in the way of establishing an agricultural parcel post, especially the difficulties of collection and of ascertaining the nature of the contents of the packages. The hon. Member for Canterbury had written a most able article on the subject in the December number of the "Nineteenth Century," in which he dealt with most of the difficulties to be overcome in establishing an agricultural parcel post. As to collection, the hon. Member suggested that dépôts should be established along the various country roads, to which the farmers should send their parcels; that postmen should collect the parcels and take them to the market town, from whence they could be distributed by rail. He did not suggest that the rural postmen should themselves carry the parcels. They could not do it, even if they had the strength of Hercules, but they might be provided with a pony and cart, or even with a motor car. As to ascertaining the nature of the contents of the packages, there should be a register of the cultivators of small holdings, and they should undertake, with penalties for breach of the undertaking, to send only articles of a certain specified description. Of course he was fully aware that the whole question of an agricultural parcel post would depend, to a considerable extent, on the hearty goodwill of the farmers; but for his part, he believed that their hearty co-operation would be secured, and that the general result would be very much for the benefit of agriculture. Before he sat down he wished to give the right hon. the Postmaster-General a brief history of this question. In April, 1891,

a deputation waited on the late Mr. Raikes, who, in reply to their representation, said he thought that there was a very strong case for the Post Office taking upon itself the especial charge of perishable agricultural produce, the early and speedy conveyance of which was so important; and he promised to go to the Treasury to see if anything could be done generally in the direction of the proposal made. He did not know whether Mr. Raikes went to the Treasury or not, but if he did his efforts were fruitless, and he died shortly afterwards. In 1896 the matter was ventilated in the House, when the late Mr. Hanbury said that there was no objection to an agricultural parcel post, though there might be one to a reduced rate; and, moreover, the Postmaster-General would have no opportunity of ascertaining or judging how far each parcel contained agricultural produce. Again a question was put to the right hon. Gentleman the Postmaster-General in November, 1902, when the right hon. Gentleman said that the subject had been considered on more than one occasion, but the difficulties surrounding it were so great that it had not hitherto been found possible to adopt any such scheme. The right hon. Gentleman proposed, however, to examine afresh the subject as soon as he had leisure to do so. He hoped that the right hon. Gentleman had had the leisure, and that he would give the House a favourable reply that night. He moved to reduce the Vote by £100.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out '£6,267,500,' and insert '£6,267,400.'"—(*Mr. Soares.*)

Question proposed, "That '£6,267,500' stand part of the Resolution."

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.) said the hon. Gentleman who had moved this reduction and called attention to a very important matter hoped that neither he nor the House would treat it as a trumpery one. He did not think there was any danger of the matter being regarded in any quarter in that light. He was fully conscious of the strong belief among a large section of the agricultural community that the Post Office might be much more useful than it was in the carrying of their produce to their cus-

tomers. It had been his earnest desire to extend the facilities of the Post Office in this direction; but up to the present he had not been able to find a solution of the difficulty. He did not, however, propose to leave matters exactly where they stood; he was making some further inquiries in regard to certain branches, and if he could see his way to produce a satisfactory scheme no one would be more delighted than he. But one or two general considerations must be borne in mind. If they were to have a scheme it must be one which at least paid its way. He did not mean to say that at the initial stage they would not be justified in incurring some loss in order to promote a trade which they saw a good chance of securing within a reasonable time. But they ought not to undertake a trade under conditions which offered no hope of the avoidance of loss. Then the hon. Member's idea of a post confined to agricultural parcels was not a practical solution; it would neither be fair to other classes of the community nor would it be in harmony with our general Post Office system. If such a post were established, how would it be possible, for instance, to refuse the extension of facilities to the fish industry? The hon. Member spoke of the increased interest which the Irish Members took in this question in consequence of the Irish Land Bill. He was glad to think that there had been a very remarkable and extraordinary development of the Irish fishing industry under the operation of the Congested Districts Board. Surely these fishermen would be entitled to say that what had been done for one section of the community should be done for them. Any arrangement made must, he thought, be of general application.

After all, the reason why the parcel post was not more useful, or not more used by the agricultural community, was not at present a question of rates or weights. The real difficulty was that of getting these parcels from the small producer into the post office. Every post office was already a *dépôt* for the collection of such parcels. The difficulty was that in country districts they could not have a post office close at hand to every small holding, and that inevitably many of these producers would be separated by a considerable distance from the nearest post office.

To make this parcel post widely and largely useful it would be necessary in some way to secure greater facilities for collecting parcels. The Post Office could not undertake to send round to every house in the country to inquire whether they had any parcels to despatch or not; but he had been trying to find a way by which the present facilities for collection might be extended, and he would continue to devote his efforts to that end. The hon. Member had suggested a greater use of the horse-and-cart mails or of motor-cars. Hitherto they had not been able to make a great use of motor-cars because they could not afford to run any risk of a breakdown in the mail service; and, whilst motor-cars were useful for many purposes, they could not find a motor-car to run for seven days without liability to occasional breakdown. He should hope, as motor-cars improved, to be able to use them more largely for the parcel post and for the carriage of mails generally, especially in the country districts. He was making inquiries to see to what extent country mails were already carried by horses and carts which would lend themselves to the collection of parcels as well; but these mail carts ran upon main lines of traffic, and they could not divert them to branch lanes and to odd farmhouses without upsetting altogether the present delivery of letters and causing delay and inconvenience to correspondence. He was fully conscious of the great importance attached to this service in every quarter of the House, and he was giving it such attention as he could in the great pressure of other work. He could assure the House that it would not be for want of sympathy or of attention if he was unable to do anything more than was at present done to meet the wishes of the agricultural population and of others who might use the parcel post.

MR. NORMAN (Wolverhampton, S.) asked if it was not a fact that parcels were carried nightly between Liverpool and Manchester by motor-cars, and whether the service was not satisfactory.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said that there was such a service; but occasionally there was serious inconvenience owing to the breakdown of the

Mr. Austen Chamberlain.

motor-cars. They had three motor-cars on the service, one starting from each end nightly, the other being held in reserve. The car in reserve could not of course be on the spot when a breakdown occurred, and there had been very considerable delay, resulting in many complaints to the Post Office. The Post Office could not brook any breakdown, and one breakdown in the year was sufficient to make a bad service.

*MR. SOARES asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Resolution agreed to.

PUBLIC OFFICES (DUBLIN) BILL.

Read a second time, and committed to a Select Committee of five members, three to be nominated by the House, and two by the Committee of Selection.

Ordered, That all Petitions against the Bill presented five clear days before the meeting of the Committee be referred to the Committee; that the petitioners praying to be heard by themselves, their counsel, or agents be heard against the Bill, and counsel heard in support of the Bill.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Ordered, That three be the quorum.—
(*Mr. Arthur Elliot.*)

POST OFFICE SITES BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, in moving the Second Reading of this Bill, said it was of the usual type enabling the Post Office to acquire certain sites for Post Office purposes. It was proposed to extend the Paddington Office, and it was hoped that they would be able to exchange the property they now held for property belonging to the Great Western Railway Company and thereby secure a great improvement in their present office. It would be necessary to acquire additional property as well. In the Bill power was asked to close parts of two streets in the

borough, but he had undertaken, in deference to the wishes of the Borough Council, that no part of London Street would be closed, and he would move to strike out the necessary words when the Bill was before the Hybrid Committee to which he hoped it would be referred. Under those circumstances, the Borough Council had no objection to the Bill being proceeded with, although there were a few further small points to be considered. Power was also sought in the Bill to acquire land with a river frontage in Southwark for the erection of a power station for the supply of electricity for Post Office purposes. He had been asked whether he would consider the advisability of obtaining this power from one of the existing sources of supply instead of creating a new Post Office establishment. At the present time the Post Office supplied the whole of its electricity for the Central Telegraph Office; but they had exhausted their power at that station, and they were urgently in need of further power in order to improve the telegraphic facilities for London. But since the Bill had been drafted he had reason to think, as the result of some communications he had received, it might be possible for the Post Office to make advantageous terms with one of the existing companies which would relieve him from the necessity of proceeding with this scheme. At the same time he would ask the House to give him the power which was taken in the Bill, because his chance of making any terms at all of a satisfactory kind would be reduced if it became obvious to those with whom he was dealing, that he had no option but to accept their terms. There was one further point in the Bill to which he might refer. That was the power that was asked for to build on a site purchased at Buxton, which was part of the Duke of Devonshire's estate and was sold subject to certain covenants. It was impossible now to obtain release from those covenants; and they, therefore, proposed to take the power given them in the Bill to build the Post Office on the site which had been acquired, leaving anyone who might be aggrieved to obtain compensation under the Land Clauses Act. The local authority in Buxton approached him a few months ago, and represented the need of a new

Post Office; and the House, having in mind the many allusions which had been made during the discussion on the Post Office estimates to the slowness of the Post Office in carrying out the provision of new buildings, would, he hoped, grant the powers asked for in this Bill, which in every case were necessary to carry on the business of the Post Office.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid) said he thoroughly approved of the suggestion that it was expedient that the Post Office should erect a generating station of their own. He, however, thought before the Post Office entered into an arrangement with any particular company that tenders might be invited in a matter of this kind. In that way other companies might be brought into the field. With reference to the post office at Buxton the Postmaster-General might have told the House what the cost of the building would be. Of course, every local authority was anxious to get the Post Office to take up one of the most prominent sites in the town; that was only natural; the local authority were also anxious that the Post Office should erect as elegant a building as possible. But then another question arose. After the building had been erected on the best site, what happened? The valuation of the post offices was not dependent on the ordinary valuation, but in point of practice the same valuation was given to post offices as to private institutions. In that way Parliament was doubly hit—they were induced to take an expensive site when one further out would be equally good for postal purposes; they were then induced to erect elegant buildings, upon which they had to pay enormous local rates. He had no objection to money being spent with a good object, but he thought the Post Office should set its face against any such valuation as this in a matter of this kind.

Bill, read a second time, and committed to a Select Committee of five Members, three to be nominated by the House, and two by the Committee of Selection.

Ordered, That all Petitions against the Bill presented five clear days before the meeting of the Committee be referred to

the Committee; that the petitioners praying to be heard by themselves, their counsel, or agents be heard against the Bill, and counsel heard in support of the Bill.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Ordered, That three be the quorum.—
(*Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*)

MARINE INSURANCE BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order for Second Reading read,

Motion made, and Question proposed,
“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

Debate arising,

MR. CALDWELL complained that no trust could be given to arrangements made. He had been given to understand that this Bill would not be taken until nine o'clock and it was obvious that he could not conclude his speech on so important a measure in ten minutes.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs) said if the hon. Gentleman preferred to make his speech at nine he would not stand in the hon. Gentleman's way.

MR. CALDWELL moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion made, and Question, “That the debate be now adjourned,”—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed this evening.

NEW WRIT.

New Writ for the county of Kildare (South Kildare Division), in the room of Matthew Joseph Minch, esquire (Manor of Northstead).—(*Captain Donelan.*)

And there being no further business set down for the afternoon sitting, Mr. Speaker left the Chair till this evening's sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

MARINE INSURANCE BILL [LORDS].

[SECOND READING.]

Order read, for resuming adjourned debate on question, 12th May, “That the Bill be now read a second time.”

Question again proposed.

Debate resumed,

MR. CALDWELL said he was glad to have that opportunity of examining a Bill of a very technical character, but still one of considerable importance. The question was whether marine insurance ought to be codified or to remain, as it had been for centuries, under the common law. He contended that there was no justification for the change proposed under the Bill, as marine insurance was not a difficult or complicated subject. With the exception of three statutes, which were incorporated in the Bill, the law of marine insurance stood entirely upon the common law of England. Marine insurance dated back as far as the Lombards, who, 500 or 600 years ago, were the first to undertake insurance risks in this country. In those days men who sent their merchandise across the seas were subjected to exceptional risks, and the loss of a ship frequently meant ruin. It was soon discovered, however, that it was possible to calculate the risks, and someone, by going into the question of averages, was able to fix a premium which would cover the average loss and save the trader from absolute ruin. Marine insurance, therefore, arose out of the necessities of commerce, but it had never been thought necessary to place it under statutory law; it had always been dealt with under the general principles of common law. There were other interests to be considered besides insurance against loss; care had to be taken that a man should not insure for such an amount as to make it to the interest of the shipowner to see the vessel go to the bottom of the sea. Life, as well as property, was at stake, and therefore it was felt better that marine insurance should be dealt with by common law.

Marine insurance was not like an ordinary contract; it was a contract of indemnity which implied the utmost good faith on the part of the persons concerned. There was an obligation to communicate to the insurer everything material to the risk which was known to the insured. The only statutes which had been passed during the last 200 years dealing with marine insurance—the statutes of 1746, 1789, and 1867—were embodied in the second Schedule of the Bill. With the exception of those statutes marine insurance was subject solely to the common law of England, and Parliament had not thought it necessary at any time to place it under statutory law. There was a great advantage in having the law as to marine insurance quite distinct from ordinary statute law. Judges of eminence had dealt with the subject upon common law principles untrammelled by definition, those principles adapting themselves automatically to change of circumstances. One advantage of common law principles as applied to contracts of indemnity was that they embraced everything that it was necessary to embrace. The common law followed every change and every new circumstance that arose in connection with insurance, and automatically adapted itself to alterations effected by modern inventions; consequently, new legislation was not needed to meet new conditions of things. The law of marine insurance had been most carefully defined and settled; its principles and their interpretation had been decided by the highest courts. It was not pretended that this was a Bill to amend the law, it was simply to codify the law.

The House was now asked to take the law from the principles which had been enunciated by the highest legal authorities, to leave the old landmarks, and to put upon the Statute-book a definition of statute law, drawn by a draftsman and a committee. The result would be that fresh definitions would have to be given, and the judges would have to interpret the statute anew. It was a most dangerous policy to embark upon without good reason. It was surprising out of what trivial matters great results sometimes arose. This Bill owed its existence to the fact that a certain Judge

Chalmers, of Birmingham, in his leisure time had taken an interest in helping to codify the law relating to bills of exchange. The Bill had no resemblance to an Act of Parliament; it was more like a treatise such as would be found in any law text-book. There was no analogy between the law relating to bills of exchange and the law relating to marine insurance. A bill of exchange dealt with a contract, which was a very different thing. As this was the ninth Bill which had been introduced into the House of Lords, and it had taken about nine years to reach the House of Commons, it would be seen that the codification of the law was not so simple a matter as some might imagine. The original Bill, drafted by Judge Chalmers, and introduced by Lord Herschell, was remitted to a Committee in 1894. As a result of the revisals of that Committee a new Bill was brought in in 1895, but it was so changed as to be hardly recognisable, although it dealt with a law which admitted of no doubt, and of which the principles were well known. Another Bill, which again was different from its predecessors, was introduced in 1896, but still it failed to pass. Lord Herschell was not then Lord Chancellor, and if he had thought the subject was suitable for codification he had ample leisure to press the Bill through the House of Lords. Further attempts were made in 1897 and 1898, but without success. A curious thing about the 1898 Bill was that up to Clause 29 there was the usual mass of amendments as compared with the preceding Bill, but after Clause 29 there was not a single alteration. The obvious inference was that the man who started to amend the Bill became convinced, as everyone who looked into the law must be convinced, that the common law of England with regard to marine insurance could not be put into statute form, and that it was a most dangerous thing to attempt to take it out of the definition of common law. The fact that Lord Herschell would not take the responsibility of pressing it through the House of Lords at once showed the intricacy and difficulty of the subject. In 1899 the present Government tried its hand, and the Lord Chancellor brought in another amended Bill, in which the definitions laid down

by previous Committees were reversed by a new Committee. Other amended Bills were introduced in 1901 and 1902, and in July of the latter year, for the first time, it reached the House of Commons. Notwithstanding the fact that the Bill had not been considered in the House of Commons, and that it had taken nine years to get through the House of Lords, an attempt was made to press it through the House after midnight. It was in consequence of that that he had given the matter his careful consideration. The proceedings on the Third Reading of the Bill in the other House showed that the Lord Chancellor had not considered the Bill, and knew nothing at all about it. On the 26th March of this year, when Earl Russell had moved an Amendment, the Lord Chancellor made a statement which showed he had not really considered the matter.

* MR. SPEAKER: Is the hon. Member referring to a speech made upon the Bill of this year?

MR. CALDWELL: Yes.

* MR. SPEAKER: Then it is quite out of order.

MR. CALDWELL said he would at once leave that point. The whole motive power behind the Bill was the pressure of certain insurance people under a complete misapprehension as to the effect of codification. The matter became twenty times more complicated than if they simply read *Arnold on Insurance*. It had been urged that underwriters and owners of ships were all agreed as to the Bill, and that it ought therefore to be allowed to pass. But there were other parties involved in a marine insurance. The underwriters had no interest except that of taking an average of the losses, and fixing their premiums accordingly. The owners paid the premiums and had no further interest. But besides the interests of the insurers and the assured, there was the safety of the crew and passengers to be considered. These people must not be allowed to make an insurance to any extent they pleased. The Bill would so open the door that if a vessel, although worth only £1,000, was valued at £5,000, an insurance

Mr. Caldwell.

might be made for the larger amount, whereas that could not be done under the common law at present. The persons who were most anxious for this material change were the very men who were daily breaking the law by issuing honour policies, which were absolutely illegal, and were nothing but a system of gaming and wagering. This country had such an enormous amount of shipping that the House should be very chary of doing anything to change the law so clearly stated in *Arnold on Insurance* and in the judgments of the courts. Great pressure had been used to force this Bill through Parliament, and because he declined to allow it to go through after midnight without discussion he had been pilloried in all the newspapers controlled by these underwriters. Even Chambers of Commerce had passed resolutions in which he was mentioned by name. It was scarcely necessary to say that the greater the pressure the more determined he became. It was the duty of the Opposition to examine and criticise every Bill brought forward by the Government, and outsiders had no right to attempt to turn them from their duty. He did not intend to move the rejection of the Bill. He had done his duty by bringing the matter before the House and explaining the nature of the proposals; he would therefore leave to the Attorney-General and the Government the responsibility of passing the measure if they chose.

* SIR ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.) said the hon. Member for Mid Lanark had dealt with some centuries of legislation upon this subject, but he had omitted to take into consideration that most of those centuries were very different to the one in which they lived. He hoped the Attorney-General would not again attempt to pass a Bill after twelve o'clock at night, and he must feel that the hon. Member had now been most amply avenged. He did not think that his hon. friend had given undue emphasis to this subject, which was of very great importance from a shipping and commercial point of view and was one which deserved the attention of the House. He could not, however, congratulate his hon. friend upon the very impotent conclusion to his speech. The

various judgments he had referred to, if compiled, would be far more bulky and difficult to interpret than the Bill before the House. His hon. friend took exception to the Bill as containing a statement of the effect of the decided cases, but that was the object of codification. The object of consolidation and codification was to place those decisions within reach and make them intelligible to those who read. He hoped they would not always have to have recourse to Scotch law books to interpret their laws, which were sufficiently confused already, and if they were obliged to refer to such compendiums as the hon. Member had referred to the law upon this question would be more complicated than ever. He spoke on behalf of the Chambers of Shipping and Commerce, and they had the very strongest feeling in favour of the Bill. The need of it was shown by the very large array of cases which had to be consulted before one was able to arrive at a conclusion as to some of the complex and difficult situations which arose under marine insurance law. References to judgments and text books meant a considerable loss of time and great expense. We assumed that every man knew the law, and if he disobeyed it he was punished for his disobedience. But our custom appeared to be to bury the law deep in judgments and text books, where it was absolutely inaccessible. The Roman Emperor Caligula hung his laws high on lamp-posts so that the people could not read them and then punished them for their disobedience of them. But we were more ingenious. There was the greatest need of law reform, and there was no direction in which that reform was more required than in the codification and consolidation of marine insurance law. Under this Bill litigation and expense might be avoided by having a clear statement of the law. Take for example the system adopted in the French Code. By reference to the French Code and Commentaries even a lay person could decide for himself what was the state of the law before going to any French tribunal; and when that tribunal was appealed to the arguments were invariably shorter than where numbers of cases had to be referred to as in this country. The Partnership Act and the Arbitration Act were admirable examples of codified law, and in framing

these the London Chamber of Commerce had taken a leading part. It was impossible to understand the law while it was scattered through various decisions and text-books, and it should be brought within a much narrower compass. Then again codification often led to a more rapid amendment of the law. He thought this Bill was a step in the direction of those law reforms which were so urgently needed, and this was a measure which was urgently desired by the Chambers of Commerce and Shipping and all those engaged in trade.

*MR. CHARLES MCARTHUR (Liverpool, Exchange) said the hon. Gentleman opposite was, so far as he knew, the only objector to the Bill, and now that he had spoken so fully on the subject and acquainted the mercantile world so fully with his views on the subject, it was to be hoped he would allow it to pass. Its passing was desired by every one connected in any way with the law of marine insurance. The hon. Member for Mid Lanark had told the House that the law of marine insurance was composed of very small statute laws and the greater portion of them was common law. He need not say how that common law had been formed. It had been largely derived from the custom of Lloyd's, but now the time had arrived when the evolution of the law of marine insurance might be completed by combining the various principles and judgments into codes of law. This Bill was desired by everybody connected with marine insurance. The hon. Member for Mid Lanark had said that the law of marine insurance was absolutely settled and defined. If that were so he saw no objection to it being formed into a code. That was not the case, because at present there was a large amount of litigation, and shipowners were anxious to have an authorized statement of the law of marine insurance in order to satisfy themselves as to what the law really was. Lord Herschell formed a Committee of shipowners, underwriters and merchants, and they went through this Bill line by line. This measure had gone through various editions, and it had now been brought to the House of Commons in a form which satisfied all the parties

concerned. Resolutions in favour of this measure had been passed by Lloyd's, by the various Chambers of Commerce, and the associations interested in shipping, and he hoped the House would do nothing to prevent them having this handbook of the law of marine insurance which was so much desired.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs) said the House had listened with interest and sympathy to the speech of the hon. Member for Mid Lanark, and he thought he might congratulate him upon the spirited way in which he had resisted the outside pressure which he alleged had been put upon him. He must, however, differ from the hon. Member in regard to many of the things he had said both upon the general question and also with regard to this particular matter. The hon. Member for Mid Lanark seemed to regard any attempt at the codification of the law as a sort of crime.

MR. CALDWELL explained that his remark applied only to this Bill.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said there was nothing to differentiate the law of marine insurance from any other law, and if codification was good at all there was no reason why the law of marine insurance should not be codified. The hon. Member implied that any man who attempted to codify the law should present himself to the House with a halter around his neck, and if his measure did not get through that he should suffer the extreme penalty of the law. The hon. Member had attacked Mr. Chalmers for having drawn up this Bill. Mr. Chalmers had already done excellent work in codification which was highly appreciated by everyone connected with the law.

MR. CALDWELL said he did not make any attack upon Mr. Chalmers. He simply read Lord Herschell's opinion.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said the hon. Member descanted upon the way in which Mr. Chalmers had prepared this measure. Mr. Chalmers had done work for which everyone interested in commercial law was grateful, and in regard to bills of exchange and bills of sale he had done the greatest possible service to mercantile men as well as to the

legal profession. Was it quite right to insinuate that such a gentleman had taken up the codification of the law of marine insurance in the mere wantonness of idleness, and by way of riding a hobby? He did not think that any measure had ever undergone more inquiry than the present Bill. The hon. Member opposite had defied him to define what the principle of the common law with regard to marine insurance was, and immediately went on to say that its principles had been clearly defined by the judges, and that no Act of Parliament was required.

MR. CALDWELL said what he argued was that the common law existed in principles, the effect of which they saw in the judgments.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said that meant that the principle was so infallible that nobody could express it, and they could only realise that it existed in some invisible form.

MR. CALDWELL: Not limited by language.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said a principle was an intellectual conception, and admitted of being put into language.

MR. CALDWELL: Not necessarily.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said that for the convenience of lawyers and the mercantile community interested in understanding what the law was, he confessed that a measure of this kind seemed to be one of public utility. This measure had been drawn by Mr. Chalmers and scrutinised by Lord Herschell's Committee, presided over by the hon. and learned Member for Dumfries, and afterwards by Lord Herschell himself; and on that Committee sat men who were more qualified to give assistance on a matter of this kind than any other men in the kingdom. The Bill had been introduced more than once. It was introduced by the present Lord Chancellor in 1891. It was most carefully considered during the recess by an eminent judge, and improvements were suggested. It was

introduced again in 1892, and submitted to a highly representative Committee, over which the Lord Chancellor presided, and alterations were made, and now it came before the House of Commons. The hon. Member opposite said that it was a highly suspicious circumstance that everybody interested was agreed that the Bill should pass. If everybody agreed that it was a good Bill, that fact afforded a very good reason for the House passing the measure and not regarding it with suspicion.

MR. CALDWELL said there were others interested besides the insurers and the insured.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said the hon. Member had not pointed out one word in the Bill which would trench upon the safety of those who went down to the sea in ships. But if any such word did exist then let it be deleted in Committee. These were matters which ought to be considered in Committee. He would look forward to spending some happy days in Committee with his hon. friend in the consideration of this measure. If there were any flaws in it he was perfectly certain that his hon. friend would be able to find them out and to indicate the best way of meeting them. When the measure had run the gauntlet of his scrutiny the public might feel assured that it was as near perfection as any human measure could be.

Bill read a second time.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY moved that it be referred to the Standing Committee on Trade.

MR. CALDWELL said he would not object to the proposal, but he thought the Government must see that if the Bill was to be revised in any sense or form it should be considered by an expert Committee. If the Attorney-General insisted on the Bill going to the Standing Committee on Trade it might come back in a form which would make it necessary for him to move Amendments.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said the Bill had already run the gauntlet of several

expert Committees, and the consideration it would now receive in the Standing Committee on Trade from those interested in these matters would be sufficient to detect any flaws there might be in the measure.

Bill committed to the Standing Committee on Trade, etc.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE (No. 2) BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order for Second Reading read.

MR. CRIPPS (Lancashire, Stretford) moved the Second Reading of this Bill. He said he did not propose to address the House at any length, for the substance of the measure was discussed when the general question was brought before the House at an earlier part of the session. He pointed out that this Bill had a two-fold object. He thought its real object had been misunderstood. In the first place, it was intended to make more simple the costly and cumbersome system by which litigation on ecclesiastical matters was carried on at present in the ordinary Courts of law. There was also an alternative form of procedure, which would be of great advantage in connection with matters of ecclesiastical dispute. It must be admitted, he thought, that the chief power of dealing with these matters should be committed to the Bishops and Archbishops, who were the natural guardians and governors of the national Church. The proposals in this Bill did not take away in any way the rights of litigants who wished to go to the ordinary Courts, but it gave an alternative form of procedure by which the Bishops or Archbishops might exercise an administrative power in order to bring about a better state of discipline in the Church of England. That was in accordance with the recommendation of the Royal Commission on the ecclesiastical Courts. Everyone would be agreed that they ought to escape the hostile and aggressive litigant, and that they ought to have the matter settled in a quiet, administrative manner by the Bishop, with an appeal to the Archbishop, or the Archbishops Court in order to have the necessary uniformity.

T

MR. MARKHAM (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield) called attention to the fact that there were not forty Members present.

On the House being counted, it was found that there was a quorum present.

MR. CRIPPS, resuming, said this matter had come before the House of Laymen of the Province of Canterbury this day, and, by a large majority, the principle of the Bill was accepted. He begged to move the Second Reading of the Bill.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

*MR. CHARLES MCARTHUR (Liverpool, Exchange) said he must apologise to the House if he expressed himself with some degree of hesitation, owing to the fact that this Bill had come before the House very unexpectedly. He begged, however, to move the Amendment which stood in his name, "That this House, while recognising the need for further legislation to secure conformity on the part of the clergy of the Established Church to the directions of the Prayer-book and the decisions of the Ecclesiastical Courts, declines to sanction a measure which would ignore the rights of the laity, impair the Royal supremacy, and substitute an arbitrary episcopal discretion for the law of Church and Realm." As the hon. and learned Member for the Stretford Division had said, the subject of Church discipline had already been before the House during the present session in connection with the Bill introduced by his hon. friend the Member for the Toxteth Division of Liverpool. That Bill was read a second time by a majority of fifty-one. In his judgment the present Bill was practically a negation in all important particulars of the Bill the House had previously given its assent to. It was stated in the preamble of the Bill now before the House that one of its prominent features was the desire to avoid the evils of litigation, and the hon. and learned Member had referred again to the fact that all these questions ought to be settled in an administrative manner by the Bishops in the exercise of their authority, and as being the persons most competent to deal with the matter, rather

than by the ordinary Courts of law. He begged to take entire exception to that view. He ventured to think that the Bishops were singularly unfitted by virtue of their office to deal with matters of this kind; they had not the legal training, and they naturally approached this subject from, to some extent, a partial standpoint—whether High, Low, or Broad Church—and they approached the matter with the theological bias of the school in which they had been brought up. Therefore they had not got that dispassionate consideration to give a matter of this kind, that a trained Judge had. The first Clause of the Bill stated that if a complaint of the conduct of a clergyman was made to the Bishop, whether on the subject of doctrine or ritual, the Bishop might deal with the complaint by the exercise of his own authority. He pointed out that the Bishop might deal with the matter entirely *in camera*; he had not to hear evidence in the ordinary way; he had not to proceed according to any rule of law; he might hear and decide the matter in his own study; he might deal with it in writing without having either the accuser or accused before him, and he might issue his monition without giving any reason whatever for that monition. He ventured to say that was a very arbitrary exercise of the Bishop's authority, and he did not think it was fair either to the clergyman or the layman. They had the right of trial in open court. But what came next? Supposing the Bishop, being satisfied that the complaint was well founded, issued his monition and desired the clergyman to abstain from the conduct complained of, what followed? The clergyman, if he saw fit, might resort to the ordinary Courts; he might say "I don't elect to be bound by this episcopal decision; I elect to have my case tried under the Church Discipline Act and prefer to go before the Court in the ordinary way." Was that right given to the layman? No, it was not. He pointed to the obvious unfairness of the Bill in giving the clergyman the right to elect whether he would accept the monition of the Bishop, or go to Court and have the case tried in the ordinary way, while the layman had no option whatever if the Bishop decided to deal with the matter. That was very one-sided justice. Suppose that the clergyman did not appeal

to the ordinary Courts, but accepted the monition of the Bishop, if the clergyman disobeyed the monition certain ecclesiastical penalties were to fall upon him, but if the clergyman was dissatisfied with the monition he could appeal against it to a Court which was constituted in accordance with a provision in this Bill, but the layman had no right of appeal. That was another instance of the one-sided application of the Bill. He was astonished at his hon. and learned friend the Member for Stretford putting his name to such a Bill. He could not understand why a gentleman so familiar with our jurisprudence, and such an eminent lawyer as he was, should put his name to a Bill which was so obviously one-sided, by giving the clergyman on two occasions the right of appeal to the Courts, and absolutely denying that to the layman.

He would summarise his objections to the Bill. In the first place the procedure was arbitrary; in the second place the recourse to litigation was given to the clergyman only; in the third place the appeal from the monition was given to the clergyman only; and in the fourth place the appeal to the Privy Council was altogether superseded. Those responsible for the Bill which was before the House earlier in the session refused to have anything to do with this Bill; they considered that it was simply brought forward for the purpose of defeating by a side wind the Bill which was then under consideration. So far from regarding the Bill as being a settlement of the question at issue, they decidedly considered it made matters worse than before. It was a Bill brought in to increase the authority of the Bishops and to substitute the authority of the Bishops for the law of the land; it was a Bill brought in to deprive the laity of their rights and to close the Courts of law against them if any complaint was made in future. The opponents of the measure could not shut their eyes to the fact that there was, on the part of a very large portion of the clergy and a large portion of the Episcopal Bench, very strong dislike to the law of the land as administered by the Courts. They had only to read the speeches of Bishops at diocesan conferences to find that they were continually expressing disapprobation of appeal to the Courts, and why

was it that they disapproved of the Courts of law? It was because the Courts and the Privy Council had disapproved of the ritualistic and sacerdotal innovations which had been playing such havoc in the Church of England. Nothing would please a great number of the clergymen better than to find some way by which they could throw over the authority of Parliament and make a new law for themselves, according to their own idea of what was fit at the present time. The hon. Member pointed out that certain Bishops, notwithstanding the Lambeth judgment, had sanctioned modified use of incense and had allowed a modified use of reservation. It was impossible to be oblivious to the fact that this indisposition to carry out the law was part of a great scheme going on at present to change the character of the Church of England, and to introduce into it medieval customs which were discarded at the Reformation and doctrines repudiated by that Reformation, and to assimilate the doctrine and practice of the Church of England to the doctrine and practice of the Church of Rome. He ventured to say that masses of our people who were Protestants to the backbone were watching the course of this controversy with the closest attention. They were watching, and would judge by the votes given that night what was the temper and disposition of those who gave the votes in respect to this movement. They knew that this was a Bill in opposition to a measure which had already received its Second Reading, and they would form their own conclusions as to whether it was intended by means of this Bill to strike another blow at the Protestantism of this country. He begged to move.

*MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.) said that in seconding the Amendment of the hon. Member for Liverpool he wished to say, with great respect, that he was surprised that the hon. and learned Member for Stretford, who had an almost official connection with the Church of England, should have introduced a Bill of such wide scope, and of such a distinctly revolutionary nature. If the Bill had been limited to facilitating the working of machinery of the existing law; if it enabled the Bishops to better discharge their obvious duty under the existing law of the land, and

to render the exercise of their duty in regard to doctrine and ritual more satisfactory to the whole members of the Church of England, then he would have considered the measure in a different light. But the Bill was of a revolutionary character. It gave the Bishop power to suspend and to deprive a clergyman at his own initiative, or on *ex parte* representation, in fact without hearing evidence from one side or the other, and without any judicial form of procedure. The Bill was unjust, not only to the laity, whom it ousted from their rights, but to the clergy charged with offences against ritual and doctrine. At present a clergyman charged with an ecclesiastical offence had the right to go before the Courts of the country constituted to deal with these questions as an innocent man, and free, in the first instance, from any stigma against him. But what was the position of the clergyman under this Bill? The Bishop might come to his own opinion about the charge against him, and issue his monition against him, thereby giving a preliminary decision against the clergyman. And then if the incriminated clergyman used his option under Clause 2 of the Bill to be tried under the Church Discipline Act, he had to go into Court with the rope round his neck as condemned already. He was astonished that the hon. and learned Gentleman had not given fuller consideration to that point, and he challenged some explanation in regard to it. The hon. and learned Gentleman said that he wished to make clear the responsibilities of the Bishops, but he did so by placing the Bishop above the law and making him a law to himself and an absolute despot over his clergy. It was questionable whether the House of Laymen fully represented the lay feeling on this question. The hon. Member for Liverpool had pointed out the extreme injustice and inequality of treatment of the two parties to a suit under the Bill. Suppose the group of laymen brought a charge against a clergyman they would have no option whatever of putting in force the ordinary law of the land, but would be tied down by the decision of the Bishop. But if the clergyman thought it better policy to come in close contact with the Bishop, he had only to exercise the option given under Clause 2, and then the laymen were out of the case altogether. In fact the Bill deprived the laity of the existing remedy provided for them by Parliament. He called this Bill a Bill of absolutely false pretences. It seemed to him to be a Bill designed to carry out the extreme pretensions of the extreme High Church party which had been ventilated again and again in books and essays, and in Convocation. He had the warmest possible admiration for the present Bishop of Worcester, who had devoted his ability to try and constitute some form of Church government which would deal with questions of ritual and doctrine, but the aim of that Bishop, and those associated with him, and the efforts they had made, however sincere and well-intentioned, had only produced schemes which made the clergy, from the Bishops downwards, practically masters and controllers of every phase of Church life in regard to doctrine and ritual and conduct the of the lives of laymen. He must say that he had some admiration for violent extremists like Lord Halifax, who said what he meant and acted according to his profession. Lord Halifax, in a recent speech at Cambridge, practically invited Churchmen to defy Parliament and the laity, and set up nothing more nor less than a sacerdotal despotism. That was a frank avowal of what they had to face. The Bill which received its Second Reading the other day set up no new tribunal, but simply asserted the right of the laity to have access to existing Courts, so as to obtain speedy and effective redress for their grievances; but the Bill under discussion set up a new tribunal, created a new power, and handed over to the Bishops a despotic control of the Church in matters of doctrine and ritual, which would be detrimental to the rights of the laity, and even of the clergy, and was one step further to that complete sacerdotalising of the Church of England which Lord Halifax openly avowed.

Mr. Channing,

Amendment proposed—

“To leave out from the word ‘That,’ to the end of the Question, and add the words ‘This House, while recognising the need for further legislation to secure conformity on the part of the clergy of the Established Church to the directions of the Prayer-book and the decisions of the Ecclesiastical Courts, declines to sanction a measure which would ignore the rights of the laity, impair the Royal supremacy, and substitute an arbitrary Episcopal discretion for the law of Church and Realm.’”—(*Mr. Charles M^r Arthur.*)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question.”

*MR. STUART WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) said it could not be expected that he should support a Bill if all the things were true which were said of it by the hon. Member who moved its rejection. Very gross misconceptions were prevalent with respect to the Bill. The Bill kept absolutely intact all existing procedures, supremacies, and appeals, and it removed no option whatever from any member of the laity. It left the laity in full possession of all their existing control of the removal of any existing grievances. It would still be open to any aggrieved person to institute all the old procedures, and with the same likelihood of success as at present. Far from impairing the Royal supremacy, and taking away the rights of the laity, as was said, the Bill did not substitute any arbitrary Episcopal discretion, but rather laid on the Episcopal Bench and its members a very serious and solemn duty, for under the Bill it would not be open to the Bishop to refuse to proceed after complaint under this Bill had been made to him. He was really astonished that the Bill should have been described in the way it had been by the hon. Gentleman who moved the Amendment. He supported the Bill

because it would afford a summary, ready, and inexpensive method of putting an end to lawlessness and disloyalty in the Church. It afforded a real remedy for disloyalty in place of the undignified, painful, and discreditable alternatives which were, unfortunately, all that the present law supplied. His hon. and learned friend the Member for Stretford was to be congratulated on having introduced the Bill, and he hoped that it would be read a second time by a large majority.

MR. ROBSON (South Shields) said that the hon. and learned Member who introduced the Bill described it as providing an alternative and co-ordinate jurisdiction within the Church to the ordinary lay jurisdiction without the Church. That was a plausible description of the Bill, but it would be seen, he thought, on close examination, to cover a somewhat dangerous infringement of the rights of the common people in regard to the Church. It was quite true that the Bill provided a co-ordinate and alternative jurisdiction, but what did that mean? It meant that two parties might substitute the Bishop's jurisdiction for that of the Law Courts. That might be very desirable from the point of view of the persons immediately concerned in the complaint.

MR. CRIPPS: That can be done now conveniently.

MR. ROBSON said that that could be done now if the opinion of the Bishop was desired, but the opinion of the Bishop had no legal sanction, except such sanction as was given to it by those who desired the opinion of the Bishop. The Bill proposed to invest what hitherto might have been termed an academic or theological opinion with all the terrors of

the law. His hon. and learned friend said the Bill made no alteration in the law, but if it did not make an alteration of the law he was sure the hon. and learned Gentleman would not have introduced it. That might be all very well from the point of view of the immediate parties concerned, viz., the clergyman and the claimant. But these were by no means the only persons interested. The complaint might relate to some question of doctrine or ritual in the Church of England, and it was not for the two persons to invite some decision on a particular point, it was not for them to invite or invoke a tribunal whose opinion and decision would have a general authority over the people at large. The Church of England had become of late a National Church in a sense to which it could not lay claim, or at all events did not lay claim, until two or three years ago. Previously it was supported by that which was described as its own property tithe and the contributions of its Members; but the National Church now was supported by rates and taxes. ["Hear, hear," and MINISTERIAL cries of "No."] It was not merely this or that community, this or that clergyman, who was interested in the ritual and doctrines of the National Church. It was every ratepayer, every taxpayer. [MINISTERIAL Cries of, "Oh, oh."] Every Nonconformist who was called upon to pay out of his substance for the teaching of Church doctrines was entitled by every rule of equity and honesty to have some say in the tribunal that was to determine what those doctrines were to be. The hon. and learned Member must know that all these parties were on a totally different footing now to what they were two or three years ago. The Nonconformists had now a *locus standi* which Churchmen

Mr. Robson.

had hitherto denied them. The doctrine which the Bishop was to lay down as being the doctrine of the Church, was a doctrine to be taught in the schools, and which could be imposed by episcopal or clerical direction on the schoolmaster. It was, therefore, the doctrine for which not only Churchmen, but Wesleyans, Methodists, Baptists, and other Nonconformists had to pay. It was for the Nonconformists to accept, according to the Bill, the opinion of the Bishop obtained by the consent of the two parties to the complaint without uttering a word. All that they had got to do was to pay. Now that would not do. He for one entirely disputed the right of two persons in a parish, one of whom was the clergyman, to choose the tribunal that was to decide the doctrine to be taught in the village school.

MR. CRIPPS: That is the law now.

MR. ROBSON said he would not put his authority as an ecclesiastical lawyer against that of his hon. friend, but he could assure him that he was on this occasion mistaken in his law. No doubt a Bishop, on the invitation of the clergymen and other persons might have the power to declare the doctrines of the Church of England but his declaration was perfectly worthless in law.

LORD HUGH CECIL (Greenwich): He has power to decide under the Act of 1840.

MR. ROBSON: Does the noble Lord say that the Bishop having decided, can follow up his decision with suspension.

LORD HUGH CECIL: Certainly.

MR. ROBSON asked him then what on earth was the use of the Bill. If his hon. and learned friend were right, what did he mean by taking up the valuable time of the House by introducing a Bill apparently from end to end not merely worthless, but wholly superfluous and unnecessary for any purpose? But it was not the law that the Bishop on the expression of his opinion should thereupon have a right to suspend a clergyman from performing Divine service. If he had not the right now he hoped the House would not proceed to confer it by that Bill. No doubt he might have some jurisdiction, but apparently it was harmless. It would be vicious both in principle and in practice, and the Bill was intended to give practical efficiency to a vicious principle. If they were going to alter the disciplinary procedure of the Church of England they must consult—not merely the communicants, not merely the clergymen and the Bishops—they must consult the lay power representing the whole people of England under the name of the Royal supremacy. He thought that far too much attention was given, in the consideration of Church Discipline Bills, to mere matters of ritual. Ritual was much overrated in these controversies. He for one would allow almost unlimited latitude of ritual to those who found in it different forms of spiritual instruction, but having once got the doctrine let them be careful not to unduly restrict the capacity for doctrinal development of the Church of England. He could not imagine anything more mischievous in regard to doctrinal development than to permit a communicant, a clergyman, or a Bishop here or there to decide with anything like authority on those doctrines. With regard to the details of the Bill, he could

not imagine a more impractical proceeding than that there should be an appeal from one Archbishop to the other. Of course the Archbishop sitting as a Court of appeal would remember a decision of his own which had been reversed by his brother Archbishop on a previous occasion, and would have little respect for his judgment. But that was a matter for the Committee. What they were now concerned with was the broader principle that not merely communicants of the Church of England, but the whole people of England who now paid their rates and taxes for teaching the Anglican doctrine, should have the right to say what that doctrine was and how it ought to be taught.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I have derived so much entertainment from that part of the speech of the hon. and learned Gentleman which I have heard that I regret I was not here at the beginning of it. As I understand, he has had the ingenuity to drag into the discussion of my hon. and learned friend's Bill all the controversies, as well as reminiscences of the speeches which he made in the weary months in which we were discussing the Education Bill of last year. That is a piece of marvellous ingenuity on which I really congratulate the hon. and learned Gentleman. I hope that ingenuity will not have—if he will forgive the phrase—the same perverted exercise when we come to discuss another Education Bill that is now before the House. I fail to follow what I gathered was the principal contention of the hon. and learned Gentleman. I do not think he yielded to the view of my hon. friend behind me, who thinks that the Bill now before us will

destroy the appeal to the Privy Council. That is a question on which I do not like to offer an opinion, but I do not think the hon. and learned Gentleman committed himself to that proposition. I think he agrees with all the lawyers whom I have had the pleasure of consulting that it does not destroy the appeal to the Privy Council, and, therefore, my hon. friend's fears in that respect are unfounded. The hon. and learned Gentleman appears to think that it is a serious consideration, to be weighed by those who are going to vote for or against the Second Reading of this Bill, that voluntary schools are now supported out of the rates instead of being supported out of the taxes. Is the hon. and learned Gentleman serious? He actually told the House at considerable length, not as a passing reference, not as a casual sarcasm, but as an elaborate contention, that, because before the Education Act of 1902 the taxes were devoted in part to the support of voluntary schools, and now the rates in addition to the taxes were in part devoted to that purpose, the whole position of the Church of England in relation to the laity was entirely altered.

MR. ROBSON: I said there was a great distinction between devoting tithes to the teaching of Church doctrine in schools and devoting rates and taxes to that teaching. I did not draw a distinction between rates and taxes, but between tithes on the one hand and rates and taxes on the other.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Is the hon. Member so absolutely ignorant of what our educational system has been for more than a generation that he does not know that taxes have been devoted to the support of voluntary schools?

Mr. A. J. Balfour.

MR. ROBSON: Not to teaching Church doctrine.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Much more than they are now. Is the hon. and learned Gentleman coming down to this House to solemnly tell us that a system under which taxes were devoted to Church schools, in which there was absolutely no control by any authority whatever unless you call the inspection of the school control, did not support the Church more than a system under which the whole control of secular education is taken away from the Church managers? I have never heard a more amazing contention. He must have been presuming upon the emptiness of the House when he made that statement. Observe where it would lead us. It appears that the Church of England is now an Established Church in quite a different sense from what it ever was before. Before the Act of 1902, it was an Established Church in which the communicants might, indeed, have been the proper people to direct the policy of the Church in Church matters. Now it is not. Follow out that argument. Money is given under the Act of 1902, not to Church schools alone, but also to Roman Catholic schools, Wesleyan schools, and the schools of other denominations. Are the Wesleyans now an Established Church? Has every taxpayer and ratepayer a right now to look into the discipline of the Wesleyan Church which they had not before that Bill was passed? Then what is the hon. and learned Gentleman's argument? Why does he come down to the House and deal in fallacies of this kind, which may be good enough, possibly, on a controversial platform, but which really this House should be spared? I do not pledge

myself to the details of my hon. friend's Bill. As the House knows, my view upon both the measures which have been before the House in the course of the session was that they should pass the Second Reading and be referred to a Select Committee. In favour of that policy, I spoke and voted at an earlier stage; and believing, as I still do, that

it is a sound policy, I shall vote for the Second Reading of my hon. friend's Bill, and I shall hope that the original scheme which I ventured to press upon the House may be carried into effect.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 78; Noes, 58. (Division List No. 82.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Allhusen Augustus Henry Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther, H. T.
Arrol, Sir William
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (*Man'r*)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bignold, Arthur
Bill, Charles
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*)
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. A. (*Worc.*)
Chapman, Edward
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cranborne, Viscount
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir J. E.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duke, Henry Edward
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Ed.

Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
Flower, Ernest
Forster Henry William
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nairn*)
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Green, Sir E. W. (*Bury St. Ed*)
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Ld. G. (*Midx*)
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Heath, James (*Staffs., N. W.*)
Helder, Augustus
Hobhouse, Rt. Hon. H. (*Som'r'st, E*)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
Johnstone, Heywood
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (*Monm'th*)
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Long Rt. Hon. Walter (*Bristol, S*)
Lowe, Francis William
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdonald, John Cumming
McKillop, James (*Stirlingshire*)
Milvain, Thomas
More, Robt. Jasper (*Shropshire*)

Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
Purvis, Robert
Rankin, Sir James
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Remnant, Jas. Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bagg
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (*Isle of Wight*)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Stroyan, John
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir W. H.
Welby, Lt.-Col. ACE. (*Taunton*)
Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (*Notts*)
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (*Dorset*)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES.—
Mr. Cripps and Mr.
Stuart-Wortley.

NOES.

Abraham, W. (*Cork, N.E.*)
Allan, Sir William (*Gateshead*)
Allen, Charles P. (*Glouc. Stroud*)
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbt. Hy.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Caldwell, James
Cawley, Frederick
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasgow*)
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Craig, Charles Curtis (*Antrim, S*)
Cremer, William Randal
Denny, Colonel
Dewar, John A. (*Inverness-sh.*)
Doogan, P. C.
Fenwick, Charles
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Fyler, John Arthur
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton

Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Houlst, Joseph
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Joyce, Sir James
Jones, William (*Carnarvonshire*)
Joyce, Michael
Lambert, George
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
Leigh, Sir Joseph
MacIver, David (*Liverpool*)
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Priestley, Arthur
Randles, John S.
Rea, Russell
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
Robson, William Snowdon

Roe, Sir Thomas
Samuel, Herbt. L. (*Cleveland*)
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles E. (*Stafford*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Soares, Ernest J.
Taylor, Theo. C. (*Radcliffe*)
Thomas, David Alfred (*Merthyr*)
Thomas, J. A. (*Glam., Gower*)
Wallace, Robert
White, George (*Norfolk*)
Wilcox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, John (*Durham, Mid*)
Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wylie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE NOES.—
Mr. Charles M'Arthur
and Mr. Channing.

Main Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 80; Noes, 56. (Division List No. 83.)

A YES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
 Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
 Allhusen, Aug. Henry Eden
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Anstruther, H. T.
 Arrol, Sir William
 Bain, Colonel James Robert
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Man'r*)
 Banbury, Sir Frederic George
 Bignold, Arthur
 Bill, Charles
 Bond, Edward
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*)
 Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A. (*Worc*)
 Chapman, Edward
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Cross, H. Shepherd (*Bolton*)
 Crossley, Sir Savile
 Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir J. E.
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
 Duke, Henry Edward
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas

Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Ed.
 Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose
 Flower, Ernest
 Forster, Henry William
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nrn*)
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Greene, Sir E. W. (*Bury St. Ed.*)
 Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Ld. G. (*Midz*)
 Heath, James (*Staffords, N. W*)
 Helder, Augustus
 Hobhouse, Rt. Hn. H. (*Somrst E*)
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Johnstone, Heywood
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*)
 Lawrence, Sir Jos. (*Monm'th*)
 Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
 Llewellyn, Evan Henry
 Long, Rt. Hn. W. (*Bristol, S.*)
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 McKillop, James (*Stirlingshire*)
 Milvain, Thomas
 More, Robt. Jasper (*Shropshire*)

Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
 Purvis, Robert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Reid, James (*Greenock*)
 Remnant, James Farquharson
 Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, H. (*Hackney*)
 Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
 Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (*Isle of Wight*)
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
 Stroyan, John
 Valentia, Viscount
 Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir W. H.
 Welby, Lt.-Col. ACE. (*Taunton*)
 Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (*Notts*)
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. J. Lloyd
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Colonel R. (*Dorset*)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Mr. Cripps and Mr.
 Stuart-Wortley.

NOES.

Abraham, W. (*Cork, N.E.*)
 Allan, Sir William (*Gateshead*)
 Allen, Charles P. (*Glouc., Stroud*)
 Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbt. Hy.
 Barran, Rowland Hirst
 Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
 Caldwell, James
 Cawley, Frederick
 Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasgow*)
 Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
 Craig, Charles Curtis (*Antrim, S*)
 Cremer, William Randal
 Denny, Colonel
 Dewar, John A. (*Inverness-sh.*)
 Doogan, P. C.
 Fenwick, Charles
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*)
 Fuller, J. M. F.
 Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton

Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
 Houlst, Joseph
 Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, William (*Carnarvonshire*)
 Lambert, George
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*)
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
 Leigh, Sir Joseph
 MacIver, David (*Liverpool*)
 Mansfield, Horace Rendall
 Markham, Arthur Basil
 O'Kelly, Conor (*Mayo, N.*)
 Priestley, Arthur
 Randles, John S.
 Rea, Russell
 Rigg, Richard
 Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
 Robson, William Snowdon

Roe, Sir Thomas
 Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
 Shackleton, David James
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (*Stafford*)
 Shipman, Dr. John G.
 Soares, Ernest J.
 Taylor, Theo. C. (*Radcliffe*)
 Thomas, David Alfred (*Merthyr*)
 Thomas, J. A. (*Glam., Gower*)
 Wallace, Robert
 White, George (*Norfolk*)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wilson, John (*Durham, Mid.*)
 Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wylie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Charles M'Arthur
 and Mr. Channing.

Bill read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed,
 "That the Bill be committed to a Select
 Committee."—(*Mr. Cripps.*)

SIR WALTER FOSTER (*Derbyshire*,
 Ilkeston) said the question of referring the
 Bill to a Select Committee was one which
 deserved a great deal of consideration,
 because in a matter of that kind it might
 not be agreeable to those who desired to
 legislate on the other side, that the matter
 should be referred to a Select Committee.
 There was a difficulty in bringing the
 contending parties to a common consent
 as to whether this was the best proceeding
 to bring about satisfactory legislation.
 They were not likely to arrive at a general

consent unless the matter was dealt with
 in a spirit of compromise and conciliation.
 He thought that they ought to have some
 assurance from the right hon. Gentleman
 that he would take steps to ensure that
 no favour would be given to one Bill as
 compared with the other. He thought
 that the House ought to refuse to give
 one of the Bills a move in a direction
 that would not be satisfactory to the
 parties on the other side. It was ex-
 ceedingly difficult to legislate on a matter
 which excited more passion and feeling
 than any other subject that could be
 brought before the House; and they
 ought to try to bring about a spirit of
 goodwill in order that both parties might
 be willing to accept a common course.
 He would ask hon. Members interested

in the other Bill to say whether they thought that the proposed course was desirable; and then he hoped the Prime Minister would be able to put before the House a proposal which would be acceptable to both parties.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that the proposal which he had put before the House more than once was that both Bills should be referred to a Select Committee. Whether the fact that that proposal was refused on a previous occasion threw any difficulty in the way he could not say without further inquiry. At all events, in substance if not in form, there would be no difficulty in the Select Committee having both proposals before them. If there was any such difficulty hon. Members should do him the justice of saying that it was not of his seeking. He had done his best to obtain that arrangement, and he hoped it would be carried out.

*MR. CHANNING said the situation at which they had arrived was not a satisfactory one. At an early period of the session the House discussed a Bill, brought in with full notice in one of the fullest Houses of the session, and it was passed after the fullest discussion by an enormous majority. That Bill gave the right to the laity to obtain redress. Now, on this occasion, it happened that they had an absolutely snatch division taken in a thin House utterly unprepared to discuss or decide the matter. He ventured to say that the hon. and learned Gentleman who introduced the Bill had no idea whatever, when he came to the House this afternoon, that he would be able to bring it forward. To assert that the decision of 130 Members out of 670 should be regarded as the deliberate decision of the House of Commons, when

no opportunity had been given to Members interested to be present, was a travesty of debate. They were now invited to treat both Bills on the same level, and to send them to a Select Committee which might be manipulated in certain interests. He had been in the House a good many years, and had seen a good many Committees appointed, and he was well within his right in saying that many Committees appointed to deal with highly controversial subjects were not always composed in a strictly impartial and representative manner. This House decided deliberately, after full notice and by an immense majority, in favour of the other Bill; the present Bill was passed on a chance majority, and it was simply preposterous to represent one Bill as standing on the same footing as the other. He would most strongly oppose any attempt to refer this Bill to any Committee of the House. The attempt to seize the present opportunity to force this Bill down the throats of the House of Commons and give it an advantage over the other Bill, was, to his mind, a species of tactics discreditable to those who, although they did not design the occasion, availed themselves of it in a manner which did not represent the true spirit of the House as declared on a former occasion. He would ask hon. Members to consider fully what this action meant. Could it be denied that the great majority of this House representing the Protestant feeling of this country——

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member must confine himself to the question of referring the Bill to a Committee.

*MR. CHANNING said he was only urging that the other Bill represented the opinion of a vast majority of the House, and that the present Bill, carried

on a chance majority, could not be regarded as representing the opinion of the majority of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: I must ask the hon. Member to remember that the question before the House is that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee. The hon. Member is now discussing whether the decision which was arrived at represents a majority of the House.

*MR. CHANNING said he would only say in conclusion that a Bill passed in such a manner was not entitled to any special privileges, and he would, therefore, resist the Motion.

MR. CALDWELL said that if the Motion was to refer the Bill to the Standing Committee on Law in the usual way, there would be every chance that the decision of Parliament would be given effect to. He was surprised that the Prime Minister did not suggest that the Bill should be referred to the Standing Committee on Law. If the Bill were intended to pass, obviously it should be sent to that Committee; if, on the other hand, it was merely meant as a blocking Bill, a Bill to prevent legislation on the subject, then its object would be gained by sending it to a Select Committee. Everyone knew that when a Bill was sent to a Select Committee its chance of becoming law was stultified altogether. The Prime Minister knew very well that if the Bill was sent to a Select Committee it would mean killing it.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Both Bills are dead already.

MR. CALDWELL said that the present Bill was intended merely to prevent
Mr. Channing.

Parliament giving effect to its wishes. What was the use of sending the Bill to a Select Committee when the Prime Minister stated that both Bills were dead.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said it was perfectly obvious to anyone who was cognisant of Parliamentary practice that there would be no time for private Bills which had not got further than the two Bills referred to.

MR. CALDWELL said that the Government could intervene in the case of a private Bill, and star it. No doubt the right hon. Gentleman was also aware that a movement was on foot for the purpose of getting facilities from the Government with reference to No. 1 Bill. He did not think the Prime Minister could say that the Bills were necessarily dead unless he himself killed them; but the right hon. Gentleman had also the power of resurrecting them. If the present Bill were not intended to become law what was the use of sending it to a Select Committee? That would mean embarking on a long inquiry, at the end of which they would find themselves no more forward than they were at present. On the contrary, their position would be worse, because a great deal of confusion would have been occasioned. He did not see any use, in the circumstances, of referring the Bill to a Select Committee; and he would, therefore, propose that they should allow the Bill.

And, it being Midnight, the Debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed this day.

Adjourned at one minute after
Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 13th May, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL
BUSINESS.

Cleveland and Durham County Electric Power Bill [Lords], Mersey Docks and Harbour Board Bill [Lords]. Read a second time and committed.

Naval Works Provisional Order. Bill to confirm a Provisional Order of the Admiralty under the Naval Works Act, 1895; ordered to be brought in by Mr. Pretyman and Mr. Arnold-Forster.

Naval Works Provisional Order Bill. "To confirm a Provisional Order of the Admiralty under the Naval Works Act, 1895"; presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. (Bill 196.)

Strabane and Letterkenny Railway Bill. Report (12th May) from the Select Committee on Standing Orders read; ordered that the Bill be read a second time.—(Mr. Caldwell.)

London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill; reported with Amendments; report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PETITIONS.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE BILL.

Petition from London, against; to lie upon the Table.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE (No. 2) BILL.

Petition from London, against; to lie upon the Table.

COAL MINES REGULATION BILL.

Petitions in favour; from Ystradowen; Rockingham (No. 1); Butterworth Hall; West Bromwich; Abercrave; Clydach Merthyr; Dunvant; Pontardulais; Hendreforgan; Noyadd; Birch Rock; and Dowlais Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

VOL. CXXII. [FOURTH SERIES.]

COUNTY COURTS JURISDICTION
EXTENSION BILL.

Petition from Derby, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

DETENTION OF POOR PERSONS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Lintrathen, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN BILL.

Petition from London, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Petitions for alteration; from Cumnock; Thornhill; Saint Mungo; Ladyloan; and Forfar; to lie upon the Table.

LONDON EDUCATION BILL.

Petition from London, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED
WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Petition from London, against; to lie upon the Table.

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL.

Petitions in favour: from Castleford; Tunbridge Wells; Dalton-in-Furness; Waterloo; Blackley; Rochester; Maidstone; Leith; Stepney; Haughton; Teignmouth; Birtley; West Pelton; Stocksbridge; Stalybridge; Clapton Park; Rochdale; Middlesbrough; Manchester; Farnworth; Woolford; Bury; Longridge; Great and Little Bolton; Pickering; Darwen; Galston; Edmonton; New Mills; Glossop Dale; Uppertown; and Seaton Delaval; to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Petition from Leeds, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE DISPUTES BILL.

Petitions in favour; from Ystradowen; West Bromwich; Clydach Merthyr; Dunvant; Hendreforgan; Noyadd; Birch Rock; and Dowlais Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

U

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ARMY (SPECIAL PENSIONS).

Copy presented of Return for the year ended 31st March, 1903, of Pensions specially granted under Articles 730, 1173A, and 1207 of the Army Pay Warrant [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented of Report of the Committee of Council on Education in Scotland, with Appendix, 1902-3 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) (GENERAL REPORTS).

Copy presented of General Report by the Chief Inspector of the Western Division of Scotland for the year 1902 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2971 to 2975 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (MISCELLANEOUS SERIES).

Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Miscellaneous Series, No. 589 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

RAILWAYS (ELECTRICAL POWER) [EXPENSES].

Committee to consider of authorising the payment, out of moneys provided by Parliament, of the remuneration of any persons appointed by the Board of Trade for the purposes of any Act of the present Session to facilitate the introduction and use of Electric Power on Railways, and any other expenses incurred by the Board of Trade in carrying such Act into effect (King's recommendation signified), to-morrow.—(*Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*)

PUBLIC OFFICES (DUBLIN) [ADVANCES].

Committee to consider of authorising the issue, out of the Consolidated Fund, of such sums as may be required for the purposes of any Act of the present Session for the acquisition of certain

land in Dublin, and for the erection and equipment of a Royal College of Science and other buildings for the public service, and of authorising the Treasury to borrow money by means of terminable annuities, such annuities to be paid out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, and if those moneys are insufficient out of the Consolidated Fund (King's recommendation signified), to - morrow.—(*Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*)

POST OFFICE SITES [EXPENSES].

Committee to consider of authorising the payment, out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, of all sums payable by the Postmaster-General, under any Act of the present Session, to enable His Majesty's Postmaster-General to acquire lands in London and Bristol for the public service, and of all expenses incurred in carrying into effect the provisions of such Act (King's recommendation signified), to-morrow.—(*Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Overcrowding in the Peterborough Rural District.

Mr. MANSFIELD (Lincolnshire, Spalding): To ask the President of the Local Government Board has the attention of the Local Government Board been drawn to the statements made at a recent meeting of the Peterborough Rural District Council as to overcrowding in the villages in the district; and, if so, whether he can bring pressure on the authority to provide further accommodation.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) I am aware of the statements at the meeting referred to. I understand that the cases of overcrowding were reported by the Inspector of Nuisances to the Rural District Council, who have caused the usual statutory notices for the abatement of the nuisance to be served. The time allowed by the notices has not yet expired. It is stated that the overcrowding is caused by the number of migratory railway workmen, who are from time to time employed in the

district by the companies without provision being made for housing them. Some new cottages are, however, now being erected. The Rural District Council appear to be fully alive to their responsibilities in the matter, and it is owing to their action that the cases referred to have been brought to light.

Cornwall County Council Allotments.

MR. MANSFIELD: To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been drawn to the statements made at a recent meeting of the Cornwall County Council that the Council had not been able to provide allotments owing to the opposition of the Local Government Board; and whether, seeing that in the St. Clears district of the county there is land now uncultivated suitable for allotments, he will explain why the Local Government Board has refused to sanction the application for allotments in Cornwall, and take steps to assist the Cornwall County Council to provide allotments and small holdings.

(Answered by Mr. Walter Long.) My attention has not been drawn to the statements referred to. I am aware that in two cases, in each of which the County Council had made an order authorising a parish council to hire land compulsorily for allotments, adverse memorials were presented to the Local Government Board, who, after inquiry, found themselves unable to confirm the orders. In both cases it appeared that, apart from other difficulties, the letting of the proposed allotments in the manner contemplated would have involved a contravention of the statutory provisions. Moreover, in one of them, permanent pasture land would have been broken up, and it was not shown that suitable land for allotments could not be hired by agreement on reasonable terms. I am, however, quite ready to consider any application which may be made to me to exercise any powers I possess in relation to allotments or small holdings in Cornwall, and to exercise such powers if it is shown that in the circumstances of the particular case I can properly do so.

Underground Bakehouses.

DR. SHIPMAN (Northampton): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department whether he will introduce or support the introduction of a Bill granting compensation to the tenants of underground bakehouses, who have had, or may have, their certificates refused under the Factory and Workshops Act of 1901 from causes over which they, as tenants, have no control.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.) The deliberate intention of Parliament was made plain when Section 101 of the Factory Act was passed in 1901, prohibiting the continued use of underground bakehouses after the 1st of January, 1904, unless certified by the District Council to be suitable for the purpose. In addition to the time allowed before this new requirement comes into force, Sub-sections (7) and (8) of that section provide for an appeal against the refusal of a certificate, and enable a Court, if it thinks fit, on complaint by the occupier, in a case where a certificate cannot be obtained unless structural alterations are made, to adjust the expenses between owner and occupier, or to determine the lease. There appears, therefore, to be no ground for a Bill such as the hon. Member indicates.

South African War—Rewards for Militia Officers.

MR. SEELY (Lincoln): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether, when the decision was taken not to grant any rewards to the Militia Regiments that were sent to South Africa during 1902, it had been brought to his notice that some of the officers recommended for reward had served in South Africa for long periods prior to the arrival of their regiments; and whether he will reconsider those cases.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.) Lord Kitchener dealt with all the cases of officers who served previously to 1902 which were brought to his notice, and they were all dealt with entirely on their merits.

Census of Occupations—Extension to Scotland and Ireland.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he will grant a Return in continuation of that ordered to be printed on 4th September, 1895

(Parliamentary Paper, No. 468, Session 2), showing the occupations of the people as disclosed by the recent census; and whether it could be extended so as to include Scotland and Ireland.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) In this matter I am only concerned with England and Wales. I am informed by the Registrar-General that, in consequence of the change which has been made in the classification of occupations in the recent census, with the object of securing a more accurate definition of employment, a comparison in this respect with any previous census is extremely difficult. A comparative table, so far as it can be given, is, however, in course of preparation, and will be issued with the final report on the census. I trust that this will meet the object the hon. Member has in view.

Wages of Sub-Postmasters.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: To ask the Postmaster-General whether he proposes to include sub-postmasters in the reference to the Committee on wages of certain classes of Post Office employees.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) I beg to refer the hon. Member to the answer which I gave to a similar Question on Monday last,† and to my remarks on the same subject in the debate on the Post Office Vote.

Ventilation of House of Commons Telegraph Room.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): To ask the hon. Member for North Huntingdonshire, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, whether his attention has been called to the condition of the instrument room of the telegraph office, House of Commons, and to the fact that owing to its proximity to the boiler house the temperature is rarely below 70 degrees, and the ventilation is defective; and whether he will consider what improvements can be effected.

(*Answered by Mr. Ailwyn Fellows.*) The First Commissioner admits there is a foundation for this complaint, and he will take steps to effect an improvement.

† See page 392.

Opening of the New Road from the Mall to Charing Cross.

SIR HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.): To ask the hon. Member for North Huntingdonshire, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, if he will state when the road from the Mall to Charing Cross will be opened for traffic.

(*Answered by Mr. Ailwyn Fellows.*) Steps are being taken to find accommodation elsewhere for the officials and others occupying portions of the old buildings in Spring Gardens, with a view to the demolition of the buildings without delay. It is impossible to say when the road will be open for traffic.

Action Remitted from County Courts to High Courts—Amendment of Procedure.

SIR THOMAS DEWAR (Tower Hamlets, St. George's): To ask Mr. Attorney-General whether his attention has been called to remarks by His Majesty's Judges, notably Judge Emden, when sitting at Lambeth County Court in January last, condemning the separate system between the High Court and County Court; and seeing that the procedure under which petty actions are remitted from the High Court to County Court entails on litigants costs in excess of the amount in dispute, will he consider the expediency of taking steps to amend the present system.

(*Answered by Sir Robert Finlay.*) I am aware that the question of the relations between the High Court and County Courts has formed the subject of discussion. The extension of the jurisdiction of the County Courts forms the subject of a Bill now before this House. If petty actions are brought in the High Court, it is proper that they should be remitted. There is not, so far as I am aware, any adequate reason for treating separately the question of the amount of costs incurred in this particular connection.

Cost of Rent Fixing Branch of Irish Land Commission.

SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the annual cost of the branch of the Land Commission engaged in transactions relating to rent fixing, and what sum represents its capitalised value;

what is the approximate estimate of annual cost to be incurred by the creation of an Estates Commissioners branch of the Land Commission contemplated by the Land Bill; and what is the estimated capitalised value of such additional cost.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) It is not possible to dissever in the manner indicated the cost of the Judicial and other Commissioners, or of the legal and lay Assistant Commissioners and the various other officers employed on the staff of the Land Commission. When not engaged at fair rent work they are employed on land purchase or other work. Approximately, however, the proportion of the total cost of the Land Commission (taken at £142,000 per annum) which may be charged to fair rent transactions is about £95,000 per annum. It is impossible at present to estimate, even approximately, the cost of the new Department.

Ireland—Evening National Schools— Payment of Grants.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether Rule 10 of the Revised Rules for Evening National Schools, which provides that payment will be made to the managers immediately after the end of each session, is acted upon; can he say how the Commissioners of Education interpret the word immediately; and, seeing that most evening national schools ended their session on 31st March, will he state whether payment of the money earned has been made to the managers.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) There has been a very large increase in the number of evening national schools since the new rules for evening schools were issued. Before the issue of the new rules there were only twenty-one evening schools throughout Ireland; now there are over 1,000 such schools. This remarkable increase in the number of evening schools has thrown enormous additional work on the officers of the Commissioners, both indoor and outdoor. It has been found, therefore, quite impossible to transmit the fees in every case immediately after the close of the session, but the fees are sent to the managers as soon as possible after the close of the

session in each case where the conditions have been complied with and the final reports have been received from the inspectors.

County Mayo—Application of Mr. James Stuart for a Bull.

MR. WILLIAM M'KILLOP (Sligo, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if the Congested Districts Board will take into favourable consideration the application for a Polled Angus bull by Mr. James Stuart, of Carrowcushlane, Ardnanel, county Sligo, in view of the resolution requesting them to do so passed by the County Mayo Agricultural Committee.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The application was considered in 1901, and again in 1902, but the Board felt unable to approve of it. There are two bulls, the property of the Board, on an adjoining townland, and these are considered to be sufficient for the needs of the district.

Canteen Committee Report.

MR. NOLAN (Louth, S.): To ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state when the report of the Canteen Committee will be printed and circulated.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) It is hoped that it will be circulated this week.

Scotch Licensing Bill—Date of Consideration by Standing Committee.

SIR CHARLES RENSHAW (Renfrewshire, W.): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can now state the date on which the Scotch Licensing Bill will be taken in the Standing Committee.

(*Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.*) I understand that it is likely that this Bill will be taken on Thursday week; but these arrangements do not depend upon me.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Government Loans to Exhibitions.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether his attention has been directed to an exhibition held in Manchester and Leeds under the patronage of

the First Lord of the Treasury, the Commander-in-Chief, and other official persons; whether he is aware that Government property lent by the Admiralty has not been returned; and, seeing that the promoter of this exhibition is an undischarged bankrupt and an ex-convict, can he say what steps, if any, were taken to ascertain the position of this man; what sums, if any, have been handed over to the naval and military authorities, which was the advertised object of these exhibitions; and will he say what steps it is proposed to take for the recovery of the Government property lent.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): I beg to refer the hon. Member to the reply given yesterday on this subject by my right hon. friend the Secretary of State for War, which represents the facts of the case generally with reference to the Admiralty also.† All the articles lent by the Admiralty were insured against damage or loss, in accordance with the usual practice. The number of articles not yet returned is very small, and special steps are already being taken with a view to their recovery. I also desire to associate myself with the remarks of my right hon. friend as to the attitude which it will be necessary to adopt in the future with regard to local exhibitions.

CAPTAIN NORTON: What further steps, if any, were taken to ascertain the position of this man, and what steps are being taken to recover the small quantity of public property which has not been returned?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Perhaps the hon. Member will give me notice. I may be able to get the information from the legal branch of the Admiralty.

CAPTAIN NORTON: Notice was given in the Question on the Paper.

Wasteful Expenditure of Ammunition in the Navy.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he is aware that on 29th April seven battleships of the Mediterranean

Fleet got rid of 7,000 rounds of ammunition in two hours; that the instructions were to get rid of it in the afternoon and they had to do it; that they could not in the least see where their shots were going; and that the gunnery officers protested, but it was of no use. Was this done by order of the Admiral commanding the Fleet? And, in view of the fact that on the 23rd April the Admiralty had adopted the practice of specially directing the attention of the officers concerned to all cases in which the firing has been unsatisfactory, will they inquire into this case and direct the attention to it of all the officers concerned, from the Admiral downwards. And will the special reports with regard to gunnery efficiency which are forwarded to the Admiralty for consideration at the time of the half-yearly recommendations of lieutenants for promotion, report in this case the share, if any, of the executive officers, captains, and admiral, in causing defective gunnery practice.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The attention of the Board of Admiralty has been called to the statement in respect of the alleged waste of ammunition in the Mediterranean Fleet. A report on the subject has been called for, and until it has been received the Admiralty must necessarily suspend their judgment.

Administration of the Congo State.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, before the forthcoming debate on our responsibilities for the maladministration of the Congo State, His Majesty's Government will lay before the House the latest information in their possession with regard to the Rabinek affair.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord CRANBORNE, Rochester): The question whether Mr. Rabinek, an Austro-Hungarian subject, was arrested in British or in Congolese waters has for some time been under investigation. The facts are not easy to establish, but we have just received some further information. I will see whether it is complete enough for presentation to the House.

† See page 418.

County Court Judges and the Workmen's Compensation Act.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he can lay upon the Table the replies of the County Court Judges to the letter addressed to them by the late Secretary of State in reference to the proposed Amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (MR. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): No, Sir, I do not feel able to comply with this suggestion. It was understood that the observations and opinions with which the Secretary of State requested the Judges to favour him more than two years ago were given confidentially.

Ireland and the St. Louis Exhibition.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, if the Irish Department of Agriculture will take steps to have a special exhibit of Irish industries at the St. Louis Exhibition.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (MR. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): I regret I am not in a position at present to make any statement on the subject. Perhaps the hon. Member will further postpone his question for a fortnight, as the matter is under consideration.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I will repeat the Question this day fortnight.

Reports of Irish National School Inspectors.

*MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, if he will explain why it is that since the new programme was introduced the annual reports of the inspectors of national schools in Ireland sent to the Board of Education are not published in full.

MR. ATKINSON: Since the introduction of the revised programme the general reports of the inspectors have ceased to be published *in extenso*. These, however, are carefully examined by the chief inspectors, who now report on the state of primary education in the country

as a whole and embody in their reports such extracts from the inspectors' reports as they consider necessary. A somewhat similar practice has been adopted by the English Board of Education for many years.

*MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY: We are informed that these reports have been unfairly quoted by Dr. Starkie. Cannot we have them published in full so as to justify the inspectors and managers of the national schools?

MR. ATKINSON: It is not a matter with which the executive have anything to do. The Board of Education is supreme.

Irish Congested Districts.

MR. O'KELLY (Mayo, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, if he will state how many of the 429 electoral divisions scheduled as congested, in accordance with Section 36 of the Statute 54 and 55 Vic., c. 48, no longer answer to the definition of a congested district as a result of the operations of the Congested Districts Board since the formation of that body.

MR. ATKINSON: One hundred and fifteen of these electoral divisions, whose valuation per head of population in 1891 did not exceed £1 10s., are now over that limit.

Irish School Equipments.

MR. O'DOWD (Sligo, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that in most of the rural districts in Ireland the national teachers are held responsible for the proper equipment of their schools, and have to pay cost of same out of their salaries; and whether he will consider the advisability of allocating an annual sum under the provisions of the Development Grant Bill for the purpose of relieving teachers from this liability.

MR. ATKINSON: All schools when take into connection with the Board of National Education receive an equipment supply of books and other requisites, free of cost. Equipment supplies for

elementary science teaching and manual instruction are also granted free of cost, wherever there is a teacher competent to use them. Teachers are required to keep their schools stocked with books and requisites for sale to the pupils. But they are not expected to distribute these without payment. The suggestion at the end of the Question that books should be supplied to pupils free of charge will be considered by my right hon. friend, but I can hold out no hope that it will be adopted.

Loans to Irish Farmers.

MR. FFRENCH (Wexford, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the increase in the number of loans from the Board of Works to farmers for the erection of farm buildings in recent years without a corresponding increase in the number of inspectors, although inspectors are now required to make three visits of inspection where formerly only two sufficed; and will he state the number of loans and inspectors fifteen, ten, and five years ago as compared with the number of loans and inspectors at present; and will he consider the advisability of improving the machinery of the Board of Works for dealing with this question.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (MR. ELLIOT, Durham): Although these loans have for some years steadily increased in number, it has been found possible by means of improvements in system to cope with them without a proportionate increase in the number of inspectors.

The figures for which the hon. Member asks are as follows:—

Year	No. of loans sanctioned.	Inspectors.
1887-8	683	26
1892-3	733	16
1897-8	790	14
1902-3	1177	16

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): What time usually elapses between the first

application and the granting of these loans?

MR. ELLIOT: I cannot say.

War Office Tenders for Oats in Ireland.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War, if he will state the standard weight or, if no standard is fixed, the minimum or maximum weight per bushel required by the War Office in tenders submitted to them for oats.

MR. ELLIOT (for MR. BRODRICK): The minimum weight per imperial bushel of oats is fixed at 40 lbs. in Ireland, and 38 lbs. in Great Britain, except at Aldershot and Salisbury Plain where it is 40 lbs.

MR. FLAVIN: Is the hon. Gentleman aware that the minimum in Ireland is 2 lbs. over that in England, and therefore most unfair to the Irish producer. Will he take steps to level it up?

No answer was returned.

Shakesperian Relics.

MR. YOXALL (Nottinghamshire, W.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether his attention has been drawn to the representations made by the British Archæological Association and other societies against the contemplated demolition of certain houses at Stratford-on-Avon situated near the house in which Shakespeare was born; and whether he can take any steps in the matter.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (MR. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I have received private communications upon the subject to which the hon. Gentleman refers in his Question; but I have not as yet received any communications from the British Archæological Association, or any other society, upon the matter. They may possibly be on their way. As the hon. Gentleman is aware, the Government have no power in a matter like this, and I should rather deprecate the idea that the Government are qualified to intervene in a matter of taste. We have no Minister to whom that duty is

assigned, and I do not think the Government is very well qualified to deal with it. Whether that general proposition be accepted by the hon. Gentleman or not, he must understand that at the present moment we have no power to deal with this question.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Perhaps it may be for the convenience of the House if I state that on Monday I propose to proceed with the Committee stage of the London Education Bill.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): Does the right hon. Gentleman propose to take that Bill continuously?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes. I shall take that Bill continuously as far as I can till the finish of the Committee stage. It will certainly be taken on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. I cannot yet say when the Finance Bill will be taken—certainly not on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday, unless we have the good fortune to finish the London Education Bill sooner than I expect to.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.): What Supply will be taken on Thursday week?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am not able to say at present.

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE.

Fourth Report brought up and read; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

NEW BILL.

MARRIAGES LEGALISATION BILL.

"To render valid Marriages heretofore solemnised at the Ellerker Chapel of Ease, Brantingham, and at the Churches of Saint Mark, Marske-in-Cleveland, All Saints, Brightwaltham (otherwise Brightwalton), and Saint Mary, Great Ilford, and at the Old Baptist Union Chapel, Grays Thurrock," presented by Mr. Cochrane; to be read a second time To-morrow, and to be printed. (Bill 197.)

PORT OF LONDON BILL.

[SECOND READING].

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

*SIR F. DIXON HARTLAND (Middlesex, Uxbridge): It is with great regret that, on behalf of the Thames Conservancy, of which body I have the honour to be the chairman, I have no option but to move the rejection of this Bill. Its keynote is the amalgamation of two bodies with utterly different, in fact diverse, functions, and to carry this out it is necessary to raise an enormous sum of money, between £30,000,000 and £40,000,000, which can only be done by having to call on the rates in aid, to destroy private enterprise, which up to now has been considered the motive power in this country, and to make another step in the direction of municipal trading. I will show that it is quite unnecessary to do this in order to obtain the benefits at which the Bill is supposed to aim. For myself I have always considered that the Port of London should be kept up to date, and there is no reason why this should not be done without the risk and burdens of this Bill. The Thames Conservancy have done their utmost for this object, and the only complaint against them has been that they have not deepened the Port for the largest vessels. They did all they could with the limited means at their disposal, and, time after time, they have applied to Government for extra rating powers to enable them to raise the requisite funds. Time after time the Government have refused to take the matter up, and I ask this House what chance they had of getting extra taxing powers except under a Government Bill. As regards the docks, with the low price at which their stocks stood, it was equally impossible to raise the capital to lower their sills and allow larger vessels to enter them at all states of the tide, but with the extra taxation for which they have so frequently applied they could also bring themselves up to date, without the heroic measures proposed by this Bill. It is an utter mistake to suppose that, because these works have been delayed, the trade of the Port is a dwindling one. As a matter of fact it has increased three-fold in the last fifty

years, as these figures show. The tonnage entering in 1851 was 5,293,000 tons, whereas in 1901 it was 15,952,000 tons, and in reply to arguments that the percentage of increase is not so large as in some foreign ports, such as Rotterdam, Hamburg, and Antwerp, I may say that is caused because fifty years ago those places were hardly ports at all, and it necessarily follows that the percentage of increase on small beginnings must be very much larger than on an old port such as London. Then it is stated that London is a dear port, and that if this Bill is carried it will reduce the rates. As a fact it is one of the cheapest port in the world, because it is an absolutely free one. Goods discharged or loaded in the river pay nothing to the Thames Conservancy, and the barges into which they discharge are equally exempt. Every other port in the United Kingdom (except Hull) pays dues on goods to the port authority for the use of the port, and if the power was given to the new authority, whatever it may be, to make this charge the river could amply pay its way and be deepened up to date without coming on the rates for a single penny. I think these remarks have proved my point that, on behalf of both bodies threatened, extra powers and not destruction is the better course for all parties.

The most undesirable part of the new Bill is the question of using the rates for the purchase of the docks. The docks have had their day; they are a diminishing rather than an increasing power, and there is no question that deep jetties all along the river banks will be the way in which the river will be increasingly used. At present 56 per cent. of the shipping discharges in the river, and only 44 per cent. in the docks, and, in my opinion, it will continue to increase on the river, as is shown by experience on the Tyne and other places. Eighteen large schemes for these jetties have come before the Thames Conservancy in the last two years. They grow in favour on account of their economy, as vessels can use them at any state of the tide, and leave the moment the work of discharging is completed, and in addition can get alongside in half-an-hour, whereas it often takes half-a-

day to get into the docks. If this is the trend of public opinion it follows that the dock income will be a falling one, and quite unable to meet the interest on the sums paid for them, and the absurdity will take place that the new authority must destroy the earnings of the docks, for which they will have paid so large a sum, by its obligation to build the jetties which must come. To show the enormous alteration of dock values since this question was raised, I may point out that in June 1901 the nominal value of the stocks was £14,500,000, and the market value £10,000,000. On 9th May, 1903, the market value had risen to £14,500,000, or an increase of £4,500,000, and if this £14,500,000 is reduced to a 3 per cent. table, their cost would be £20,000,000, or a charge of £600,000 a year. If to this you add their £9,000,000 of debentures (which have also increased in value £500,000) the interest will be £270,000 more, and a market rise of £5,000,000 extra to come on the Port authority. Thus the total sum to be paid would be £29,000,000, and, adding to that the £4,500,000 required to bring the docks up to date, the annual interest at 3 per cent. will amount to £1,005,000. Add to this a sinking fund of 1 per cent. the annual charge would be £1,364,000, or if only $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. sinking fund, £1,172,500. The gross income of the docks in 1901 was £2,678,600, and the gross expenditure £1,945,000, leaving a balance of £733,600. Therefore in one case the deficiency would be £606,400, or in the other £438,900. Again, if they give up the warehouse business it will increase the loss, as this branch is looked on as one of the most valuable of its assets. By Clause 23 they are actually allowed to extend it and make the competition with the wharfingers, to which I shall presently refer, still more unfair. I think these facts show how undesirable the purchase of the docks is. They don't want to be bought; let them bear their own burdens of any obsolete stock, as the gas companies do, and let them work out their own salvation. But it will be asked—If this is done how can the river be placed under one authority, as is desired by so many people? Easily enough. The riverway in the docks,

as in the tideway, can be put under the control of the new authority, who can order any works necessary to navigation; their dividends can be limited, they can be made amenable to the Railway Commissioners, and the whole river dues can be collected by the Customs, or some other authority to be formed by the Board of Trade, and divided between the docks and river on a scale to be settled. This would do away with the double collection to which so many trades object.

It is a known fact that expenses always increase under a popular body, and the rate of the London County Council has just gone up 1½d. to 16½d. The report issued by their River Committee shows that they quite understand that they will have to pay under this Bill, as they ask for increased representation beyond what is proposed, on the ground of the "heavy financial responsibility the Port of London Bill imposes on the Council." Do the House of Commons know the real facts? The cost of administration of the London County Council has doubled in thirteen years, though neither population nor rateable value has increased in the same proportion. The debt of the London County Council has risen from £32,000,000 in 1889-1890 to £46,000,000, and now stands at 123 per cent. of the annual rateable value. The London County Council are now trying to obtain a steamboat service, which must be worked at a loss, and when the cost of education and the Water Board is added, you will find that very large additions will have to be provided for. Is it likely the ratepayers will consent to increase the already large and daily growing payments when it is proved they are quite unnecessary? Another anomaly is that the Tilbury Docks are in Essex and the Albert and Victoria Docks are in East and West Ham, all outside the area of the London County Council. Will London ratepayers consent to pay rates to increase the rateable values of these places, or will West Ham allow an area which pays 10 per cent. of its rates to be taken from it? If the docks are not bought it will be quite unnecessary to borrow any money at all, or to pledge the rates, and I do strongly urge the Government at any rate not to make it a condition of this Bill

that the purchase must take place, but either only to give the new authority the power to purchase should they consider it best to do so, or to leave it to the Commissioner upstairs to examine carefully and decide the point. As regards the river authority, it is still less necessary. At present ships pay and goods escape. By removing certain exemptions and allowing a charge on goods far less than is already authorised by Parliament for the Tyne, there will be an ample fund for the management of the river and provide the sum of £2,500,000, required for deepening the channel, for which the surveys are already in progress. To show this is a fact, and assuming that £2,500,000 is spent on the river, the annual expenditure on revenue account for interest, maintenance and management could not exceed £350,000 a year, which amount from the present income of the Conservancy, the extra dues on shipping, and small dues on merchandise can be easily obtained without putting the ratepayers to the expense of a single farthing.

Another fault of the Bill is that no schedule of dues is attached. In every other case this has been fixed by Parliament, and I consider it undesirable that it shall be left to the Board of Trade. As regards the charges falling, if necessary, on the rates, the Bill provides that in case it does so the Board of Trade can, at the request of the London County Council, order them to be raised, as showing that this power is intended to be used. I may say the Report of the London County Council goes so far as to suggest that this shall be obligatory and not optional on the part of the Board of Trade, in case, as will take place if the docks are purchased, the London County Council have to pay any interest on the Port stock. This would probably make London a dear port, and drive away its trade. I am sorry I have detained the House so long with details, but it is a subject which, after ten years hard work, I understand, and it is of the greatest moment to London and its trade. I have no private axe to grind. I only want to do what is best for the city of London. I have only a few words more to add. The Prime Minister not long ago expressed his fears about the financial responsibilities involved in municipal trading, yet the Board of Trade introduces a

Bill for the extension of these responsibilities on a vast scale, and also by compulsory expropriation. A new municipal authority is to be created to work the docks with their 20,000 employees and with extensive trading powers. Wharfingers are actually to be asked to contribute to the rates to enable a public body not only to compete with them in business, but also to be allowed to grow, so that they may eventually be driven out of the field. That will be seen on reference to Clause 23. The London County Council openly ask that the municipal element may be strengthened, so as not to be subordinated to sectional interests, but what are these so-called sectional interests? Are they not the interests of every one working the great trade of the Port, and who are best acquainted with its needs? Have hon. Members read the valuable articles in *The Times* upon municipal trading, now published in pamphlet form? If not, I strongly recommend them to their attention, and especially to the attention of Metropolitan Members. If this Bill passes, the same principles can, with equal injustice, be applied to every other private industry. Where is it to stop? Our position as a trading nation has been gained, and will be maintained, not by municipal trading but by private enterprise. I am quite aware that Government, with its large majority, can force any Bill it likes through the House, but I would remark the success of a measure is to be found not in its passage through the House, but in its ultimate results, and I do appeal to this Government, after the Bill has been well discussed, to withdraw it till next session, when, with the experience gained, they will probably be able to introduce one which will not be to the detriment of London but will benefit the ratepayers and parties connected with the river alike.

*MR. DAVID MORGAN (Essex, Walthamstow): I do not often inflict myself on this House, but as this is a matter in which I am deeply interested, I wish to say a few words on it. I desire to approach this Bill from the point of view of a merchant using the docks, as a large payer of dock charges, as a dock shareholder, and as a ratepayer of London. But whatever

may be the point of view from which we regard this Bill, there can be no doubt that it is a measure of the first importance, a measure which vitally affects the vast interests of the trade and commerce of the Port of London and of the country, and therefore demands the gravest consideration and the closest scrutiny. As it was said in the King's Speech, this measure is one of national importance, and I hope His Majesty's Government will not treat the question as a party one, and I hope hon. Members on both sides of the House will not look at this measure from a party point of view. To the main object of the Bill—the constitution of a Commission for the administration of the Port—I have, in principle, no objection. Indeed, I think it is generally agreed that the improvement of the river, and the unification of the various authorities that now control the river would be of great advantage to the Port and to trade generally. I do not propose to discuss the provisions of the Bill which relate to the Thames Conservancy, as that has been so ably treated by my hon. friend the Member for Uxbridge. But I would touch upon the question of the dredging and improvement of the river. This is a matter of the utmost importance. It not only affects the security of the buildings all along the river, but it affects the county of Essex, where we have very large interests on the river banks. Many of these banks are in a peculiar state. Take the case of the Dagenham Lake. When the tide rises the water in the lake rises, thus showing that the stability of the bank is not absolute. Dredging is necessarily very expensive. Leaving these points, I would ask the House to consider, with the attention it demands, the proposal which empowers the Commission constituted by this Bill to acquire, manage and carry on the undertakings of the dock companies of the Port. As the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Trade said in introducing this measure, “It is undoubtedly a far-reaching one,” and, if passed, its consequences for good or ill must for generations to come seriously affect the prosperity and trade of the Port. I feel sure that hon. Members will agree with me that this

Sir F. Dixon Hartland.

measure, as it stands, can only be justified by necessity, or the clearest proof that it is the best or only way to secure the end in which we are all concerned, the improvement and development of the resources of the Port. I venture to assert that that is not necessary, that it will not tend to the advantage of the trade of the Port and that it is beset all round with difficulties which, on a close examination of the facts, are becoming evident to many who at first ignored them.

The objections to this proposal are many and serious. (1) It involves the creation of a public body supported by the rates which will compete with the capital of the private wharfingers and warehouse-keepers. The dock companies are now in close competition with the wharfingers on the river, both in respect of their warehousing and shipping business. The wharfingers and warehousekeepers do not mind that competition which they find fair. There are a very large number of these private wharves, in which an immense capital is invested, and there can be no doubt that the owners of these wharves and warehouses will have just cause to complain if the Commission, with extensive powers of raising revenue from dues on shipping and on goods, subsidised and assisted by the rates, should compete with them on such unjust and unequal terms as it will under this Bill. I do not think the House will approve and sanction such an interference with the rights of private traders, an unwarrantable and unprecedented departure from the spirit and policy which has always governed the Legislature in dealing with these matters. (2) Then I object on principle to the creation of a gigantic municipal trust controlling the whole of the trade and commerce of London. I cannot but regard this Bill as another example of that tendency to reverse the policy of free competition, a tendency towards unnecessary interference with private enterprise, and it appears to me that this Bill is another step towards the realisation of Communistic and Socialistic ideals. The question of municipal trading has engaged the attention of this House. We are now awaiting further information on the subject, and until this

information is forthcoming, I would ask the House to pause before it sanctions the creation of a huge municipal trading concern with a capital of £30,000,000 or £40,000,000, and with such vast and far-reaching powers. (3) There is another difficulty. By the provisions of this Bill the London County Council are to be the authority to guarantee the interest on the Port stock. If this principle be confirmed, will the London County Council be satisfied by mere displacement of other trade representatives, unless they are given a preponderating or controlling vote on the Commission? I think not, and I am bound to say that, from their point of view, I think they are quite right. It follows that if the London County Council obtain such a preponderance on the Commission as they desire, you fail to secure such a constitution as would be most advantageous and desirable for the government of the Port.

Through all these discussions the advocates of a trust have invited us to take a lesson from Liverpool, and great stress has been laid on the superiority of the Liverpool system. Let us see, then, how the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board is constituted. There you have a Board of Management consisting of twenty-eight members — twenty-four elected, and only four nominated. These twenty-four members are all dock ratepayers elected by dock ratepayers, and the members nominated are, I believe, three Liverpool merchants and one Manchester merchant, so that the entire management is in the hands of competent and experienced mercantile men, and there is no doubt in my mind that the success of the Liverpool Trust is mainly attributable to this fact. It is surely remarkable that those who never tire of holding up Liverpool as an example should be content to accept for London a scheme which ignores the essential element of the Liverpool system. Moreover, I would remind the House that the new authority will be an employer of labour on a gigantic scale, and I should like to tell the House that the wages bill is by far the greatest part of dock expenditure, and may be safely put at about 60 to 70 per cent. of the outgoing. Now, if a large proportion of the

members of the Commission are to be nominated by the London County Council, it is only reasonable to infer that they might be inclined to regard the labour question from an electoral point of view, and this would certainly not be to the interest either of the Port or of the holders of Port stock. (4) Further, the increased accommodation for the largest class of steamers which is said to be necessary means the development of the Tilbury, and the Albert and Victoria Docks, the Tilbury Docks being in my own county, and the Albert and Victoria Docks in East and West Ham. Of course I am excessively pleased at anything which can be done by the ratepayers of London to improve the rateable value of my own constituency. I do not think that the London ratepayer will look at it from the same point of view. We want money for our roads seeing that now they cost much more under the County Council than they did under Quarter Sessions. Popular representation means extra cost, and this will be the case under this Bill. If it could be shown that the proposals of this Bill for the control and management of the docks by the Commission would result in a more efficient and economical management which would reduce the rates, and decrease the burdens of the shipping and mercantile community of the Port, that might lessen the various objections I have urged. But what are the facts? Reams of evidence were laid before the Committee for the purpose of proving that London was a dear port as compared with other ports in and out of the United Kingdom, and it was the hope of lessening the expenses and reducing the rate on shipping and goods entering the Port that impelled the movement for a single Port authority. How are these expectations realised by this Bill? Turn to Clause 6 on the "effects of the transfer," and you will find that one of the "first effects" will be to raise the rates on shipping now charged by the Surrey Commercial Dock and the Milwall Dock Companies to the level of the rates charged by the London and India Dock Company—an increase of 50 per cent. ! [Cries of "No, no."] Does that commend itself to those hon. Members who are interested in the shipping of the Port? Then, further, Clause 12 provides that all goods imported from parts beyond the seas, or coastwise, into London, or ex-

ported to parts beyond the seas, or coastwise, from the Port shall be liable to such charges as the Commission may fix, subject to a Provisional Order to be made by the Board of Trade. That is to say, rates are to be imposed on all goods entering the Port, imports, exports, foreign or coastwise. This is a sweeping proposal, and goes far beyond the Royal Commission whose recommendations expressly exempted export and transhipment goods.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (MR. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): It is permissive.

*MR. DAVID MORGAN: I know it is, but I object to that. What will be its effects on the trade of the Port? We heard much in the evidence before the Royal Commission of the keenness of the competition with foreign ports, and the growing necessity for cheapening the London charges. Now, it is proposed not to lighten but to increase the burden, and there can be no doubt that the proposed tax on goods in competition with foreign ports must handicap London and tend to transfer traffic from the Thames, especially in the case of the transhipment trade. It must be remembered, too, that about 7,500,000 tons of shipping—rather more than half the tonnage entering the Port—is discharged in the river, never enters the docks, and pays no dock dues. In respect of the "short sea" and coasting trade, London is at present the cheapest port in the kingdom, but under the provisions of the Bill the goods borne by this 7,500,000 tons of shipping will be taxed. In short, this Bill, which in many quarters was expected to usher in a new era of cheaper accommodation and low rates, is in effect a Bill for increasing rates and charges all round, and justifies the apprehension that, as in the case of Rehoboam, "the little finger" of the Commission will prove "thicker than the loins" of the dock companies. The wood trade sees this, and therefore objects to the Bill. And here I may remark that Parliament has generally insisted that when large trading interests are concerned, all the important details should be laid before them, and in a measure of such supreme importance to the trade and commerce of the Metropolis I venture to say—and it is not only my

Mr. David Morgan.

own opinion—that before Parliament is asked to approve this measure the proposed rates ought to be scheduled to the Bill, and that it should not be left to the Board of Trade by Provisional Order to fix these rates. To do so is to place the gigantic interests of the trade of the Port under the bureaucratic control of the Board of Trade, and, with all respect to that admirable Department, I say that it is a position which will not generally be regarded with favour in the shipping and mercantile community. It may, perhaps, be said by some hopeful people that although the Bill empowers the Commissioners to impose these additional charges on shipping and goods, there will be no necessity to exercise these powers, or, at any rate, only to a small extent. I have heard it argued that inasmuch as the shipowners—the payers of dues on ships—and the traders, who will pay the rates on goods, are to be largely represented on the Commission, it will be to their interest, and they may be trusted to keep down rates and charges. But will they be able to do this? As the old proverb puts it, “You cannot eat your cake and have it too.” Apart from the £2,500,000 for dredging and improving the river, which, under this Bill, is to be contributed by the London County Council and the City Corporation, how will the Commissioners find it possible to spend the large sums for providing the increased accommodation and facilities which are contemplated, and, at the same time, reduce the charges, which means lessening the revenue? There is, apparently, only one way of doing it, and that is by “coming on the rates” and resorting to the London County Council to make up the Commission’s deficiency. But that can only be a temporary expedient, for, as I understand the Bill, when the London County Council have, under the guarantee, paid any part of the interest on the Port Stock, the Board of Trade are to step in and make an order requiring the Commission to increase the dues and charges for such period as the Board may order, and so, by a somewhat roundabout and clumsy procedure, put up the rates to the level required to meet the deficiency. That, on the basis of the existing rates, to say nothing of lowering the rates, there will be a deficiency, was affirmed by the Royal Commissioners.

*MR. SPEAKER: I am reluctant to interrupt the hon. Member, but I think it only right to call his attention, and the attention of the House, to the rule against the reading of speeches. It is a rule of great value and importance, which I am sure the House would be sorry to see disregarded. Since the Orders of the Day were called in, we have been listening for nearly three quarters of an hour to two read speeches. I am always loth to intervene, but I have noticed a growing tendency in this direction, and I think it is time that I should call attention to it.

*MR. DAVID MORGAN: I prepared my speech because I was anxious not to repeat myself, but I will endeavour, Mr. Speaker, to carry out your ruling. I do not wish to go very much further into this question, beyond saying that I think the result of this Bill must be to increase the charges. It may be said that my remarks have been destructive and not constructive. I think that the purchase of the docks is unnecessary, because all that is required may be obtained without entering into this very large business. If the authority is created for the guardianship of the river, I think the main object would be attained. This might be done by a very small rate indeed. For this purpose it is not necessary to saddle the Commission with a burden of £2,500,000 or to have recourse to the guarantee of the London County Council. A trifling *ad valorem* rate on the imports into London would suffice to provide the required revenue. An *ad valorem* rate of one-eighth of a penny in the £ would produce £88,500 or £13,500 per annum more than the sum required to pay the interest at the rate of 3 per cent. on the proposed expenditure of £2,500,000. An authority for the management of the river such as I have suggested would, I think, meet the present requirements of the Port. Should it be hereafter found desirable to extend its scope and authority there would be little difficulty in making arrangements for enlarging its powers and giving it a certain measure of control over the docks. From the point of view of the ratepayers I hope the House will pause before it agrees to this proposal, and I hope that the shareholders in the dock companies will receive better treatment than it is apparent they will receive from the Bill

as at present drafted. I am chairman of a very successful dock company which has always paid a good dividend and has done its best to meet the requirements of the trade. Now we are told that we must give up our property. Surely we who have invested our money in this concern on the faith of Acts of Parliament, should be fairly and properly treated. If this is not done you will give a tremendous blow to private enterprise. Where would the Port of London and the docks have been had you not in times past found private individuals to provide the capital for these great undertakings? I trust that before this debate finishes, the right hon. Gentleman will enlighten us on several subjects dealt with in this Bill upon which we require light and leading. I beg to second the Motion of the hon. Baronet the Member for Uxbridge.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Sir F. Dixon Hartland.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

*MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar): The speech of the hon. Member who has just sat down seems to turn on the terms upon which these dock companies should be bought out. It is his business, as chairman, to see that the very best terms are obtained when his company is bought out for the public interest. I am quite sure that there is no desire in the House that fair terms should not be given to the dock companies in respect of money spent by them upon the docks. I think this matter may be discussed as a non-party measure. I trust that the President of the Board of Trade will allow these matters to be discussed by the House itself, and subsequently amended by the Joint Committee. I hope we shall not have a repetition of what we had on the London Water Bill, when a strong Committee of the Houses of Lords and Commons was appointed to consider the Bill, and afterwards the President of the Local Government Board entirely declined to accept their suggestions. I do not think the right hon. Gentleman is likely to treat the Joint Committee in a similar way, and therefore I think he deserves our

help to make this a workable measure. I have in my constituency three docks out of the seven which it is proposed to buy up, and most persons who know the circumstances connected with the Port of London will agree that there is a necessity for some change in the existing state of things. I think both of the hon. Gentlemen who have spoken admitted that something must be done, and that a reform of some sort is necessary in the circumstances. So far as I am concerned, I am content to rest my case on the evidence and the Report of the Royal Commission. A Commission strong personally to start with, and one, it is quite obvious from what we have seen of their proceedings and their Report, who went carefully and impartially into the whole question. The hon. Member for the Uxbridge division of Middlesex, who moved the rejection of the Bill, urged that the trade of London was improving, or that it was in a very healthy condition, and that, therefore, there was really no necessity for taking action at all in this matter.

*SIR F. DIXON-HARTLAND: What I said was that the trade of London was not in a bad condition from the delay, but that it was absolutely necessary to bring the river up to date.

*MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: That is what I understood the hon. Gentleman to say. He said that the trade was improving. But he also admitted that the waterway required improvement, and that, after all, is largely the case for the Bill. I do not think it is necessary for us to discuss the question how far at present the docks are really carrying out the purpose for which they were created. The Report of the Royal Commission shows, at all events, that there is at the present moment great dissatisfaction in regard to the way in which the business of the Port is conducted by the dock companies. It is alleged, and I think the Royal Commissioners give good evidence to show, that the Port of London is slow, dear, and vexatious, and that the conveniences and mechanical appliances are not up-to-date. They specially show that the Port of London is not adapted at the present moment

Mr. David Morgan.

for the requirements of ocean-going steamers, and that there is great complaint of the delay that occurs in loading and unloading goods. That is a serious accusation—I do not say against the dock companies, because I should like to say at once that I have no desire to cast blame or fault on the dock companies themselves, and certainly not on the dock company represented by my hon. friend opposite. I think they are largely the victims of circumstances. All we allege is, not that they have necessarily done the work badly, but that it might be better done if the Port of London was united under one authority and that authority a public body. The serious matter is not so much the existing state of things, but that which has been so clearly and ably pointed out by the Commission, namely, the increasing competition both of home and foreign ports, a competition which is only at its infancy at the present moment, and which will unquestionably increase in the future. The Commissioners say—and I do not think there is any dispute about this—that the ports of Antwerp, Rotterdam, and Hamburg are not only in a very fair way of competition with us but are expending at the public expense, either from public funds or by rate aid, enormous sums which in a short time will make them overwhelming competitors with the Thames and the docks of London. That is a more important consideration than the actual position at the present moment. Then I think we have to remember this very material point. While it is clear that all those foreign docks, and I think home ports as well, are expending large sums in improving the facilities and accommodation for ships. But the present dock companies—or at all events the amalgamated dock companies—as the Commissioners point out, and as I should like the House to note, with the exception of an improvement they made two years ago, and which is just finished at the West India Docks, did not make one single dock improvement in the old docks between 1871 and 1899. I do not say that that is the fault of the dock companies, but I think it is a strong condemnation of the existing state of things.

*SIR F. DIXON-HARTLAND: Tilbury Docks have been constructed.

*MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I was referring to the old docks. Tilbury Docks, of course, are a different matter. Let me say this in regard to Tilbury Docks. Tilbury Docks are hardly a case for which the dock companies can claim much credit, because they were built at a time when there was a cut-throat competition between St. Catherine's Dock and the Victoria and Albert Dock and the East and West India Dock. One dock company went further down the river and another followed. And I think the hon. Member will recollect that while the original estimate for Tilbury docks was £1,100,000 the dock companies actually spent, on account of mismanagement, no less than twice that sum—£2,250,000—money which to a large extent was thrown away; and I hope that will be considered when we come to deal with the value of their shares.

There is another matter which forms a considerable argument in favour of getting rid of the existing state of things. When the facts to which I have alluded were brought before the attention of the dock companies, their chairman or representative very largely excused them for the delay and cost and other matters on the ground that the system that prevails is in accordance with the clumsy custom of consignments that largely prevails in the Port, and that they have time after time unsuccessfully endeavoured to alter or improve or abolish that custom. They themselves admit that they had not been able to deal with this point. It seems to me that the only body that can deal with such a question as that is a strong public body representative of the different interests concerned. So much as regards the dock companies and the question of dock accommodation.

Then we come to the other point which was raised by the hon. Member for Uxbridge, and on which there is no difference of opinion—the necessity of improving the water-way. The hon. Member who moved the rejection of the Bill, as a representative of the Thames Conservancy, said, "Leave it in our

hands; we can do it, and we will do it properly. It does not require this other authority to carry it out."

*SIR F. DIXON-HARTLAND: If you give us extra money.

*MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I think that the one thing that the House will not do is to give extra money to the Thames Conservancy. The hon. Member having moved the rejection of the Bill on that ground, I must draw attention to one or two sentences in the Report of the Royal Commission. A Bill was introduced by the Thames Conservancy in 1894 to reconstitute and enlarge the powers of that body. An Amendment was moved that the Board should carry out certain improvements in the dredging of the River Thames. This was opposed by Sir Frederick Dixon-Hartland, who was in charge of the Bill, but the Amendment was carried on a division by 269 against 112. And that is the way the Thames Conservancy desire to carry out their duties. The Royal Commission finally summed up their action in these words—

"This appears to us to have been, on the part of a public body charged with vital interests, an inadequate view of their duties."

I think after such an expression by the Royal Commission it is not likely that this House will give greater powers or funds to the Thames Conservancy to carry out the dredging, and it is quite clear that it is not possible for them to do it even if they had a desire to carry it out; and so someone else must do it.

There is no difference of opinion, I think, on either side of the House, or among those who may differ on the general question, that two things have got to be done—that an expenditure of £2,500,000 has to be spent in improving the water-way, and that a capital expenditure of £4,500,000 will be required in order to improve the dock accommodation of the port. That is admitted by the dock companies themselves. Mr. Scott, the Chairman, said that they had proposed to spend £2,000,000, and that they thought other £2,000,000 ought to be spent in order to bring the accommodation up to date. There is no difference of opinion as to the necessity of the expenditure. I contend that such an expenditure as that can only be done by a public body which has control both of the water-way and of

the docks themselves. It is quite clear that the Thames Conservancy cannot do it, and it is quite clear, on the confession of the dock companies themselves, that they are not in a pecuniary position to carry out the improvements necessary in the Port of London. I think it is quite clear also that the House will not allow them to be given powers to charge additional dues or duties as a private body, and for their own personal advantage. I think the real argument for this Bill in principle is that you have at the present moment chaos, confusion, and jealousy reigning throughout the Port of London, and that it is only possible, by putting the whole of the duties into the hands of a public body so to concentrate the work, that economies can be carried out in management, in the handling of goods, and in other ways to make the Port of London more attractive than it is at present.

That being so, the question arises, What ought this authority to be? How ought the authority to be constituted which is to carry out the work of the Port of London? There is not, in this House at all events, I believe, any question raised—and I do not think any question will be raised—that it is a necessity of the case that this authority, whatever it is, should have the rates behind it. There was an idea on the part of the Committee of the Corporation that the business should be conducted, and the capital raised, and the shareholders bought out, merely on the basis of the existing dues, or of additional dues. That is no longer pressed, and I think it is generally admitted that if this matter is to be carried through, the security for the capital and for any deficiency that might arise, must be based on the rates; though I hope that the rates themselves will not be called upon in any eventuality. That being so, the question arises when the credit of the rates is being utilised for this purpose—both for raising additional capital and for meeting any deficiency if a deficiency occurs in the working—how are the ratepayers to be safeguarded, and what is the best mode in which the authority should be constructed? Here I am bound to say that, though I shall certainly vote for the Second Reading of the Bill, unless the constitution of the authority, which is proposed in the Bill

Mr. Sydney Buxton.

as it stands, is very considerably altered before the Joint Committee or the Committee of the Whole House, I shall probably feel constrained to vote against the Bill on the Third Reading. It seems to me to have two very serious and fatal blots. In the first place, it gives too great a preponderance of power to those traders whose one interest in the matter is to reduce rates and freights on goods. In the second place, it gives far too small a representation to the London County Council as representing the ratepayers, who, in the ultimate result, will be responsible for the finance of the proposal. Now I do not understand on what basis the right hon. Gentleman makes his proposal that no less than twenty out of forty members of the body shall be direct representatives of the traders and shipowners. With the power of this twenty to constitute a majority of the whole, it practically puts it in their power to lay on a direct charge on the rates in order to reduce the charges on their goods. The right hon. Gentleman says that these Members are elected Members. I do not think it matters whether they are elected or selected. As a matter of fact I think that the members from the London County Council and the City Corporation will be more elective than the representatives of the traders and shipowners. I do not understand how the right hon. Gentleman comes to call them elected members, seeing that in the case of the shipowners they are elected on a very high suffrage, and in the case of the traders, every one of the ten elected is to be appointed by the Board of Trade itself, in the first instance. But my objection is not at present to elected or selected members, but that there should be a majority on the Board which would be able to alter the dues in any way that pleased them, without any power on the part of the ratepayers or their representatives to prevent them. It is true that the right hon. Gentleman has put in a clause which is intended to meet this objection. That clause, however, seems to me to be a very clumsy proposal. What we want in regard to this matter is to prevent any deficiency arising which may have afterwards to be put on the rates. The hon. Member who seconded the Amendment put the case of other harbour bodies and said that there the traders

had the predominance. The particular case mentioned was that of Liverpool. My answer to that is that in the case of Liverpool the capital of the docks is founded on the dues and rates received, and in the case of a deficiency the public rates cannot be come upon. It is quite obvious that the interests of the traders are predominant, and that the ratepayers have no interest in the Committee. But surely it is a very different thing when the ratepayers have ultimately to pay in the event of a deficiency arising, because here the traders might put the dues so low as to cause a charge to be made on the public rates. The hon. Gentleman will find that, in the case of the Clyde and the Tyne, although the ultimate charge does not come upon the rates, even there the municipal authorities are largely represented on the dock bodies.

What I chiefly object to is that the London County Council, as representing the ratepayers, would be in much too small a minority on the Board; and I do not understand why the right hon. Gentleman, in this Bill, did not accept, in that respect, the proposal of the Royal Commission rather than make the representation of the London County Council so small. I should have thought that two things ought to be essential in regard to this authority. One that the non-traders, by which I mean those who have no personal or sectional interest in the dues and charges, ought to be in a majority; and the other is that the representatives of the ratepayers—the London County Council—ought to have a very considerable representation—I think they ask for fifteen—so as to protect the ratepayers in the last resort. I hope the right hon. Gentleman will allow this question, which is of great public importance, to be considered from the point of view of the protection of the ratepayers as well as from the point of view of the protection of the traders.

There is another point which, after all, is the most difficult part of the Bill—and that is the question of warehouses. It is quite obvious that if the warehouses are to be taken over by a public body, and if that public body is to come on the rates and utilise them for

commercial purposes, and if, on this basis, it is to work the warehousing part of the business in competition with the wharfingers, it would be a very unfair competition indeed. All the same, I believe the Government exercised a right discretion in so drawing their Bill that the public body will, at the first initiation, have possession of the warehouses and work them in connection with the docks. [An Hon. Member: And increase them.] Well, and increase them. I do not believe it is possible to separate the two businesses. It is perfectly true that a very large proportion—I believe a half—of the income of the dock companies comes from the warehouses; but at the same time the wharfingers are entitled to say that some protection ought to be provided for them in the Bill from what I call an unfair competition. I do not say the competition from the ordinary profits of working the warehouses, but the unfair competition of putting down the charges unduly and coming for the deficiency on the whole rates of London. Then comes in the question of the majority on the authority. Here again, if you are going to leave the majority in the hands of the traders, still less ought you to allow undue competition with the wharfingers. The interest of the wharfingers and that of the ratepayers becomes practically the same. I hope the right hon. Gentleman will give this point his very careful consideration, so that greater protection than the Bill at present affords will be given to the wharfingers in the competition between them and the owners of the warehouses. Two things ought to be done to prevent that undue competition. In the first place it ought to be an obligation on the Port Commission to distinguish between their warehousing business and their dock business, so that it can be seen how these stand respectively; and, in the second place, the schedule of rates should be under the control of some public authority, possibly of the Board of Trade, so that the rates shall not be cut down without the matter receiving the consideration both of the Board of Trade, and also of the London County Council.

There is another point—the duty on goods. I certainly agree with my hon. friend in one respect. But he seems to

Mr. Sydney Buxton.

think that the Bill makes it obligatory on the Port Commission to put a duty on goods both inwards and outwards. As I read the Bill, it gives power to the Commission to impose such a duty if they like.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: It is not obligatory.

*MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: The Commission ought to have the fullest power of putting duties on goods in order to raise the necessary funds. The Member for Uxbridge gave us some elaborate figures, which I confess I could not follow, in which he tried to demonstrate that there would be a tremendous increase in the working expenses if the dock companies were brought up. Of course we are all agreed that £7,000,000 have got to be expended on improvements of the navigation of the river, and, of course, the interest on that has got to be met. But I draw attention to what I thought was a remarkable sentence in the Report of the Royal Commission, in which it is stated that the one improvement made by the dock companies—the improvement of the West India Docks—had been an extraordinary success, that the capital expended on that had been more than repaid, and had enabled them to improve the trade of the docks. My opinion is that by putting this matter in the hands of a public body which would expend the public money judiciously, it would not be necessary to impose any heavy charges in addition to the existing ones.

There are three other points on which I wish to touch briefly. One is a question in which a considerable number of men are interested—the watermen and lightermen. I dissent from the view taken by the Royal Commission, and assent to that of the London County Council, viz., that in such an intricate port as London, with such an enormous amount of shipping and thousands of barges and small craft, you ought to have a licensed body of men. Then last year, when the Water Bill was under consideration, the servants and officers of the water companies were treated in a fair, though not in an over-liberal, way. I have compared the two Bills, and I understand that a

certain section of the servants of the dock companies will not receive the same treatment as the servants of the water companies, especially those who may be dismissed because their services will not be required. I am quite sure the right hon. Gentleman does not wish the servants of the dock companies to be treated less well than those of the water companies.

The hon. Gentleman who seconded the Amendment referred to the terms of purchase of the docks. We all desire that fair terms should be given to those shareholders who are expropriated for public purposes; but I wish to enter a very serious caveat against any idea that the dock companies ought to be treated on the same basis as the water companies. The water companies were in a totally different position from the dock companies. They were flourishing bodies, and could have raised any number of millions they wanted on their undertakings, whereas the dock companies—the best of them—have very great difficulty in raising £2,000,000. Therefore, the whole pecuniary position is very different between the two sets of companies. The debentures of the water companies are gilt-edged and trust securities, but those of the dock companies are not so. I hope, therefore, that the shareholders of the dock companies will not go away with the idea that they are to be treated with the same liberality as the shareholders of the water companies, and I trust that the arbitrators will take into account all the circumstances of the case. The £1,000,000 sterling which was muddled away on Tilbury Docks, and which was practically thrown into the river, should be taken into account. While it is quite true that, owing to increased dues and to the remarkable economies which have lately been effected, the position of the amalgamated companies is more flourishing now than it was a year or two ago, it must be remembered that only a few years ago these companies were on the verge of bankruptcy. I merely wish to refer to these matters, not from any desire that the dock companies should not receive a fair price for their property, but with a view of protesting

against the idea that the dock companies should be put on the same terms as the water companies. I trust that the Second Reading of this Bill will be passed, and that it will be sent to a Joint Committee, and that the Government will announce this afternoon that the matters to which the different speakers have referred, will be dealt with in an open mind, and with the one idea that the Bill should lead to the improvement of the Port of London, and, therefore, of the trade of London, and to the benefit of the citizens of the Metropolis generally.

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.): I desire to say something in favour of at least the Second Reading of this Bill, which is most important in the interest of the Port and of all London, and which is based on the report of the Royal Commission, but I reserve my final judgment for the Third Reading, after it has been submitted to the Joint Committee of both Houses. My hon. friend for the Uxbridge Division, and my hon. friend who seconded the Motion for the rejection of the Bill, have both referred to the municipalisation of these undertakings. I do not think we need argue that matter, because municipal representation is in a very great minority on the Commission, and even if there was no great municipal guarantee at all, and no great municipal contribution proposed, the presence of this element on the Port authority, viz., the representatives of the County Council and the City of London, would have a most beneficial effect. Therefore, I think that the question mentioned by my hon. friend does not arise. I have no hesitation whatever in saying that commercial trading, and industrial opinion in London, as frequently expressed through the London Chamber of Commerce and otherwise, is distinctly in favour of the principle of these proposals, viz., a single port authority, the deepening, by dredging, of the river, and the absolutely necessary improvement of London as a port. At the same time, this is a Bill on which there should be both an open mind and an open expression of opinion; and I am glad that the matter, which has already been considered by a Royal Commission, will now be submitted to a Joint Committee. And, until we have the opportunity of dealing with the

Bill on Report there are obviously many points of even organic detail on which I wish to reserve my opinion, including the acquirement of the docks and warehouses, though, at this stage, the proposal may be vital to the Bill, which, at any rate, I am not prepared to imperil. My hon. friend the Member for the Uxbridge division said that his policy was that the docks should be left to work out their own salvation. I would not have used the word "salvation," but another one not altogether unlike it in sound. I would remind my hon. friend that even according to himself the docks are very inadequate and financially very weak. And my hon. friend himself suggested that the dock companies should be at liberty to impose dues on goods.

*SIR F. DIXON-HARTLAND: What I said was that the dues should be collected by a central authority, and that they should be divided between the river authority and the docks.

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT: My hon. friend goes even farther than I supposed, because, indirectly, he would give participation in the new dues to the dock companies, the present position of which is due to maladministration in the past, and to want of adaptation and enterprise. Speaking again for the commercial community, I say they would strongly object to giving the right of taxation to such a private company with which much litigation has taken place. The London Chamber of Commerce has fought a long battle on this point for the freedom of the Port of London against the dock companies, who, in Parliament and elsewhere, have frequently put forward the claim to tax goods and lighters. What is the conclusive answer to the suggestion of my hon. friend? It is that the title which the companies have to the docks themselves is based, according to their first Act of Parliament, on the principle of the maintenance of the freedom of the port of London, of free outside delivery. The companies had a very long term in which to make the best use of their powers, and if they failed, I do not think that this House will now recoup them by giving them new powers of taxation. The London Chamber of Commerce has fought, and is now fighting, to maintain the free

character of the Port. My hon. friend said that London was a cheap port. I admit the difficulty of making comparisons, but my hon. friend has helped me in the matter because he has cited the case of Hull. I can say at once, on the authority of the Chairman of the London Corn Trade Association, that the Port of London, within the docks, is three times as expensive in the cost of discharge on to the quays as the Port of Hull. What is the real need lying at the base of this Bill? I venture to say it is the pre-eminence, nay the existence of the Port of London. Nowadays, competition between ports, especially where they are owned by railway companies, is as great as competition between individual traders; and the port which fails to make itself accessible in every sense of the term, sufficiently deep to be available for the every day increasing draft of vessels, and a cheap port in every sense of the term not only as regards dues, but as regards facilities for despatch and the avoidance of demurrage and other charges will inevitably fall out of the race. For these reasons, proper equipment and appliances and everything modern and up-to-date conducive to despatch, for time is money, is absolutely necessary, not for one particular trade, or trades only, but for the whole body of trade. A port must be free and accessible to all trades.

I should like to ask the House to consider the question of the diversion of trade. My hon. friend said that the trade of London was being maintained. But what about the general expansion of trade, and the lack of proportionate participation by London in that expansion? Who could say what the trade of London would now be if barriers were not imposed against it? I admit that there is a plurality of causes for the diversion of trade. These causes may be as remote as the Suez Canal, and the consequent restoration of old commercial cities like Venice and the Hanse Towns as distributing centres for Europe, as they were before Vasco da Gama discovered the Cape route to the Far East, and these things have, no doubt, and inevitably, affected the London entrepôt and transshipment trades; but if a port does not take care of itself, it will inevitably suffer. What an extraordinary

transformation there has been in Antwerp during the past quarter of a century. In one sense there is nothing more difficult than to remove trade, as trade has a disposition to flow in the old channels, protected by a sort of economic friction. Flushing attempted to get the trade of Antwerp, but the citizens of Antwerp were wise enough to create additional facilities. They straightened and deepened their river Scheldt, made it much more navigable, cut off the corners, improved the quays and docks with the result that the dock quays at Flushing are still grass-grown, whereas the trade of Antwerp is increasing by leaps and bounds. That is a lesson which should not be disregarded. The merchants are powerful in the matter of keeping trade, and if you ignore the merchants on your port authority you will very likely defeat the end you have in view. The merchant commands not only the destination of goods but so the destiny of a port. Now, what has been done by ports at home and abroad? In Liverpool there is no municipal guarantee—all the better, because it is not necessary. But if it is necessary we must adapt ourselves to the conditions. Liverpool is not the perfection of a port; but its port authority is one type of what such an authority ought to be. And on the whole Liverpool has done justice to itself recently, by dredging and otherwise. As regards Hull, it is a cheap port. Look at Southampton, and consider Dover, which may make headway under its new conditions, and other places that might be mentioned, and, above all, think of what is in the interest of the whole community. Think what different States and municipalities have done for the benefit of the public interest, and for the community, and what has resulted therefrom. I do not contrast private enterprise with State and municipal enterprise; I pin my faith to private enterprise, but both State and municipalities have given very great assistance to private enterprise. Think what State, municipal, and private enterprise have done for Antwerp, Rotterdam, Hamburg, Alexandria, Rouen, and other places, by deepening, canalising, equipment, etc., and ask whether here

in London anything has been done, and whether London has been doing justice to itself. That is a serious question which ought to be asked and answered. I think, on the whole, this Bill tends to accomplish the end we have in view, or is calculated to do so; that it is in accordance with the recommendations of the Royal Commission; and where it differs from those recommendations I prefer the proposals of the Government. I do so especially with regard to the constitution of the port authority. I say again, and I want to emphasise the point, that the port authority as proposed by the Royal Commission, and I think the Mansion House Committee, was constituted very largely of landmen, excellent men in their way but no maritime in their character. I only wish to observe again that it is the shipping people, the shipowners, and the merchants who command the trade to a large extent and who have knowledge and experience of the requirements of the day and know what it means when a port is not up-to-date. You must not ignore those persons and you must trust them. Human nature may be selfish, but whether it is the municipal element or the people as a body, if we cannot trust to something like patriotism we have no bed-rock upon which to rest. I venture to say an authority controlling a port constituted as this is, representative of some of our strongest and best interests, will not be guided by a narrow, selfish, and in the end destructive, policy but will do fairly by the port they are entrusted to administer. My right hon. friend dealt with the question of docks and warehouses. That is a very difficult part of the problem, especially having regard to the conflict between the municipal and the private trading element, but I hope the House will at least not follow one recommendation of the Royal Commission in that regard. The Royal Commission said that if the warehouses are to be acquired their disposal should be made compulsory at a certain period. I do not think they should be compulsorily disposed of if once acquired. But we cannot shut our eyes to the changes which are taking place in trade. The warehouse of to-day is passing away. Rapid transit, in order to avoid handling, is almost an axiom in trade to-day, and milling and

crushing mills are also being largely located at the ports, and consequently we ought to be very careful whether and how we acquire ancient warehouses and ill-equipped docks. I hope the point will be very fully discussed; that every regard will be had to the conflict that has been indicated, and that an option of refusing or retaining them will be given to the new authority. If it is finally proposed to acquire the docks and warehouses the terms and conditions will require great and grave consideration. I am bound to say I think upon the whole the provisions of the Bill indicate that consideration will be given and secured. Still the terms and conditions must be closely scrutinised. The Bill incorporates the Lands Clauses Acts and it also gives compensations to cover the cost of re-investment. The cost of re-investment is the basis of the customary 10 per cent.; the compensation given used to be from 40 per cent. to 50 per cent., but it has gradually receded to 10 per cent. and is rapidly coming to 5 per cent. The wording in regard to the redemption of the debentures is rather significant in the Bill, inasmuch as, while it introduces all those provisions with regard to compensation, it does not say a word as to the compulsory 10 per cent. but if there is to be anything of that sort I take it that it will only be in the nature of compensation for cost of re-investment.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: In the case of the debenture holders my intention is to leave it to the arbitrator to decide whether they should receive any compensation at all.

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT: I thank the right hon. Gentleman for that explanation. Of course one of the dangers of this Bill will be that a wrong impression may be created in the minds of the traders and ratepayers. Very adequate and proper safeguards ought to be devised, and I do not doubt will be. After the recommendations of the Joint Committee this House will take all proper precautions to protect and safeguard the various interests. There is one other particular point to which I might refer. Commerce changes, and there will be years which are lean as well as years which will be fat,

Sir Albert Rollit.

and there ought to be a reserve fund formed sufficient for the purpose of meeting and equalising those contingencies, so as to avoid any resort to the ratepayers. There is one thing more which I should like to mention, and that is the very singular provision that if the interest is in arrear, or if there is a deficiency which has to be made up by the London County Council, the Board of Trade may call on the port authority to increase the dues. That is the only suggestion that is made by the Bill for the purpose of retrieving such a situation. The London County Council goes, I believe, a step further, and suggests that the word "may" shall be altered to "shall." That would be a very great mistake in my opinion, because it might be that the Port authority would be called upon to increase the dues at the very time when cheaper dues were required in order to attract profitable trade. Therefore that is a point which requires consideration, as is also the question of the Trinity House, which I am clearly of opinion should be retained. In conclusion, I can only say with regard to imposing dues on goods, just as in the purchase of the docks and warehouses, we should be very careful how we deal with that matter. London is now an absolutely free port, half the tonnage which comes to the Port of London never uses the docks at all; it comes into the river and does not require to use the docks, and even in the docks there is free overside delivery to craft. By deepening the channels and extending the docks you are not going to benefit materially these light draft coasting traders, and I think in that case, as is done in Liverpool, some differentiation should take place. That is a very important matter to consider. You should not tax goods generally and equally, and thus give those who get no benefit out of it a dislike to this Bill. The improvement of the upper river, too, must not be lost sight of. The upper river must have its properly constituted authority, and I hope it will be of a public and representative character. I notice that if new dues are to be imposed they are not prescribed by statute; they are to be fixed by Provisional Order. I assume that those will be the maximum dues, and that the ultimate dues will be fixed

by those who have the actual government of the Port and know its requirements. I think this Bill foreshadows what is urgently necessary, not only for the Port of London, but for the City of London and larger London as well. If something is not done, the time will come when London will be among the Cinque Ports, high and dry, and unless we apply ourselves to the great work of putting the Port of London into a proper condition we shall not be doing our duty to our constituents or to the nation.

MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): The concluding words of the hon. Member opposite have brought home to our minds the fact that we are discussing a matter of no ordinary importance. The hon. Member for Uxbridge, seconded by the hon. Member for Walthamstow, asks us to reject this Bill on its Second Reading. I listened with attention to the speeches of those hon. Gentlemen, but I failed to see any ground for rejecting the measure. I approach the matter from a rather different point of view from the hon. Member opposite. My interest arises from having been one of the seven Royal Commissioners to whose Report this Bill is due. I see two of my colleagues opposite, and I think they will not differ from me when I say that we found our task a most interesting and agreeable one, although it was heavy and extremely complicated. If I were to go into the various issues that were raised before us, I should take up an unpardonable amount of time, but I will say that in proportion as we went on our way during those two years, we were sensible more and more of the extreme importance of the problem to the Port of London, to the 5,000,000 of people in London, and to the kingdom at large. The River Thames is a great river. If man had done as much with regard to the Port of London as nature has done, it would not be in its present state. It has a volume of tide which nearly effects its own clearance, and from that point of view nature has done almost as much as nature could. But we found that owing to deficiencies on the part of man, or of bodies of various kinds, the condition of the Port of London is lamentable in comparison with what is

being done in Great Britain and other parts of the world. We came unhesitatingly and unanimously to the conclusion—

“That, in our opinion, it has been proved that the Port of London is in danger of losing part of its existing trade, and certainly part of the trade which might otherwise come to it, by reason of the river channel and the docks being inadequate to meet the increased and increasing requirements of modern commerce.”

I welcome this Bill, which is practically based on the Report of the Royal Commission. In passing, I would venture to make this allusion to Royal Commissions. If they were, as a rule, composed of a smaller number of persons, and no one went on except with a more or less open and judicial mind, the Reports of Royal Commissions would be a great deal more fruitful. Coming back to the Bill, I think it will be admitted that the Royal Commission did not lose any time. We were appointed in June, 1900, and reported in June, 1902, which, considering the great matter we had under consideration, was not a very long time. We examined 114 witnesses, and sat open to the public on thirty days, but that gives a very inadequate idea of the number of times we sat digesting things internally. Nor can it be said that the Government lost any time. I congratulate the right hon. Gentleman on his promptitude in introducing the Bill. It was introduced in the session following our Report, and we are now, in the middle of May, discussing the Second Reading. I am not going to enter into the various questions of importance, but somewhat subsidiary in character, connected with the watermen, and other matters that might be mentioned. The crux of the whole matter is the establishment of a Port authority. That is the fundamental basis of the whole thing. I desire to say a few words as to the constitution of that authority, its powers and duties, and the financial proposals respecting it. As regards the constitution, I am free to confess that I think the number of forty is rather large and unwieldy. I should like to see the number greatly reduced. The recommendation of the Royal Commission has been put into the Bill, and I do not suppose the right hon. Gentleman sees his way to diminish the number. But with every disposition to recognise that

the right hon. Gentleman has a strong reason for turning the proposal of the Commission upside down, I am unable to see why he proposes to appoint precisely the number that we proposed should be elected.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The exact correspondence is quite accidental.

MR. JOHN ELLIS: I quite believe that. The right hon. Gentleman stated on the first evening that he thought this would be received with general favour. That may be so, but my objection arises in this way. Will you, by introducing this element of traders' representatives, diminish the sense of the Port Commission that it is a body which will be successful in proportion as it keeps public advantage, and not private interest, as its main point? In other words, will these men go on the body to represent various particular interests which may come in conflict with the welfare of the general community and the public advantage? Are not the Government by this proposal increasing that element too strongly? I would venture to draw attention to some words in the Report in relation to this point—

“The new authority must gain public esteem and success in proportion as its business appears to be clearly to administer a trust to the general advantage, and not an undertaking involving commercial rivalry. In so far as the element of election brings representation of trade interests, and diminishes the sense of the body that it exists solely in the public interest and not to promote a commercial undertaking—in proportion as the sense of a public trust is high in the mind of the members, and commercial profit is weakened—in so far will the Port Commission be successful or not.”

As regards the powers and duties, this proposal involves the disappearance of some of these other bodies. The hon. Member the Chairman of the Thames Conservancy, said he proposed to prove that it was quite unnecessary to abolish that body.

*SIR F. DIXON-HARTLAND: I said a new authority would be necessary.

MR. JOHN ELLIS: In that case it will not be necessary for me to show the degree to which the Thames Conservancy has not carried out the functions and duties which will be placed upon this body. I gather that the hon. Member to a certain extent accepts that position. After having a great deal of evidence from the hon.

Member himself and others, with respect to the Thames Conservancy, we came to the deliberate conclusion that that authority, as a public body—of course without the slightest reference to the personal element upon it—had been tried and found wanting, and that its disappearance was necessary in the interests of reform. I have no doubt that the Thames Conservancy will have a most useful career above Teddington Lock. I say that with no *arrière pensée*—that is what it is fitted for. I am rather sorry that the President of the Board of Trade has not found it possible to bring Trinity House within the purview of the Bill as recommended by the Commission. Possibly he looks forward to the time when the Port Commission, having been created and well launched on its career, might come to Parliament itself for the power of lighting, buoying, and so on. However that may be, I am perfectly satisfied that you will not get a proper reform of the River Thames until you have added the present functions of Trinity House to the Port Commission so far as they affect the river in London.

With regard to the purchase of the docks, we were fully sensible of the very grave questions raised by that proposal, and the far-reaching effects it will have. We listened to a great body of evidence from most competent gentlemen; every aspect of the case was presented to us, and after long consideration we came to the unanimous conclusion that there was no way out of it but that the docks, including the warehouses, must be purchased and worked by this new Commission. The Government has followed that recommendation, and I do not think the fears which have been expressed by hon. Members opposite will be realised in practice. You must assume that the Port Commission will consist of a body of high-minded men, and that such considerations as may be fairly urged will receive proper consideration. I do not admire that rather clumsy expedient in Sub-section 1 of Clause 18, which I think is rather a blot on the Bill. I do not believe that such a provision will be necessary. We had evidence before us from shipowners upon this question, who pointed out that with a capable body of Commissioners they would be able to make both ends meet. You must look facts in the face, and we shall all agree

Mr. John Ellis.

that the Commission must have its finance upon a sound footing, and I view with jealousy the feeling that you must have all sorts of things without paying for them. If you raise the cost you must pay through the rates for it, and I am not quite sure whether Clause 12 gives entirely sufficient power to raise dues. I do not see that there are any general powers included as the Commission suggested for raising income in any other way than that which is specified in the clause. With regard to the schedule of rates I do not think hon. Members need be under any unnecessary alarm. Upon this point Parliament preserves its power. Those rates will have to be put in a Provisional Order, and this Order can be appealed against; therefore, there is no parting with the power of Parliament in this matter. But after all the goal to be reached is the creation of a body composed of men of high reputation and capacity, and that is secured by this measure. Consequently I welcome this measure, and I think we are very much indebted to the officials of the Board of Trade for having put together this Bill. I think we are also indebted to the President of the Board of Trade for insisting that this shall be one of the important measures of the session. The crux of the whole matter will be, whom will you get on the Port Commission? The testimony before us is that there are plenty of people to be found within the area of the City of London who unite all those qualifications which are necessary to constitute a satisfactory authority. By this Bill I think we shall effect within the area of the City of London, a great commercial and industrial reform.

MR. VICARY GIBBS (Hertfordshire, St. Albans): The hon. Member for Poplar, in commenting upon the speech of my hon. friend the Member for Walthamstow, implied that the explanation of his speech would be found in the latter part of it, in which he disclosed the fact that he was the chairman of one of the leading dock companies.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I assure the hon. Gentleman that I threw no reflection whatever upon the hon. Member.

MR. VICARY GIBBS: But the hon. Member said that the explanation of my

hon. friend's speech would be found in that part of his remarks in which he said that he was the chairman of one of these dock companies. All I can say is that I have no interest in either docks or wharves except so far as I am a London merchant, and in that respect I have a distinct interest in seeing that the Port of London is a cheap and efficient one. If I say something on behalf of the wharfingers it is because I think the House will be anxious to deal fairly with them. I have had no cause to complain, as a merchant, of the way in which goods are dealt with on the Thames wharves. The capital expended in these wharves has been expended on the strength of many Acts of Parliament, which have expressed or implied an assurance that there should be fair competition as between the docks and the wharves. If the clause which allows the new Port authority to work their own warehouses in competition with others is passed, there must arise an unfair competition with the wharfingers outside. The Royal Commission rejected a proposal that only certain docks should be bought by the Port authority and that others should be left outside, on the ground that it would be very unfair to those left outside to have to compete with a rate-aided authority, and, therefore, they said that all the docks ought to be bought. Is this argument not as good between dock and dock as it is between warehouse and warehouse, and if not, why not? It seems to me that you will treat them very unfairly if you carry out this proposal. The Commission said you will have to buy the warehouses because they are so closely associated with the docks, and they said you must therefore buy the whole of them. They recommended that when you have done this you should sell the warehouses as soon as possible, so that the warehousing business may be carried on fairly by the different people engaged in it. If you are going to allow the new Port authority to raise money at something like 3 per cent. to take over these warehouses, and work them and build new warehouses, they can simply cut the throats of every single wharfinger engaged in the trade. It is said, "Oh, but they are such an honourable body, and you must trust them." Certainly I trust them, but am I to trust them to neglect their own business, and to consider a business entirely outside their

own, and not work their own business in the best way? Am I to expect them not to build new warehouses which can be profitably employed, on the ground that they would be injuring Mr. So-and-So over the way? That is a monstrous position, for you must ask them to manage their own business in the best and most judicious way. You will see that with the exception of the County Council and the wharfingers, every other member of the Port authority will have a direct interest in lowering rates and reducing its expenses. Is that fair to the wharfingers who do half the trade of London? This is no small matter, for it is a very great thing to ruin half the people engaged in this trade, and if this Bill is carried out on business lines that must inevitably be the result. These men have borrowed their money at 6 per cent., and you cannot get money for this purpose except at high rates of interest, and now you are going to compete with them at about half the rate of interest. Do you suppose for a moment that they will not be run off the road? I maintain that they have done nothing to deserve that their case should not be respected and most carefully considered by the House. They are in such a minority on the Board that their representation is absolutely useless.

As to these dues which it is suggested should be charged, a particular case has had my attention called to it. It is the case of a very large cement firm on the Medway. This firm have wharves both on the Thames and on the Medway, and they may want to move their material from their wharf on the Medway to their wharf on the Thames. The result will be that if these dues are put on they will have to pay for moving their own goods from one wharf to the other. I think it is very hard that these wharfingers should have to pay an additional rate for assisting a public body to take away their business from them. I am not going to join my hon. friend in voting for the rejection of the measure, but I am asking the Government to remember that there is a very strong feeling in the city of London—for which I think I am entitled to speak—there is a very strong feeling among those men that the Government is going directly

counter to the recommendation of the Royal Commission in leaving the option to the Port authority to go into the business of warehousemen and to compete on unfair terms with the wharfingers. That is treating a body of respectable, hardworking citizens of London very hardly. I should like my right hon. friend to consider whether he cannot put some provision into this Bill which will give some protection to that body, and some more effective assurance than the general assurance that a particularly fine and honourable set of gentlemen are going to sit on the Commission.

*MR. LYTTTELTON (Warwick and Leamington): I should like, as a Member of the Royal Commission, to tender my thanks to the Government for having acted so promptly on the recommendation of the Royal Commission. We heard a great deal the other day about the duties of Royal Commissions. They are certainly extremely onerous to serve upon, but I think that any labour undertaken on a Royal Commission would be gladly undertaken, if the Government, when they have set people to such labour, would act with the promptitude and grasp of the whole situation which has been shown by my right hon. friend the President of the Board of Trade. Objection having been taken to the Bill by two hon. Members on this side of the House, I have only got to say that it was admitted by every person who had to do with the river that there was an absolute necessity for large expenditure on dock and river improvements. The competition of Continental ports, and of other English ports, the vastness of modern ships, and the paramount need of despatch, of quick loading and unloading, make such improvements an absolute necessity, and this is admitted by everybody to be so. Then it was further admitted by the chairman of the dock companies who gave evidence before us with the greatest possible ability and candour, that the companies were not in a position substantially to raise any money at all, and that between £2,000,000 and £3,000,000 was necessary for dock improvements. It is a perfectly plain deduction from these two admissions that either the dock companies as they stand must receive further financial

Mr. Vicary Gibbs.

powers, or that a public body must be created with financial powers. or, thirdly, that the improvements should not be made at all. Of course one rejects the third alternative altogether, and you are therefore faced with this alternative—either you must have a public trust created with powers as to finance which will enable them to make the necessary expenditure, or you must further add to the financial powers of the dock companies to do the improvements which are necessary. Let me tell the House what was the opinion expressed in the evidence of the witnesses who were called before us in this long inquiry. Merchants of London, ship-owners of London, wharfingers of London, the Corporation of the City of London, the London County Council and the Chamber of Commerce—all expressed their willingness to make financial sacrifices by increasing the dues on goods, increasing the dues on shipping, and making some contribution from the rates, provided that these contributions were made to a public body who would administer the fund in the interest of the whole commerce of the Port, but they were not willing to make these sacrifices for the benefit of the dock companies, who, from one cause or another, have failed to do, or are not in a financial position to do, that which they admit to be necessary to be done. I venture to say that even if you stop there you would have a formidable case for the Second Reading of the Bill. But you must add to these reasons the great advantage of placing the control of the great channel leading to the docks and the docks themselves in the same hands. It must also be remembered that the proposal which has been made by the Royal Commission and adopted by the Government is that the dock companies should receive indemnity for their property.

I perfectly admit that the really serious difficulty in this case is that of the warehousemen. We literally spent days debating this topic in the Royal Commission. I quite admit that if the warehouses at the docks are purchased by a public authority no one can contemplate without uneasiness the initiation of competition between the warehouses in the hands of the public authority and the warehouses in the hands of private owners. We en-

deavoured in the course of our Report to deal with the subject. I must say that having discussed this matter I do sympathise very much with the difficulty of my right hon. friend behind me in dealing with it in a practical manner. We suggested, in the first instance, the purchase of both warehouses and docks. It would have been a gross injustice, and contrary to the legislation of the past sixty years, to have obtained the docks at a smaller price by severing from them a fruitful part of their undertaking, namely, the warehouses. That cannot be done, and you have to deal with this situation. The public authority must buy the docks and the warehouses together as a going concern. Nobody will deny that the price the authority will have to pay will be large. We recommended, in order to safeguard the warehousemen in competition with the wharfingers, that their warehouses should be afterwards sold at a convenient time. I have been informed since that that operation would involve a most serious financial loss to the authority. For myself, I am not ashamed to admit that I feel incompetent to deal with the problem, but I feel that there would be more chance of a solution of this problem if it is raised upstairs by the wharfingers themselves before the Committee than there would be if the Government committed themselves, on the face of the Bill, to some proposition which would perhaps be afterwards found to involve financial loss to the authority, and which would defeat the object we all have in view—to do justice to the wharfingers. But I would like to point out that the wharfingers, so far as I can gather from a paper received from them, have only made two proposals at present. One is that all the private warehouses should be bought up. That would involve other £15,000,000 or £20,000,000, and I put the proposal aside as impracticable. The other is that the dock companies should be given further financial power to work out their own salvation. What does that mean? It means that the dock companies should be empowered to receive this large sum for improving the river, and that they should also get powers to further increase their taxation upon the trade of the Port. If they are to get sufficient credit to raise £2,000,000 or £3,000,000 it would be necessary for

them to impose duties upon goods and duties upon tonnage. Supposing that was done, as my hon. friend suggests, why, the dock companies at the present moment, being private companies and being bound to consider their interests, would be bound to initiate against the wharfingers a very sharp competition, and they would do it, and they would be enabled to do it by taxing their rivals themselves. Surely the proposal of the Government is far better than that; at least there is a chance that the public authority would not institute a rival competition with the wharfingers. If you arm the dock companies with financial powers in the first place, you enable them to carry on effective competition, and you leave the wharfingers unprotected altogether, because the private companies would have all the powers of a public company. They would have power to tax the wharfingers and to make their position harder. Yet I frankly admit there is a very great difficulty with regard to the wharfingers.

I pass for a moment to the consideration of the ratepayer. He does not suffer any injustice by the proposals in the Bill. It is a very minute burden that he is going to take upon himself. He is going to guarantee, it is true, a large sum of money, but that sum, as the experience of the past has shown, is one which will earn a very reasonable profit. In the case of the West India Dock, the extension made lately has been extremely successful. It is fair to put this minute burden on the ratepayers, for several reasons. We are dealing with the great highway of London—the Thames. The interests of London consumers are enormously bound up in the efficiency of the river and port. The consumption of goods imported at the Port of London by Londoners and their neighbours around the Metropolis is gigantic, and if ships are frightened away by the existing difficulties, the result will be very heavy loss to consumers and to many trades and industries. The really formidable matter is that, unless such improvements are made, and made rapidly, we stand a very serious chance indeed of going down before the competition of the Continental ports. I realise what was said in the Report of the Commission, and the idea was conveyed in the speech of the hon. Gentleman—that foreign ports have

Mr. Lyttelton.

been worked for a long time at a loss with a view to a return in the far future. And they have been able to do so, no doubt, not only because of the keen, world-wide competition for trade, but because they have behind them subsidies granted by national or City aid. Are we going, with our gigantic trade and our great docks, to throw away the immense advantage which the credit of the rates of London gives in this competition when we are confronted with these gigantic combinations undertaken with such long and careful foresight by our rivals? I have a strong sense that it would be unwise to do so. Neither is it in the least contrary to English principle that the rates should contribute to such an enterprise. The case of Bristol and other ports are precedents. My hon. friends who moved and seconded the Amendment seemed to think that the dock companies were going to be treated with great harshness by the arbitrators who were to value their undertakings. I might quote to them the famous toast proposed by a gentleman who was certainly profoundly interested in property—"The Lands Clauses Acts: may they never be amended!" [An Hon. MEMBER: "He was a water director."] I must say that when the Royal Commission recommended, and the Government substantially accepted, the provisions of the Lands Clauses Act, eliminating only, what I venture to think, the foolish provision which compels two arbitrators to be appointed, one at the instance of each party, and an umpire who is always saddled with the whole burden of the inquiry and the decision, and abolishing the 10 per cent. for compulsory sale—a provision which has long passed out of practice when applied to undertakings of this kind—I think my hon. friends' apprehensions are really unfounded, and if they were as familiar with arbitration cases under the Lands Clauses Act as I am, they would be quite satisfied that the dock companies would receive an ample price for their undertakings.

Mr. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): Nobody who entered the House during the last two hours would have thought that we were discussing a question of the greatest possible magnitude, and which involves in a large measure, not only the prosperity of London, but in some respects.

the whole shipping trade of this country. Fortunately, while those who were not here did not appreciate that fact, those who have spoken have fully appreciated it, and those who have listened to the debate must have learned a great deal and have realised how great the importance and interest of the question is with which we are dealing. I confess I was surprised to learn that one-tenth of the whole shipping trade of the country was centred in London. I had not realised so fully before that the Port of London leads the world in respect to shipping; nor had I realised how urgent the question was and that there is, indeed, a justification for the Bill before the House. The question is not only extremely important, but it is extremely urgent, because of the changes that are passing in our commerce, which have to be faced. My hon. and learned friend who has just sat down alluded to the fact that foreign ports, especially since the opening of the Suez Canal, have taken away part of what used to be entirely ours, the distributing trade. These ports, Hamburg, Antwerp, Rotterdam and Bremen, have been making more rapid advances than London. Hamburg, particularly, has received certain help from the Government of Germany. I do not venture to suggest that we ought to follow the policy which was warmly disagreed with by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the case of light dues. At the same time, when we see that policy is being followed by ports which come into competition with that of London, I think we should do what we can to maintain the volume of trade we have. There is another point. Although the Port of London is kept comparatively clear by the scour of the long tideway, it is not so completely capable of receiving at all states of the tide the ocean-going vessels of large size and deep draught which are now being built. It is, in fact, difficult for these vessels to come up to the Port of London. Therefore, the dredging of the river becomes necessary. I cannot pass from this point without paying a tribute to the extremely able and interesting Report of the Royal Commission. It is very concise and very clear, and written in a style which makes the reading of it a pleasure, although it deals with many technical matters; and when it comes to

celebrate the past and the future glories of the Port becomes almost dithyrambic. I ought also to pay a tribute to the energy of the President of the Board of Trade in bringing forward this Bill so soon after the Report of the Royal Commissioners was presented. Reports of Royal Commissioners are often apt to lie dormant in pigeon-holes for a long time, even when they deal with matters which are urgent and important.

Although most of the speeches which have been delivered have dealt with small points in the Bill, surely it is worth while to recall the attention of the House to the fact that we are on a Second Reading, and that all that the House has now to do is to draw attention to the general principles of the Bill. But I wish to refer to three points. In the first place, you want a separate authority for the tidal part of the river, and you want an authority for the head-waters which will be entirely different from that which controls the lower Thames. In the second place, the authority which deals with the Port ought to be consolidated to effect control over the efficiency and economy of administration. And in the third place, the docks ought to be absorbed by the new authority. There may be more controversial points, but these are fundamental to the Bill. Upon the last point I do not think I can add to the force of the statement of the hon. and learned Member for Warwick, and Leamington who showed that the raising of additional money for the purpose of dredging the river and providing new docks, cannot be done by the dock companies themselves; that the source from which the money was to be expected could not be tapped except by a public body. That argument appeared to me to be conclusive. I think that my two hon. friends who moved and seconded the rejection of the Bill felt that their case was not strong on that point, and they did not urge it with animation. In regard to the two other principles of the Bill, it is obvious that when you come to deal with the improvement of the tidal waters, these are entirely different from those which relate to the upper regions of the river—not only the question of the control of pleasure boats and steam launches, but the questions of drainage and the control of the banks—

that it is quite absurd that the representatives of the Upper Thames should have a voice in the administration of the Port. There is no reason why the Trinity House should have anything to say about the supervision of the Thames waters in Gloucestershire. The point, therefore, does not require any further argument. As regards the consolidation of the authority, it is quite clear that that is necessary. The Bill differs from the Report of the Royal Commission in the respect that it does not bring in the Trinity House; and I would be glad to hear from the right hon. Gentleman what reason there is for this. I conjecture that there is so much matter of a particular technical character to be dealt with by the new authority that it was thought best to give it to a body mainly representing the trading interest. It is obvious that these chief principles will be agreed to by the House, and therefore I arrive at the conclusion that the Bill is entitled to a Second Reading, and that everything else is a matter of detail. We are now only occupied in raising questions which it will be proper for the Joint Committee to consider. These questions, on which light may be thrown by our discussions, are both numerous and important, but I will not enter into them all, but I wish to say a few words first as regards the authority. It is a very curious authority which consists of nominated persons who are really not popular persons, and of selected persons who are popular. There are ten representatives of shipowners and ten representatives of traders. They are not elected personally in the ordinary sense, because they do not represent the general community or the ratepayers, but they represent an interest. I think there is apt to be a fallacy or confusion when we talk of them as being a popularly elected body. Those twenty represent a particular interest, which is in some respects opposed to the interest of the ratepayers. On the other hand, the County Council and the City, who are to guarantee the finance and to provide the two and a half millions, are to be represented by only ten persons in all. That has been remarked upon by several speakers as being a very strange provision, because the ultimate burden of the guarantee and the two and a half millions will

fall on the persons who will be represented by only ten out of forty members and that, surely, is a very strange provision as regards economy of administration. The interests of the ratepayers are not necessarily the interests of the majority of the Board.

I agree with my hon. friend the Member for Nottingham, who was a member of the Royal Commission, in his view that the proposed Commission is really too large a body. We are drifting in recent legislation into very large bodies. We have an unwieldy Water Board and we are asked by a Bill now before the House to create a very large and, I think, a very unwieldy education authority for London. Here we have an authority which is also too large for the work it will have to do. A body is generally better for administrative work in proportion to the smallness of its numbers; that is to say where it is a body which does not get into debates but deals with matters offhand. It is true that there will be a great deal of work, and hon. Members may say that we will require a large number of Members, but the largest part of the work will be best done by officials, and need only be superintended by the Commission, and for the sake of having members to man the Committees we do not require such a large body. I should therefore like to express the hope that when the Bill is considered by the Joint Committee they will agree to a number not exceeding thirty. That would very well represent all the interests concerned. I notice that one member is to be given to the Railway Association. I daresay it is quite right that the railway companies should have a voice in the matter, because the railways are very much interested in the docks being properly managed. But is the Railway Association of a sufficiently permanent and public character to be entitled to appoint a member? I should have thought that we might provide for having some person on the Board as the spokesman of the railway companies without necessarily giving a representative to the Railway Association, which, so far as I know, can change its constitution. That is a matter of detail which I think deserves the consideration of the Joint Committee.

No doubt there is apparent difficulty in allowing competition between the wharfingers and the Commission, but there are two ways in which that can be met. In the first place we might forbid the Commission to reduce the rates in such a way as to prejudice the wharfingers, and we might give the Board of Trade or the County Council a voice in the matter, and require their concurrence in any lowering of the rates below a certain point, which would mean unfair competition with the wharfingers. On the other hand, there is very considerable force in the recommendation of the Commission, and it deserves to be considered by the Joint Committee. It is really a question on which the wharfingers ought to offer evidence, and on which they ought to make suggestions. As regards finance, as a London ratepayer I feel some little anxiety. There is the guarantee. After all this is an experiment. It is quite proper that we should make experiments, but it is an experiment; and the guarantee may possibly involve liability. Therefore we ought to regard with some alarm the possibility of adding another burden to the increasing burdens of London. With great public spirit the County Council have, however, expressed themselves as willing to do this; and, of course, we all feel that the prosperity of the Port of London will increase the general prosperity of London. In addition to the £2,500,000 and the guarantee there will, after ten years, be further expenditure for dredging. That is a serious liability, and I hope regard will be paid to it during the subsequent stages of the Bill. I would make one further observation to indicate what to my mind is one of the real difficulties of the scheme. It is said we could raise the dues, and the remedy provided for the County Council and the City is to ask the Board of Trade to require the Commission to raise the dues. But it must be remembered that every raising of the dues may diminish the approach of vessels to the port. That is the real difficulty we have to face, and therefore we cannot allow for this raising of the dues. There is another reason why every possible security against extravagance of administration ought to be introduced, and everything that can be suggested to provide further securities

in the interests of the ratepayers ought to be suggested, in order to avoid very considerable financial risk. It will be felt that there is plenty of work for the Joint Committee. We all wish well to the scheme. We are all persuaded that it is necessary, and that it may confer very great benefit on the Port of London, and help it to keep its place as one of the great ports of the world. But we also feel that it is a scheme which raises many important points, and I hope that neither the Joint Committee nor this House will grudge the time and pains necessary to render it adequate and satisfactory.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I am sure the Government have no reason to be dissatisfied with the tone of the discussion or with the speeches of my hon. friend the Member for Poplar or my right hon. friend the Member for Aberdeen. The debate has been an interesting one. A great variety of opinion on various points of the Bill has been expressed, and to some extent I think the arguments of the various speakers have answered each other. On the main point there has been something like unanimity of feeling. With the exception of the speeches of my hon. friend the Member for the Uxbridge Division and of my hon. friend the Member for the Walthamstow Division, no hon. Member has, I think, expressed an opinion adverse to the Second Reading of the Bill; and even my two hon. friends agreed in concurring with every other speaker who has addressed the House that it is absolutely essential that some means should be taken to bring the Port of London up to modern requirements; and that that would involve a large expenditure of money, both on deepening and improving the river, and also on the improvement of the dock accommodation and the provision of more dock accommodation. Both my hon. friends concurred in thinking that that could not be done unless Parliament in some way or other enabled the existing authorities to provide the funds, or to create a new authority which would be placed in a position to provide those funds. That being the case, and there being also what appears to me to be, with the exception of my two hon. friends, complete concurrence in the view that Parliament is not

likely to give the dock companies or the Thames Conservancy the necessary financial power, there remains only a proposal similar to that put forward by the Royal Commission, and accepted by the Government. I think this debate has proved conclusively that the House of Commons is in favour of the creation of a new Port authority for London, which shall include in its functions the functions now discharged by the Thames Conservancy and the dock companies. My right hon. friend the Member for Aberdeen asked me to state why the Government had not included Trinity House in the authorities whose functions were to be absorbed. On the First Reading I stated shortly my reasons for not including Trinity House within the purview of the Bill. What my right hon. friend says is perfectly true. The duties and functions of Trinity House in connection with the Port are extremely technical, and I do not think that there would be very much advantage in transferring them to the new Port authority—certainly not at the commencement of its labours. In addition to that, I do not think, with all due respect to the Royal Commission, that they went thoroughly into the difficulties which would attend the inclusion of Trinity House within the purview of the Bill. Had they done so, they would have found it necessary to make provision in connection with the pilotage and lighting of the Port, which undoubtedly would have been complicated, and which might give rise to a great deal of discussion. So far as I was able to consider the evidence given before the Royal Commission, there was no real complaint as to the manner in which Trinity House discharged its duties. On the contrary, the evidence rather pointed to the fact that Trinity House had discharged its duties with admirable efficiency. There is, however, one question in connection with Trinity House to which I may refer. There appears to be an idea that if the duties and functions of Trinity House were transferred to the new Port authority under this Bill, it would render more easy the abolition of compulsory pilotage and a change in the law, which at present frees from any responsibility in the case of damage done

by a vessel to other vessels by collision or otherwise, those vessels which are compelled by the existing law to have a pilot on board. I do not think that is the case. It is open to the Port authority, and I believe it is open to any ship-owner at the present time, to move the Board of Trade to bring in a Provisional Order to do away with compulsory pilotage in the London area or any other area. The mere transfer of the powers and functions of the Trinity House to the new Port authority would not in any respect make it any easier to introduce that change if it was thought advisable. With regard to the immunity of those vessels which are under the charge of a pilot, to alter that would be to alter the general law, and there again the mere inclusion of the Trinity Board in this Bill would not make it easier to effect that change. These are the general reasons which have led the Board of Trade not to include the transfer of the functions and duties of Trinity House to the new Port authority in this Bill.

Now I come to the proposals of the Royal Commission, which we have broadly followed in this Bill, and the difficulties those proposals involve. Let me refer to the question of the warehousemen. The Royal Commission are anxious, and properly anxious, to avoid as far as possible any competition between the new Port authority, which they advised should be set up, and the business conducted by the wharfingers and the warehousemen. In order so far as possible to prevent that competition, they recommended that the warehouses should, so far as was practicable, be sold or leased within a date to be fixed by the Bill. Well, Sir, we carefully considered the condition, and we came to the conclusion, for reasons stated by the Royal Commission themselves, that that was not a practical proposal. In the first place, many of the warehouses are physically connected with the docks in such a manner that they could not be practically separated from them; and in the second place, where these physical differences did not exist, the commercial objection to any severance from the docks would be very serious indeed. I have gone as far as I was able into this question, and I am inclined to think that the estimate given by Mr. Cator Scott, that the loss involved by the sale or leasing of the warehouses

to the authority would amount to £300,000 a year, was not very far from the mark. I believe that estimate is below the mark, and in addition we have to consider this, that if the warehouses were sold or leased to the new Port authority it would be necessary in some way or other to compensate those employees of the dock companies who are now engaged in the warehousing business, and who are by the existing regulations of the dock companies entitled to a pension. That would involve another large expense by the new Port authority not far short of £100,000 a year. It therefore comes to this, that if this proposal of the Royal Commission was adopted by the Bill the loss to the new Port authority would amount in all probability to something not much less than £400,000 a year, and perhaps something more. [AN HON. MEMBER: £500,000.] My hon. friend behind me says £500,000, and I think it is possible that it would amount to £500,000. It is impossible to regard a loss of £500,000 to the new Port authority with equanimity. I think those considerations to which I have referred show that this proposal is not a practical proposal.

I cannot help recognising the force of the argument of the hon. Member for St. Albans and others who have spoken in this debate. It must be admitted that you cannot improve the accommodation in the docks—you cannot spend large sums of money on the docks without, to some extent, increasing the competition which at present exists between the wharfingers and the warehousemen and the dock authorities. I think it is inevitable that money spent on the better equipment of the docks must react unfavourably to some extent on the wharfingers and warehousemen. I will not go so far as the hon. Member for St. Albans, who seemed to think the proposals of the Bill really spelt ruin to the wharfingers. I think, with all respect to the hon. Member, that this is rather an exaggeration. At the same time I feel, and cannot conceal from myself the fact, that these proposals will be, to some extent, to the prejudice of the wharfingers and warehousemen. But what is the position in which we are placed? We cannot have things as they are, that is evident; we cannot financially strengthen the dock companies in order that the dock companies may be able to

put their house in order; that also is evident; we cannot undertake in this Bill to purchase all the warehouses on the river outside the docks. That would involve an expenditure, estimated by the hon. Member for Leamington at something like from £15,000,000 to £20,000,000; it certainly could not be placed lower than £13,000,000. Therefore I reject that proposal for reasons which I think are obvious. There remains, therefore, the proposal of the Bill that the improvement for the additional accommodation required by the docks should be carried out by a public trust. The wharfingers themselves, in their evidence before the Royal Commission, drew a distinction between competition with the dock companies as a private undertaking and competition with a dock trust as a public undertaking. In Section 199 of the Report of the Royal Commission they say—

“We gather from the evidence taken upon the subject, that although the riverside interests and warehousing merchants are strongly opposed to the levying of dues on goods by the dock companies, on whom they look as rivals in trade in their warehousing capacity, they are prepared to acquiesce, if this should be necessary for the improvement of the Port, in a levy of dues upon all import goods by an authority of a public character.”

That is now what we propose. We propose that there should be an authority of a public character to receive dues and spend the money so received in the improvement of the docks, and while I do not deny that that does involve a certain amount of competition with warehouse keepers, I think they ought to admit on their side that the competition is less serious and less severe than competition with the dock companies if the necessary financial strength was given to those companies to carry out those improvements in the Port of London which we anticipate from the new Port authority. Therefore, I am in great difficulty. I candidly confess it does not appear to me that there is any perfectly clear solution to this problem possible. But, on the other hand, I say on behalf of the Board of Trade that we shall be perfectly willing to consider any suggestions that the wharfingers or warehousekeepers may make in the Committee upstairs to mitigate the competition. The right hon. Member for Aberdeen has made one suggestion. He suggests that the charges in the

warehouses of the dock companies shall not be raised except with the consent of some public body like the Board of Trade. I do not care to express an opinion one way or the other upon that suggestion. I think if we could find a way in which their legitimate interests could be protected we should be only too glad to give it favourable consideration. On the other hand, I agree with the right hon. Member for Aberdeen that the interests of the warehouses cannot be allowed to stand in the way of the general policy of this Bill.

I pass from that to the question of finance. My hon. friends who moved and seconded the rejection of this Bill seemed to me to be terrified because we were setting up what my hon. friend the Member for Uxbridge called a municipal authority. I do not regard this as a municipal authority. It is an authority on which there is certain municipal representation, which the hon. Member for Poplar considers insufficient, but it certainly is not a Municipal Board. My hon. friend the Member for Walthamstow said the proposal of the Bill was an extension of Socialistic and Communistic tendencies. I really think he must have forgotten that there is not an important port of the United Kingdom which is not controlled in some way or other by a trust of this description, and no such terrible results as my hon. friend seems to anticipate will follow. In my judgment, some sort of municipal assistance is absolutely necessary if the proposals made in this Bill are to be carried out. In the first place, if the £2,500,000 required to deepen the river are provided by the new Port authority and not by the London County Council and the Corporation of the City of London, that would result in an ultimate loss to the new Port authority of something like £75,000 a year; if the guarantee of the London County Council is not to be behind the Port stock which is to be issued by the new Port authority, there would be a further and very heavy loss, because the necessary sum could only be raised at a considerably higher rate of interest. If we assume the total amount of Port stock—and this is only an assumption—to be £30,000,000, and the additional rate of interest involved owing to the absence of a guarantee works out at $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., which is not an extravagant sum, the

additional expense thrown on the new Port authority would ultimately amount to £225,000 a year. So that, without municipal assistance, it means that an additional charge of something like £300,000 would be thrown upon the new Port authority. But that is not all. I do not believe the purchase of the dock undertakings would be possible without the guarantee of the London County Council behind the Port stock, and for this reason; without that guarantee we could not ask Parliament to require the owners of the dock property to take stock in exchange for their present holding of shares. On the other hand, as I am advised by the highest financial authorities, it would be impossible for the Port authority to raise the amount required to purchase the dock undertakings in cash without the guarantee of the London County Council behind them. Therefore it comes to this, that if the docks are to be bought, and we are to raise this large sum of money for the purpose, it is a *sine quâ non* that the new Port authority should have the guarantee of the London County Council behind it.

If the guarantee of the London County Council is to be given a question arises in connection with the representation of the Council upon the Port authority. In the Report of the River Committee of the London County Council, which has just been issued, and of which they have been good enough to send me a copy, I notice they ask for a representation of fifteen members out of forty. That is even more than the proposal of the Royal Commissioners themselves. The Royal Commission proposed that the representation of the London County Council should be only eleven. We have reduced the number still further—to eight, but in doing that we have added to the Bill a safeguard of the ratepayers, which the Royal Commissioners did not themselves propose. That safeguard is contained in Clause 18 of the Bill. I am quite aware that there are some hon. Gentlemen who consider that the device contained in Clause 18 is a clumsy device. That idea has been expressed by the hon. Member for Poplar, and also, I believe, by the hon. Member for the Rushcliffe division. But what

Mr. Gerald Balfour.

is the view of the London County Council on the subject? So far from considering Clause 18 contains a clumsy device, the London County Council goes the length of saying that such a plan is absolutely necessary, and they further propose that it should be strengthened. I will read a passage from the Report—

“The effect of this would be to constitute the Board of Trade a Court of appeal who would, in the event of any deficiency having to be made good out of the county rate, decide whether the Council was justified in asking the Port Commission to increase its dues and charges, and to what extent they should be increased, in order that the Council might be recouped.”

That is the comment of the Rivers Committee of the London County Council on the device which the hon. Member for Poplar characterises as “clumsy.” The Rivers Committee goes on to say—

“It seems to us that some such provision as the foregoing is necessary unless the Council is to possess a majority on the new body.”

They go on to say—

“We think, however, that the clause should be strengthened by requiring the Commission to acquire a reserve fund which should be drawn upon in case of need, and that the clause should make it obligatory upon, and not optional for, the Board of Trade to make an order to increase the dues and charges.”

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I had no intention of leaving the impression on the House that I desired the elimination of that clause. What I did say was that it required strengthening considerably, that it was a clumsy way in which it was done now. The principle of the clause is right, but it wants strengthening very much.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: When the hon. Member makes his own suggestion, if he will give it us in a less clumsy form, I shall be happy to consider it. But the changes which the County Council suggest certainly would not make the device less clumsy or in any way alter its essential character. The position is this: The London County Council consider that some such clause is necessary unless the County Council is placed in the position of appointing the majority of the Commissioners on the new body. But the County Council themselves do not suggest there should be a majority of County Councillors on the Port authority, and in reducing the number proposed by the Royal Commissioners from eleven to

eight we have considered our justification for doing so to be the inclusion of this clause and the protection which it gives to the ratepayers—a protection which the Royal Commissioners themselves did not suggest. My hon. friend the Member for South Islington made a criticism of a very different character. His view was that if it should ever become necessary for the County Council to supplement the interest on the Port stock out of the rates, it would be in a time of commercial depression, just the very worst time to raise the rates, the time, in fact, at which the raising of the rates must naturally have the effect of producing a smaller instead of a larger amount. My reply is, that I do not see the slightest danger of the rates ever having to be called upon to supply any deficiency in the interest on the Port stock. I regard this provision as purely nominal and cautionary.

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT: My right hon. friend will bear in mind that the clause in his Bill assumes that possibility.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: Yes, I will come to that presently. I do not myself believe it will ever be necessary to have recourse to the provisions of that clause. The real danger, in my judgment, is a possible tendency on the part of a body constituted as we propose this body should be, so to lower rates in their own interest as to reduce the income below the expenditure. But with Clause 18 in view, having before their eyes the interference of the Board of Trade which would immediately follow upon any action of that kind, I think it is as certain as anything can practically be, that the new Port authority will take very great care not to lower the rates so as to come under these provisions. My hon. friend speaks of a possible reduction of the income of the Port owing to depression of trade. Let me deal for a moment with that matter. The Rivers Committee of the London County Council were good enough to place before me their estimate of the finances of the Port under the new system for the next ten years. On the supposition that the expenditure on the deepening of the Port is provided for by the London County Council and the Corporation, and that their guarantee is placed behind the Port stock, they estimate that in the first year there will be a surplus

of £106,000, and in the tenth year a deficiency of £75,000. Supposing the Port were left to its own resources, the extra charges for interest which it would have to meet would be such as to alter these figures to the following: Instead of a surplus of £106,000 in the first year, there would be a deficiency of £51,000, and instead of a deficiency of £75,000 in the tenth year, there would be a deficiency of £353,000. My hon. friend the Member for Uxbridge asks whether that allows for a sinking fund. Under the provisions of the Bill there is no sinking fund to be paid for the first ten years. After the tenth year it will be necessary to provide for a sinking fund as well, and that will amount to about £155,000. These figures may be a little too favourable; I am inclined to think that possibly they are. But if the provisions of the Bill are carried out, after the tenth year we should have a sinking fund of £155,000 to provide, and I will assume that the deficiency of £75,000, as calculated by the Rivers Committee, will amount to one of £100,000. The total to be provided would in that case be £255,000. That would be the amount that would have to be raised after the tenth year by charges on goods as opposed to the charges on shipping which are at present levied by the dock companies and the Thames Conservancy. A sum of £255,000 distributed over all the goods coming to and from the Port of London would really be a trifle. The Mansion House Committee made a careful inquiry into the amount of income that would be derived in London from the dues on goods if the dues corresponded to those now charged at Liverpool; and the figures which they brought out are these: At present the dues on goods in Liverpool bring in an income of £641,000; dues to the same extent on goods imported into or exported from the Port of London would amount to £899,000. So that if the additional sum which the Port of London had to provide amounted only to £255,000, my hon. friend the Member for South Islington will see that dues in London amounting to something like one-third of those charged in Liverpool would probably be sufficient to provide the necessary sum. Under these circumstances it appears to me that in times of pressure on trade there is not the slightest fear that the resources of the Port outlay will not be

amply sufficient to provide for all the charges made upon them, even if the purchase of the docks is accepted and receives the sanction of Parliament.

Now, Sir, I think I have referred to most of the important points which have been raised in the course of this debate. The hon. Gentleman the Member for Poplar has appealed to me to say whether I am ready to keep an open mind in regard to the numerous points which will be raised before the Joint Committee. Yes, Sir; the Government are certainly prepared to consider with an open mind any arguments before the Committee, or any decisions which the Committee may come to upon those arguments. But in saying that I think I ought to make one exception. The principle of the purchase of the docks by the new Port authority is, to my mind, not a matter for the Committee, but it is an essential matter which should be decided upon the Second Reading. After the discussion which has taken place I hope that we may come to a decision upon the Second Reading this evening. In coming to this decision I hope the House will clearly understand that the Government will certainly take the approval of the House on the Second Reading to carry with it in a distinct form the question of purchasing the docks. The other questions we are prepared to leave to the consideration of the Committee.

*MR. PEEL (Manchester, S.): I should like to say a few words on this extremely important Bill, because I am the only one of the unfortunate trio of this House who had to sit upon this Royal Commission who has not spoken. Before I say a word from that point of view—and I speak solely for myself, because the other two hon. Members who sat on the Commission have already expressed their views—I should like to say a word as a member of the London County Council, although most of my remarks will be from the point of view of the Royal Commission and not the London County Council. I think some credit is due to the London County Council for the readiness with which in this case they have undertaken their responsibilities. The London County Council have sometimes been accused of being a little too grasping, but in this case they have readily agreed to make this absolutely

free grant of £2,500,000 for deepening and widening the river; and not only that, but they have willingly assented to give the guarantee of the rates for the whole capital sum of money which has to be raised to constitute the new Port authority. Notwithstanding this, they have never claimed to be placed in a majority on that body, and in this respect they have displayed great moderation. Even if they are not satisfied with the representation they have got, under these circumstances I do not think they can be accused of having made a very unfair demand. I assume that this Bill will pass, although, following the usual practice of important Government Bills, the rejection has been moved and seconded by hon. Members on the Government side of the House. I should like to say a few words on some of the details of the Bill, with which the right hon. Gentleman has just dealt. In the speech on the First Reading he was perhaps not quite fair to the Royal Commission when he said that they wished to include among the powers of the new authority a transfer of the powers of Trinity House for the sake of symmetry. When I signed that Report I had no mere love of symmetry, but it is perfectly clear that there ought to be a connection, and a close connection if possible, between the body which makes the channels and controls them, and the body which has the duty of buoying and lighting those channels. Under this Bill £2,500,000 is to be spent within the next ten years in deepening and widening the channel of the river, which is admitted to be necessary by all the interests concerned. As there will be a considerable change in the channels of the river it is most important that there should be a close connection between the body which makes them and the authority which settles the lights and the buoys to mark those channels. The right hon. Gentleman has given us a very interesting account of the reasons which induced him not to alter the general law for the sake of the Port of London, and he dealt with the points connected with pilotage and non-liability for vessels carrying compulsory pilots. This question came before the Royal Commission, and there are obviously many anomalies connected with the law of pilotage in the Port of London, and a great deal of unfairness

has resulted. Not only that, he also referred to the full liability of barges for any damage they do to ships. He hoped the President of the Board of Trade would give his attention to these two questions.

There is another question I should like to ask. The powers of the Watermen's Company are handed over to the new body, and they have certain powers for raising money for licensing barges. The limit of those licences has been taken away by the Bill, but I am not quite clear whether that would allow the new body to do what has been suggested, and that is to raise no inconsiderable sum upon licences for barges. The Commission suggested that there should be a different charge upon these barges according to their size. Those who have studied the subject know very well that until now the dock companies have had no right to charge any dues on those barges which use their docks. The number of barges has very largely increased, and now amounts to over 11,000, and instead of thirty or forty tons you now get barges up to 1,000 tons. The result is that enormous expense must be thrown on the dock companies who have to admit these barges in and out of their gates, through extra pumping and through the mud which comes in at all times. In the case of the London and East India Dock Companies it was estimated that a charge of £50,000 a year was cast upon them by the extra pumping they had to do in this way. It is perfectly true that the dock companies attempted to put a charge upon the barges, but it was resisted very naturally by barge-owners, because they were being taxed by their rivals in trade. From the point of view of this Bill everybody connected with the Port of London, and also the ratepayers of London through the free grant, are making some sacrifice towards increasing the prosperity of the Port of London, and in view of that fact it is fair that some charge should be laid upon these barges, considering the sacrifices that are made by the different interests, and considering the fact that by the mere entry of these barges they cause an extra amount of labour and expense to be thrown upon whatever body is in charge of the docks.

With reference to putting a tax upon goods, I thoroughly assent to the necessity for this. Of course it may be that this

tax will only have to be resorted to in case things do not go very well in other ways. But it is of extreme importance to have the power to put this tax upon goods. The hon. Gentleman below me referred to the fact that it was the merchants who made the prosperity of the ports and who controlled the lines of trade, but the power that shipowners have is also immense in this respect. Speaking from the experience I gained on the Commission, I should say that it would be a very good policy if the rates on vessels were as low as possible, in order to give the Port a good name, and so as to attract as much traffic to the Port of London as possible. From this point of view I would support, in case of necessity, goods being taxed. Although this clause is clearly permissive, I am sorry that the authority has been allowed to put a tax upon goods for transhipment or re-export. The falling off in the re-export trade, or the fact that it has not increased in the same proportion as other branches of trade, is one of the reasons that makes the constitution of this new authority necessary. It is precisely from this point of view that competition is most keen, and it is necessary for us to make a struggle to keep that part of the business in our own hands. There is a tremendous competition in this respect between London and ports on the Continent, such as Hamburg and Rotterdam. I believe it might be better to leave that portion of the trade perfectly free, and thus obtain for ourselves those advantages which are obtained by transhipment and re-exporting. I should like to say one word on the question of the warehouses. That has been very fully argued, and I will not go into details which have already been dealt with. I am, of course, perfectly aware of the great difficulty of separating these warehouses from the rest of the dock undertakings. Those figures which the right hon. Gentleman gave us just now—figures which I must say we tried to get during the Commission, but which we were not provided with—are an extremely important element in considering what we should do with the warehouses. Some of them, of course, it is physically impossible to separate. Others of them it is not so impossible, because they are not a part of the body of the docks them-

selves. But I should like to lay down this principle. I feel that, if possible, even at the loss of a small amount of the revenue, it would be worth while—I do not say it should be done altogether—but I should like to lay down the principle that we should avoid any appearance of competition with private interests in the Port, because the influence a great body of this kind has and can maintain, will be enormously enhanced in every branch of its undertaking, if at the outset it comes under no suspicion of competing in any way with private enterprise in the Port of London. It was for that reason that the Commission did not wish to except any docks from the purchase, but to include them all, and so to avoid in that way all appearance of competition with private interests. This is a matter on which the wharfingers will express themselves before the Committee, and I hope some method will be found, either by a minimum charge or by some other means, to secure this desirable end, so that at the beginning of its career this body may not be forced into a position of competition with other bodies.

On the question of the constitution of the authority, the right hon. Gentleman has made great differences from the Report of the Royal Commission, but I, myself, am not disposed to quarrel with the general principle he has laid down, if you are going to call in the rates of London, and if you are not going to get a guarantee from the outside. I certainly think it would be far better to get the kind of body you have in Liverpool, that is to say, people who know the river, who are accustomed to the trade of the river, and whose interests lie in it, and who, besides the natural interest they have in it, have great technical knowledge of the matter, and whose interests, taken altogether, are really not adverse to the interests of the consumers, but whose tendency is to keep every kind of rate as low as possible. But of course the matter is complicated by the guarantee of the rates, and I entirely agree that for the purpose of raising the money and keeping the interest as low as possible, it is absolutely necessary to have this guarantee. I do think, however, that those who live outside of London, strictly so called, are very lucky. I think those who live inside

of County Council London are somewhat to be pitied, because the advantages of the Port of London and of cheap goods extend far beyond the limits of County Council London. Those who are within the limits of County Council London are really bearing a burden which ought to be spread more widely over the urban districts and other places lying around London. I do not myself think it would be possible to call on these small bodies to assist in the guarantee, though much is to be said in favour of it. But we have to make use of this guarantee, and when you make use of it, the whole matter is then changed, and you have to consider carefully what is right and what should be the part played by the guarantors on this authority. I was very glad to hear the right hon. Gentleman say that in his view the rates would never be called upon at all. Those were his calculations, and, in fact, I think he thought we were well within our security. Well, that may be so, but nevertheless when you are taking responsibility upon you, and when you are considering the guarantee of the rates, I do not think one must take too hopeful a view. You must put it from the blackest point of view you can as against the rates. The clause which secures the interest of the ratepayers has been very much commented on. I do not see myself that it is a clumsy way of doing it, but I think the clause will have to be carefully examined in several ways. I quite agree, if I may say so, with what was said below me, that it might be the worst possible plan to increase the rate when there had been a deficiency on the year before. The suggestion is made in the clause that any deficiency should be paid out of a reserve fund. Well, that is a very good suggestion, but there is no provision in the rest of the Bill that such a reserve fund should be created, and I certainly think that some Clause of that kind should be put in. I think that will very much alter one's objection to that part of the Bill. Of course the clause presents many difficulties at present. The clause says, if I remember aright, that the sum paid out of the rates in any one year shall be repaid in the next year, or the next after, out of any surplus money there may be after deducting the cost of management

and the interest on the purchase money, and for this purpose the sinking fund is to be suspended; so that practically the surplus for the repayment of the money drawn from the rates is to be secured by the suspension of the sinking fund. But this clause is a matter of great detail which perhaps it is better not to discuss at large on the Second Reading of the Bill. There is one comment I should like to make on the constitution of the authority, for I think it is a matter of some slight importance. Of course in London it is practically necessary, I think, that the great riverside interests should each have their separate representation on the body. They are so large and so varied that you cannot lump them together as you might in a smaller port, but I see that the shipowners, for instance, are to have a representation of ten, while there is no separate provision made for the representation of the short sea traders. And there is to some extent a difference of interest between them and the great owners of the liners and the big tramp steamers. I will only mention one instance that came out in the course of the Royal Commission. While all the short sea traders are anxious to have an authority to deal with the river and channel they are unwilling to have the docks bought up by the new authority, because they themselves unload in the stream and hardly come into the docks at all. I only mention that as an instance to show the divergence of interest between the liners and the short sea traders, and perhaps it might be necessary to give each of these bodies separate power to nominate or elect a number of representatives to sit on the Board. I should like to say one word about the necessity for setting up a general authority of this kind. I think it was quite extraordinary to see the unanimity, with the exception of the short sea traders, of all the bodies who came before us, and who were anxious that a central authority should be set up on the river which should not only look after the waterway but also purchase the docks. The necessity really has arisen partly through the action of the dock companies themselves, partly through the financial difficulty into which they have been cast by

the play of forces on the river, and partly also by the fact, already alluded to, that there is to be this tremendous and growing change in the course of maritime business. The ports all over the world are becoming too small for their business and there is practically no limit to the vast size of the steamers which may have to conduct business in future. The large ship is the economical ship, and thus those ports which can accommodate themselves most rapidly and most readily to the large steamers, which act as feeders for the smaller steamers, will be those which in the competition of the future, and very keen competition it will be, will be able to maintain their own. There is, moreover, the fact, and it is by no means one to be neglected, that these competing ports on the other side of the Channel may themselves become what London has long been—distributing centres. It is quite possible that instead of these great cargoes coming to London the great vessels might go to the ports abroad, and those ports might themselves act as distributing centres, not only for their own coasts but for the coasts of England also.

Then the inter-connection between the docks and the waterway of the Thames is so close that I think it would be hardly possible for one body to deal fully with either, and that they must both be united together. The advantages of organisation, the advantages of the proper distribution of shipping, the avoidance of anything like tempting ships by rebates to docks where they ought not to go, and in other ways—advantages, the result of which is seen so clearly at Liverpool—are I think absolutely necessary in the Port of London in order that it may be organised and concentrated and able to compete with those foreign ports with which we shall be constantly competing. The whole question, of course, of the prosperity of this body must depend upon the quality of the men chosen to manage it. That is the issue on which its whole prosperity depends, and if high quality is maintained then it is possible that in spite of the competition with which we are threatened from those foreign ports, in spite of the enormous sums they are

spending, in spite of the £15,000,000 that Hamburg has spent on its own port in the last fifteen years, or the £24,500,000 that Germany has spent on all its ports in the same period, we may, owing to the natural advantages of our river, be able to hold our own; but that can only be done if men of the highest ability and highest class in the business of the world are ready to come forward and take their part in the work of this great new authority in the interest of London. If that is done, there is no reason in the nature of things, or in the kind of competition we have to meet, why London should not maintain in future that immense pre-eminence, or, at any rate, that great predominance which, whether you measure it by tonnage of goods or tonnage of ships, it has been able to maintain in the past.

MR. RENWICK (Newcastle-on-Tyne): I have listened to the debate that has taken place this afternoon, and I think I am the first shipowner who has intervened in it. I listened with great interest to the speech of the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Trade, and I could not help smiling when he told us of the difficulty and doubt he had in his mind as to the treatment of the riverside wharfingers. If I might venture to give the right hon. Gentleman a hint, I would say that the way to settle this is not to buy up the docks at all. I think if the authorities of the Port of London are going to buy the docks they are making the greatest mistake possible. The great docks of London, the West India Docks, the Albert Docks, and others, are becoming obsolete. We on the Tyne have carried out a great scheme of river improvement. We have taken away parts of the river, deepened the Channel, and added to the facilities for dealing with large ships; and I venture to say that there is not a Tyne Commissioner who would spend a penny to add to the docks. In fact, I believe they would "undockise" the present docks. And yet we are told that the new London Port authority should buy the docks so that they may have the whole trade of the Port in their own hands. It is not at all necessary. One

of the largest docks in the country, on the Tyne, belongs to the North-Eastern Railway Company, nevertheless the river is managed by the Tyne Commissioners. The right hon. Gentleman was perfectly right when he foretold difficulty in connection with the riverside wharves. Will he get rid of the difficulty when the Bill is passed? It is very proper that you should have one authority to deal with your river. It is equally important to deepen the river, but when that is done, instead of the competition with the wharves decreasing it will increase. The right hon. Gentleman said he was afraid that the buying up of the riverside wharves would involve an expenditure of from £15,000,000 to £20,000,000. As a business man I consider that would be a much better investment than buying up the docks. Then it is proposed to spend £4,500,000 to "adapt" and extend the docks, but if the docks are adapted very little money will be left for extension. One of the most expensive things you can do is to "adapt" docks. The tendency of the present day is not to build docks for the accommodation of large vessels. The place for them is the riverside wharf. If you have money it should be used rather to deepen the river, and then you will have the finest tidal river in the country, and will make it one of the finest waterways in the world. Ships are being built to-day 750 feet long, so that one ship of this length will occupy nearly 300 yards of accommodation. No authority can afford to build a dock with thirty feet of water, and allow one side of it to be occupied by one of these large vessels 750 feet long. And who can say that we will not have ships 1,000 feet long five years hence? These very large vessels are being built not only in this country but by foreign countries, especially by the Germans. The hon. Member for Poplar spoke of the competition of Rotterdam, Bremen, Antwerp, and Hamburg. I would point out that the money spent in improving the facilities at these ports was not spent in "adapting" old docks or building new docks, but to accommodate shipping in the stream alongside of the wharves. Another advantage in favour of these

wharves is that if it is necessary to enlarge them you can do it comparatively cheaply, because the wharves are generally built upon timber piles and cylinders.

Speaking as a shipowner—and I am sure that the majority of shipowners will agree with me—we prefer the stream to a dock, and if the consignee asks us to allow the ship to go into a dock he has to pay compensation and the dues in addition. There is another very great advantage of the riverside wharf with sufficient water alongside; you can leave the wharf or go to it at any state of the tide, whereas the ship cannot enter or leave a dock except about an hour-and-a-half before and after high water. During the rest of the tide the ship is absolutely locked up in the dock. I took the trouble last week, in view of the discussion of this Bill, to make a trip down the river. I regret to say that there was not a single passenger steamer, and I had to go down from the Old Swan Pier in a tug with a barge behind it. I saw the very kind of wharf that is wanted just below the Tower Bridge, and the inside and outside wharves at Woolwich Arsenal, and one at Woolwich Ferry with a very large steamer lying alongside it. I also saw the huge wharf of the Beckenham Company, with a large steamer lying alongside of it. I say these are the kind of wharves which ought to be built to accommodate your large shipping. I speak with some knowledge, because I am intimately acquainted both with the coasting and foreign trade. The river is deep enough for coasting vessels, but it requires to be deepened for the accommodation of large ships at riverside wharves. Shipowners also protest against dues being put on goods to provide facilities for such work. It must not be forgotten that coasting ships have to compete with the railways, and if a duty is put on goods, while the shipowner cannot raise the freights because of that competition, an injustice is done to the shipowner. I may be told that it is optional to levy dues or not, but my experience of public bodies is, that if you give them the power to levy dues and to spend money, they do both. I am not prepared therefore to give these powers to this London Port authority.

I think that whether the docks are bought or not it is most important that the House should settle the principle of this matter, and not leave it to the Committee. I want hon. Members to distinguish between the Port of London and ports like Liverpool and Cardiff. In the latter ports they are bound to have docks, because there may be forty feet of water inside the docks, and not a single foot of water outside. That is not the case in the Port of London. I sincerely trust, therefore, that the House will have the courage to settle the question once for all as to whether or not the docks are to be bought. The Royal Commission distinctly said that if you bought the ware houses they ought to be got rid of, because it was against the practice of Parliament to buy up by a public authority facilities to compete with private enterprise. I believe the new authority should give generous treatment to those who wish to build wharves after the river is deepened. If you have an authority owning wharves and warehouses within the docks, that authority will feel it to be their interest to get all the revenue they can from their own property, and to squeeze and starve those who have wharves outside the docks. For these reasons, and in these circumstances, I feel it my duty to vote against the Second Reading of this Bill. This question is most important, and the House ought to have further opportunity of considering it; and I implore the London County Council and the other authority who are to provide the money to deepen the river, to give this matter their most serious consideration. Depend upon it, the opposition of the wharfingers and riverside owners will not be got rid of by referring the Bill to a Joint Committee. The question must be faced and the policy may have to be adopted either of buying them out altogether, or of dropping all idea of buying the docks and the warehouses.

[⁴ SIR JOSEPH DIMSDALE (London): The President of the Board of Trade at the First Reading of this Bill used these words—

“The Royal Commission suggested that a municipal guarantee should be given jointly
Mr. Renwick.

by the London County Council and the Corporation of the City. I understand that the Corporation of the City is not in a position to give such a guarantee, and, accordingly, the Government propose that it shall be given by the London County Council alone.”

The Corporation of London are quite prepared to give every reasonable and legitimate guarantee, as the rating authority for the City. The total amount for dredging and deepening the river is £2,500,000; and the share of the Corporation as representing one-eighth of the rateable value of London would be about £300,000. I assume that my right hon. friend will be able to assure me that the Corporation will be expected to raise this £300,000 from the City rates. I take it also that the proportion which will have to be found by the County Council will be raised by them, as the rating authority for the Metropolis, from the special county rate, distinct from the Corporation as the rating authority for the City. Then there is to be a guarantee for the Port stock. That also, I presume, should be raised by the Corporation and by the London County Council from the special county rate in their respective proportions. I hope my right hon. friend will be able to clear that matter up. May I say that I am voting for the Second Reading of this Bill not with any great feeling of sympathy with it. No less than twenty-two of the forty Members will be certainly interested in reducing the dock dues and charges in the Port of London. We are to have ten traders, ten payers of dues on ships, and two owners of craft on the river, making twenty-two out of a total of forty members. Against this solid phalanx, the municipal side will be represented by the County Council having eight members and the Corporation two, while the wharfingers have the miserable total of four in all. The President of the Board of Trade laid great stress on the fact that the guarantee to be given by the County Council and the Corporation was absolutely essential; but if the guarantee is such an essential factor, surely eight members from the County Council and two from the Corporation is hardly an adequate representation; and I venture to say that both the

Corporation and the County Council ought to have additional representation on this Board, as also the wharfingers. Further, I fail to see why this guarantee should rest solely on the Metropolitan area. Kent and Essex are also concerned in the scheme. Why should they not bear a part of the guarantee, and have their fair share of representation? The Bill to my mind is deficient in other matters. It only deals with a certain number of docks. One dock is omitted, I think unintentionally by the draftsman. I mean the Regent's Canal and Dock Company.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: That was deliberately excluded in accordance with the recommendations of the Royal Commission.

SIR JOSEPH DIMSDALE: I am very sorry it was deliberately excluded, because here we have a dock company created by Act of Parliament in 1812 and which gave evidence before the Royal Commission as to its entire efficiency and good work. It has a capital of over £2,000,000, and I should have thought it would be only fair and just that this dock, which can take as large vessels as most of the London docks, should have been placed in the same position as the Surrey Commercial Dock, and other docks. I will vote for the Second Reading of this Bill in the hope that some very drastic Amendments will be made in Committee. I would ask my right hon. friend the President of the Board of Trade whether he can give me an answer to the specific questions I put to him as regards additional representation for the Corporation of London, and also with reference to the guarantee.

*SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee): Until the speech of the hon. Member for Newcastle no hon. Member, with the exception of the hon. Member for South Manchester, directed attention to the special interests of riverside wharfingers and warehousekeepers. The President of the Board of Trade stated that it would be impossible, for physical and other reasons, to separate the warehouses from the docks; and that, therefore, the purchase of the warehouses must be included in the scheme. But

the wharfingers and warehousekeepers have no direct physical connection with the docks. They do not wish to have their businesses purchased; they only wish to be left alone. Their trade is very distinct from the trade of the docks. I am connected with a very old Scottish coasting company which for a long time has had its own wharves, and which lately erected a new wharf on which large sums have been spent in fitting it with the most modern appliances. That company, and other similar companies, do not want to be disturbed. The wharfingers are willing to contribute their fair share of the cost of improving the river; but they do not wish to expose themselves to the possibility, in fact the probability, of having new burdens imposed upon them to purchase docks which the hon. Member for Newcastle stated had become obsolete. With the experience of other parts of the country, I think it would be unwise to spend large sums of money on the acquisition of docks which are now largely out of date. As to the representation of riverside interests, I concur with what was said by the hon. Member for South Manchester, namely, that the riverside interests should have their own representation, and I hope that will be carried out. The chief criticism of this Bill comes from the supporters of the Government, but the right hon. Gentleman has committed the Government by declaring that the purchase of the docks is the vital principle of the Bill. I regret that. I agree that the Thames admits of improvement as a riverway, and I should be glad to see that improvement effected; and I think it would be much more important than the acquisition of the docks.

MR. CUMMING MACDONA (Southwark, Rotherhithe): I think it is my bounden duty to say something with regard to an aspect of this question in which my constituents are deeply interested. We have heard a good deal about docks and wharves, but we have not heard anything as yet about the lightermen who work on the river. Their interests, so far as I am concerned, are paramount. They are a body of workers who were organised in 1293; and I hope the President of the Board of Trade will take into serious consideration the past services of this distinguished

body of working men. Every other class of working man has changed more or less, but the lightermen since their establishment have never changed in their fidelity and loyalty to their Sovereign and to the interests of their employers. I submit their case most earnestly to the consideration of my right hon. friend.

*SIR F. DIXON-HARTLAND: As my right hon. friend the President of the Board of Trade has admitted, I was in duty bound to oppose this Bill. I do not think the Government has had any reason to complain of my action in raising this debate, which has the more fully brought out their case, and having performed my duty, I now ask leave to withdraw the Motion.

COLONEL ROPNER (Stockton): I should like to say that I welcome this Bill, and will have very great pleasure in voting for it. I differ from my hon. friend the Member for Newcastle in many respects. It is absolutely necessary that dock accommodation should be provided for large ships. Wharves are all very well for small and middle class vessels, but it is necessary to have docks for larger vessels. Surely a city like London must be able to provide such accommodation as Liverpool and Hull and other places all over the country. I welcome the Bill and shall vote for it, but I warn the House not to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs by overburdening shipping. The dues on shipping on the Thames are already very high, and that is why shipowners decline to send their ships to the Port of London and prefer to go elsewhere. If you wish to retain the trade on the Thames you must see that you do not overburden it. The charges on shipping last year amounted to 1s. a ton, and when the dock companies thought they were going to be bought they immediately increased their charges to 1s. 6d. At no time should the charge be more than 1s. a ton net register. I hope the right hon. Gentleman will take notice of that, and I hope he will see that the water in the Thames shall always be deep enough to take a vessel of thirty feet draught.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Cumming Macdonald.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR moved that the Bill be committed to a Joint Committee of Lords and Commons. That was, he said, the course adopted in the case of the Water Bill, and was, he thought, a desirable course to follow. The Bill could then come back and be discussed in a Committee of the Whole House. It was obviously desirable that a Bill so complicated as this necessarily was should be discussed, not merely in Committee upstairs, but in Committee of the Whole House.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said the course proposed was in accordance with the precedent set by the Water Bill last year. Of course the principle of the Bill was outside the purview of the Committee, the House having decided that there should be a public authority. What he understood the right hon. Gentleman to agree to was, that what the authority should be and how far there should be protection to the ratepayers and wharfingers were the questions which the Joint Committee should be entitled to consider. He did not think when the Bill came back to be discussed in Committee it was likely to take a long time, because it was a Bill upon which all sections were agreed, and if the Joint Committee arrived at a satisfactory conclusion, it would not occupy much further time in the House.

Resolved: That it is expedient that the Bill be committed to a Joint Committee of Lords and Commons.—(*Mr. Gerald Balfour.*)

Message to the Lords to communicate this Resolution and to desire their concurrence.

WAYS AND MEANS [12TH MAY].

Resolutions reported.

CONTINUANCE OF ADDITIONAL CUSTOMS DUTIES ON TOBACCO, BEER, AND SPIRITS.

1. "That the additional Customs Duties on tobacco, beer, and spirits, imposed by Sections two, three, four, and

five of The Finance Act, 1900 (including any increased Duties imposed by Section five of that Act), shall continue to be charged until the first day of August, nineteen hundred and four."

CONTINUANCE OF ADDITIONAL EXCISE DUTY ON BEER AND SPIRITS.

2. "That the additional Excise Duties on beer and spirits, imposed by Sections six and seven of The Finance Act, 1900, shall continue to be charged until the first day of August, nineteen hundred and four."

INCOME TAX.

3. "That Income Tax shall be charged for the year beginning the sixth day of April, nineteen hundred and three, at the rate of eleven pence."

AMOUNT OF PERMANENT ANNUAL CHARGE.

4. "That the amount of the permanent annual charge for the National Debt, under Section one of The Sinking Fund Act, 1875, shall be twenty-seven million pounds."

AMENDMENT OF LAW.

5. "That it is expedient to amend the Law relating to the National Debt, Customs, and Inland Revenue."

MR. ASHTON (Bedfordshire, Luton) called the attention of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the advisability, in the interests of thrift, of extending the system of deductions, in respect of premiums paid for life insurance, which was established by the Act of 1853, to premiums paid on other classes of insurance, such as insurance for the education of children, and insurances for the provision of children when they arrived at an age to start in life.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon) confessed that he was rather unwilling to extend the area of exemption and reduction, and he thought the question of life insurance stood on a somewhat different footing from the case to which the hon. Member had referred; but, of course, he would be very glad to consider the matter. As he had stated to the House, he proposed to make some examination into the Income Tax generally, and he did

not know whether they could bring such a matter as that mentioned by the hon. Member into the reference; but he would, at any rate, consider it.

MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.) urged the right hon. Gentleman to extend the limit of abatement and exemption to incomes up to £800 or £1,000. By this, a great relief would be given to small Income Tax payers. He thought the time was propitious, and there would be a feeling of great disappointment if the right hon. Gentleman could not see his way to take a step in this direction.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he could give the House some information as to the form of the inquiry into the Income Tax and as to the reference.

*MR. RITCHIE said he was not able to give the right hon. Gentleman the information he desired at present. It was always a difficult matter to form a satisfactory tribunal for matters of this kind; and he could not really make any progress in the matter until he had had an opportunity of consulting a right hon. friend of his, who was not at present in England, as to whether or not he would be prepared to take some position on the Committee of Inquiry. Of course, he would naturally defer making any final arrangements as to the composition of the Committee and the reference until he had the opportunity of knowing whether his right hon. friend would serve, and, if so, of consulting him on the terms of the reference and the *personnel* of the Committee. The Committee would, of course, be a Committee of the House of Commons. The matter referred to by the hon. Member for Northamptonshire would, he presumed, fall within the scope of the inquiry, and he could hardly be expected before that inquiry, to take any such steps as were indicated by the hon. Gentleman, a thing which in any case it would be by no means easy to do.

Resolutions agreed to.

Ordered, that it be an Instruction to the gentlemen appointed to bring in a

Bill upon the Resolution reported from the Committee of Ways and Means on the 27th April last, and then agreed to by the House, that they do make provision therein pursuant to the said Resolutions.—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

FINANCE BILL.

“To grant certain Duties of Customs and Inland Revenue, to alter other Duties, and to amend the Law relating to Customs and Inland Revenue and the National Debt, and to make other provisions for the financial arrangements of the year.” Presented and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. (Bill 198.)

EDUCATION (BORROWING) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[*Mr. J. W. LOWTHER* (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

On Clause 1 :—

MR. BRYCE appealed to the President of the Local Government Board not to proceed with the Bill. Several Members who were greatly interested in the measure, and had placed Amendments on the Paper, not supposing the Port of London Bill would have been disposed of so early, had left the House. It would be hardly courteous to press in the remaining twelve minutes an important Bill with which no substantial progress could be made, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would agree to report Progress.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (*Mr. WALTER LONG*, Bristol, S.) said he had no desire to do anything discourteous to hon. Members opposite, but he was bound to point out that the Amendments to which the right hon. Gentleman had referred were apparently conceived in entire ignorance of the law under the 1902 Act, and of the purpose of the present Bill. As it was impossible for those Amendments to be inserted, he had thought they might very fairly

proceed with the Bill. It was very important that it should be passed; local authorities were pressing for it, and many of them were now making their estimates for the coming year, and, unless this Bill were passed, would have to raise a heavier rate than would otherwise be necessary. However, if the right hon. Gentleman pressed his objection it would be only a waste of time to persist in going on.

Committee report Progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

And, there being no further business set down for the Afternoon Sitting, *Mr. Speaker* left the Chair till this Evening's Sitting.

EVENING SITTING

THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

**MR. WILLIAM JONES* (Carnarvonshire, Arfon) rose to move—“That this House calls upon the Government forthwith to undertake the Amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act.” He said that, shortly, his desire was to extend the provisions of the Act and to remove its restrictions. The Act had been in operation now for more than five years, and, since it was passed, its provision had been extended so as to include agricultural labourers who had intentionally been left out. The extension of the Act to agricultural labourers brought in all workmen employed in agriculture by any employer who habitually employs one or more workmen in such employment. And agriculture includes horticulture, forestry, and the use of land for any purpose of husbandry, inclusive of the keeping or breeding of live stock, poultry, or bees, and the growth of fruit and vegetables. It was a far-reaching extension, and brought under the operation of the Act 1,700,000 more workers on 1st July, 1901. The three chief objections which were urged against the passing of the Act were the danger to friendly societies, the risk of increased carelessness on the part of workmen, and the fear of over-burdening certain industries. He recollected that the coal trade was particularly mentioned in

that regard, it being said at the time that it was suffering from heavy foreign competition. He thought it would be generally agreed that in all these respects the fears of the opponents of the Act had been proved to have been very much exaggerated. So far as the friendly societies were concerned, they had grown steadily year by year. In 1898, one year after the passing of the Act, 575 new friendly societies were registered, and in 1899 748 were registered; and with regard to carelessness, there was no evidence that the Act had made men willing to run more risks, or that the masters took less precautions against accidents than formerly. The Act had, however, given rise to much litigation, and this was one of the most harassing aspects of that legislation, that in most of the cases that came within the scope of the Act the question arose, not as to whether there had been a case of serious and wilful misconduct, or whether the injury had been caused in the course of employment, but in the majority the question which the arbitrator had to decide was whether the particular workman affected came within the scope of the Act at all. The arbitrator, who was in most cases the County Court Judge, had wide and ill-defined powers, and the decisions in various parts of the country had been conflicting, and had often been overruled, both by the Court of Appeal and the House of Lords. Surely an Act which gave rise to such a question as that, in a large majority of the cases that came to be tried, needed making more explicit and clear. The Act came into operation on July 1, 1898. Between that date and the end of the following December there were 178 cases before the Courts in England and Wales. From January, 1899, to the end of January, 1900, there were as many as 1,347 cases in the County Courts, and, during the same period, only 763 voluntary arrangements were registered. The proportion of voluntary arrangements to litigation had been very much the same, and not upon the increase, which was unfortunate, because one of the main objects of the Act was to secure a business arrangement in a peaceable way by the amicable settlement of an admitted liability rather than to produce a legal battle in the law courts.

The hon. Baronet the Member for Chester-le-Street had stated that in the working of the Act many of the dangers which had been anticipated had not arisen in Northumberland and Durham; that in those counties there had been very few cases of litigation, but that this was not due to the clearness of the Act itself, but to the common sense of the people of Northumberland and Durham, who had endeavoured to adapt themselves to every Act passed by the House. He hoped everybody would take that lesson to heart. In those parts they had formed Conciliation Boards, around which three representatives of the workmen, and three representatives of the masters, together with the secretaries and solicitors of the Union and the Federation, sat and arrived at a solution of the question. But in spite of all these happy experiences, what they wanted by the Amendment he suggested, was more clearness. They wanted the Act better defined and the cases codified. There were inconsistencies in the Act. Frequent definitions were given by reference to other Acts, and the result was an enormous amount of litigation. The Act included within its scope a "factory," as defined by the Factory Acts. The Factory Acts applied also to docks, and so far as loading or unloading were concerned, it included all the machinery on the dock used in the process, but not machinery on the ships. A vessel in dock had been gravely held not to be a factory, but he had ascertained recently that a vessel in a dry dock was a "factory" and not a ship at all. So that an engineer injured on a vessel in dry dock could claim compensation, but if the same engineer was injured six minutes after the same ship was afloat he could not claim compensation, because the ship was then a ship and not a "factory." The fourteen days limit excluded from compensation all accidents the effects of which did not last for two weeks, and a hardship that was felt in connection with the textile trade—in case of improvers, for instance, who worked at the rate of 2s. a week—was that compensation for life-long injury was based on the existing rate of wages, and made no allowance for a prospective rise. The most important alterations required were the abolition of the 30 feet limit in the

building, repairing and painting trades, the bringing of all accidents under the Act, compensation to commence from the date of the accident, the abolition of the fourteen days qualifying period, and a more uniform application of the Act to all cases. The Act was one of the most momentous Acts ever passed in that House, and it was a very successful one. The Home Secretary had already, by his kind consideration and sympathy in meeting deputations of workmen, shown that he viewed favourably the Amendment of the Act, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would translate his generosity into action, and so confer an endless boon upon millions of their fellow-countrymen.

*Mr. FENWICK (Northumberland, Wansbeck), in seconding the Motion, said the five-and-a-half years of experience which they had had of the working of the Act was quite sufficient to justify them in appealing to the Government to take steps forthwith to remedy its admitted defects and to extend its scope. He attached considerable importance to that term of the Resolution moved by his hon. friend, "forthwith," because the experience they had had of the Act, and having regard to the number of people excluded from its operation, justified them in demanding that the Government should forthwith remedy the defects of the Act, and do an act of simple justice to a large number of people who in 1897 were left outside the operation of the original Act. He admitted that the Act, with all its defects, had been of immense good to those engaged in the industries to which it applied. But it had not accomplished all, or nearly all, that its promoters expected from it. It certainly had not got rid of litigation. *The Times* on July 24, 1899, said—

"The multitude of appeals arising out of the Workmen's Compensation Act is becoming a matter of grave concern."

And in an article on December 27, 1899, *The Times* said—

"Of all sources of litigation, the Workmen's Compensation Act has been the most fruitful of modern times."

It was claimed by Lord Salisbury that the Act would prove a great

Mr. William Jones.

machinery for the saving of life, although it was only fair to say that the Colonial Secretary disclaimed any such idea. Recent statistics that had been issued by a Departmental Committee of the Home Office had shown that since the Act was passed accidents had considerably increased, although he did not for a moment suggest that the increase was in consequence of the passing of the Act. One of the chief merits claimed for this Act was its simplicity, but those responsible for its administration—the magistrates and the County Court Judges—had not found it by any means simple. It seemed to him that all legislation affecting the labouring classes, and the relations of employer and employed, should be framed in the simplest and most unmistakable language, and it ought not to be necessary to have to rummage through old and musty statutes before they could get to know what the law was upon any given subject. When the Act was brought in simplicity was claimed as one of its chief merits. It had turned out, however, to be complex in all its details; that was abundantly shown by the statements of the Judges who had to administer it. Lord Justice Collins had said, in delivering a judgment, that he did not think it was possible to give any clear and satisfactory interpretation which would be perfectly consistent with all the provisions of the Act, and that he had long since come to the conclusion that he must make the best guess he could at what the Legislature meant in a particular section of the Act. Such an unsatisfactory state of the law, so clearly indicated, called forthwith for a remedy. If the law was so confused that a judge engaged in administering it found it almost impossible to construe it, how on earth were simple-minded laymen to understand what the law was? Judge Parry had described the Act as a veritable Chinese puzzle of legal chaos and a mixture of clauses and schedules supplemented by rules and orders of various Departments; and he further stated that the cost to the litigants in time, temper, and money was out of all proportion to any possible beneficial results. The instances he had mentioned might be supplemented by scores of others, but those he had

quoted clearly indicated the unsatisfactory state of the law, and called forth with for some action on the part of the Government to remedy these admitted defects in the law. The Lord Chancellor himself had said that it was impossible not to recognise the fact that the Act was one which from time to time presented difficulties of construction, adding that he was not surprised that the Legislature, having a somewhat difficult problem to solve, had used language which required consideration to give it its true significance. That surely was a strange utterance to proceed from the chief officer of the law, who, when the Bill was before the other House, should have seen to it that the language was clear and unmistakeable, so that nobody could possibly have mistaken the true meaning of the statute. This was the opinion of one of the legal advisers of the Government, and yet he allowed this monstrosity of legislation to go through in the haphazard way in which it was permitted to go through all its stages.

One of the gravest anomalies of the Act was that it set up a claim before the law for certain classes of workpeople which it denied to others. More than that, the millions of workpeople that were excluded from its provisions were to be found among the worst paid and worst organised classes, and consequently the classes which were least able to protect their own interests. For that there was no justification whatever. If it was proper that the trade or industry should be held responsible for accidents created by that industry, then he saw no reason whatever for the exclusion of the large number of workpeople who were excluded from the Act. He supported the Workmen's Compensation Act when it was before the House of Commons notwithstanding the very unfounded charge brought by the Colonial Secretary, in a speech he made at Birmingham during the last election, in which he charged him, along with the hon. Member for Mid Durham and the hon. Member for Leicester, with having opposed and hindered the passage of that Act. He entirely approved of that Act, and he did not agree with the doleful picture presented to the House by some large employers of labour as to the ruinous effect which the Bill was likely to have. The allegation, as far as he was con-

cerned, was a mere figment, and had no existence except in the fertile brain of the Colonial Secretary. He hoped the Government would take the earliest opportunity of remedying its defects and of extending its provisions to other industries. The Act was inconsistent with the object the Government declared they had in view and with the pledges given by members of the Government and their supporters during the elections of 1895 and 1900. The House would remember Lord Salisbury's famous declaration in the House of Lords that Mr. Chamberlain was well known as the spokesman of the Unionist Party upon these subjects. In a speech on February 20th, 1893, the Colonial Secretary asked the House to consider whether it was worth while to deal with this subject in a partial way, and whether it would not be possible once for all to settle the right of every workman to compensation. In a later speech on May 3rd, 1894, the Colonial Secretary said the Government believed that every man, who in the course of his employment met with an accident, was deserving of consideration, and ought to be compensated; and that they wanted to secure that for every man for every accident. The Prime Minister himself, during the election of 1895, on his election card called public attention to the fact that they as a Party were in favor of universal compensation for all accidents. The hon. Member for the Tradeston Division of Glasgow, in his election address, stated that the Government meant to give compensation to workmen for all accidents during their employment, which meant doing away with a most costly and embittering legislation. And so one might go on through all election speeches and addresses of hon. Members opposite, showing that they obtained support at the election in consequence of the pledges they gave to propose a scheme to give universal compensation for accidents which arose in the course of employment. One of the reasons given by the Government for excluding a large section of working people from the Act of 1897 was that they were engaged by small employers, and that the position of the workmen under them was very little different to that of their employers. They applied that argument not only to shop assistants

and others, but also to the agricultural labourer. What happened? In 1900, after deciding upon an appeal to the country, and wishing to obtain the sympathy of the agricultural labourer, they supported a measure introduced by one of their supporters, and extended the Act to agricultural labourers. By their extension of the Act in 1900 to agricultural labourers at the time when the Government wanted the support of the agricultural vote, they had given up the defence they made against the extension of the Act to all employments, and in the light of admitted facts he called on the Government in the words of the Resolution for immediate amendment of the Act.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House calls upon the Government forthwith to undertake the amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act."—(*Mr. William Jones.*)

*MR. JOHN WILSON (Falkirk Burghs) said that as a large employer of labour, employing over 4,000 men in one of the most dangerous employments, namely, coal mining, he had had a long experience in the settlement of claims for compensation. The Workmen's Compensation Act had done a vast amount of good, and he thought this would be admitted frankly and freely by the leaders of trades unions, and more especially by the miners' unions. That there were many anomalies and difficulties in the Act could not be denied for a moment, and he cordially seconded, almost in all particulars, the views put forward in support of the Resolution by hon. Members opposite. If a man was injured in any way in the course of his employment, why should he not have compensation? Why make two bites of a cherry? But he must make an exception as far as serious and wilful misconduct was concerned. Wilful misconduct, and tampering with Davy lamps in coal mines involving danger of explosion, were matters employers had constantly to fight against. In many cases he had to bring men into Court for wilfully endangering not only their own lives, but the lives of their fellow-workmen. He remembered the Colonial Secretary saying in this House that the Employers' Liability Bill might well be called the Lawyers' Employment

Bill. He thought the Workmen's Compensation Bill might also be called the Lawyers' Employment Bill. In Scotland, so far as coal mining was concerned, they had an association which regulated all these claims, and through the skill and co-operation of the working men they generally managed to arrange a very large proportion of them, but the difficulty—and this was what he most earnestly desired to call attention to—was that employers were exposed to the dangers not of one Act but of three Acts. If the country wished to be rid of the litigation and annoyance caused in this way he would recommend the Home Secretary to bring in a Bill to do away with the Employers Liability Act in this matter, and to see that all trades were put on the same footing. He did not see why the benefits of the Workmen's Compensation Act should be confined to the highly organised trades. Speaking for himself and not for any association, the only exception he would make would be in the case of seamen, because the ships on which they were employed went abroad and out of the range of the employers' jurisdiction. He strongly urged the Government to appoint a Commission to inquire into the working of the Compensation Act, with a view to remedy the anomalies complained of and to prevent so much litigation.

*MR. LEVY (Leicestershire, Loughborough) said that the promises made on this subject had been sufficiently numerous, and he thought the time had come when hon. Members might expect something more from the Government than a Commission of inquiry. He anticipated that the Home Secretary would promise that the subject would be dealt with forthwith. It was not difficult to point out what the great blots on the Act were. He would quote one or two instances to show how indefinite Clause 1 was, and how difficult it was to know the scope of its terms. Clause 4 dealt with the position of "contractor" and the position of "undertaker." He thought most people would agree that the undertaker was practically the employer for the time being. There could, in his opinion, be no reason why any other construction should be put on the word undertaker, and he must accept the responsibility

Mr Fenwick.

for any accident happening to his work-people. Clause 7 referred to the questions of factories, workshops, scaffolding, and their definition. These questions could be easily dealt with without any Commission. Another great blot on the Act was in relation to the question of "the first fourteen days at the employees' cost," which often meant that the person who sustained the accident did not receive any payment before the twenty-first day and often the twenty-eighth day. He objected to the arrangement by which only 50 per cent. of a man's wages was paid to him after meeting with an accident. Everyone would admit that if a man met with an accident the probability was that he would incur greater expense than if he were at work. It might be said that he would get relief from his club, but it should be remembered that there was a great percentage of workmen who did not belong to clubs. Hence they would not get relief in that way. He thought it was incongruous that there should be under the Act a maximum limit of 20s. when there was no minimum limit. The limit was certainly put in to protect the employer, but if the employer was entitled to protection he ventured to say that no one would get up and contend that the employee was not equally entitled to protection. The fact that there was no minimum worked seriously in the case of young people who were earning low wages. It also materially affected the position of people working in the unskilled trades in which, as everyone knew, the dangers were often greater even than in connection with those for which high training was required and where the best machinery was employed. The wages in those industries were low, accidents were frequent, and compensation in the present state of the law was particularly small. Among the businesses which he included in this class were brewing, and the manufacture of mineral waters, tin boxes, and patent medicines. He proposed to refer to a few cases to strengthen his argument in favour of an amendment of the law.

"George Ranger, age 15, was employed as a chain boy by a railway company at Leeds at 8s. a week. He was knocked down and run over by some trucks; one leg was severed above the knee, and the other so crushed as to

necessitate amputation; he was totally incapacitated. The compensation was 4s. a week."

"Mary Worrall, age 18, was employed in a steam laundry at 7s. a week. She was entirely dependent on her own earnings. Her left thumb was caught in cog-wheels and crushed. The compensation was 3s. 6d. a week till she was able to return to work. The first payment was due three weeks after the date of the accident."

"William Dimelow, a lad employed on brick-making machine, at 9s. a week, had the fingers of left hand caught and crushed, and they had to be amputated. The compensation was 4s. 6d. a week whilst he was unable to work."

"Richard Dawson, age 14, was employed at a wine and spirit merchants at 6s. a week. Whilst he was trying to put a strap on the wheel of a machine for washing bottles his arm was torn off. The application made for compensation under the Act was for 3s. a week, but it was not allowed, as the Judge held the applicant was not engaged upon his proper work at the time of the accident."

"Sarah Brambley, age 15½, calender hand in steam laundry, received 5s. a week in wages. Her left hand was caught between hot rollers and was crushed and burnt. The fingers and large portion of the hand had to be amputated. The compensation offered by the firm under the Workmen's Compensation Act was 2s. 6d. a week for three years, less any sums earned. The case is now being taken under the Employers Liability Act as the calender was unguarded. The girl was a promising worker for her age."

"Ellen Stone, age 55, widow, with partially dependent mother, was employed at steam laundry, wages 11s. 6d. a week. Her left thumb was crushed in a wringer and had to be amputated. The compensation under the Act was 5s. 9d. a week. The first payment was due three weeks after the date of the accident. She would have had to go to the workhouse had not the firm made payments to her from the date of the accident, and at a scale above the sum legally due to her."

He did not think any one would say on the face of these cases that if there was a maximum there should not also be a minimum. He wished also to refer to the litigation which was continually arising through the lack of clear definitions in the Act. In one case brought under his notice repairs were being made on

"The walls of a refuse destructor consisting of open arches. It was resolved to fill up these arches with panels. A workman, while fixing the frames to hold these panels, met with an accident. He claimed compensation from his employers. The County Court Judge held, in the first place, that the work upon which this workman was engaged was not 'construction,' and, secondly, that a plank supported by two piles of slag was not 'scaffolding.' He, therefore, refused to award him compensation. The workman appealed, and the Court of Appeal

sent the case back to the County Court Judge for him to state his view of the facts as to what was actually the work in question, and his reasons for holding that it was not 'construction.' The Court held that the County Court Judge was wrong in holding that the plank in question was not a 'scaffolding.' In another case a workman, employed by a builder who was executing repairs to the roof of a house exceeding 30 feet in height, was carrying slates up a ladder when it slipped and he fell and was injured. He claimed compensation from his employer. The ladder in question was placed against the house to enable workmen to get on to the roof from the street, one end of the ladder resting on the ground and the other end leaning against the parapet at the top of the house. There was no ladder, crawling-board, or other contrivance on the roof. The County Court Judge held that the ladder was not a 'scaffolding,' within the meaning of the Act, and refused to award the workman compensation. He appealed; and the Court of Appeal declined to hold that the County Court Judge had misdirected himself, and dismissed the appeal.

"One of the classes of employment to which the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, applies, is employment 'on or in or about any building which exceeds thirty feet in height, and is either being constructed or repaired by means of a scaffolding.'

"A bricklayer, employed by a firm of builders executing a contract for the building of a new wing to a dwelling-house, was injured while at work, and claimed compensation from his employers. There was a cesspool into which the house was drained, situated at a considerable distance from the house, but connected with it by a drain. Close to this cesspool there was a heap of bricks, to be used in repairing it. The bricklayer was chipping off a piece of brick from one of the heap, when a piece flew into his eye and injured it. The County Court Judge awarded the bricklayer compensation, and the employers appealed, contending that, although the main building was over thirty feet in height, and scaffolding was being used on the new wing, and also in connection with one of the chimneys, there was no evidence to show that the bricklayer at the time of the accident was working on, or in, or about a building which exceeded thirty feet in height, and which was either being constructed or repaired by means of a scaffolding. The Court of Appeal held that there was ample evidence on which the County Court Judge could come to the conclusion at which he arrived, and dismissed the appeal with costs. This was a very absurd instance. The man was working on the ground when the accident occurred, yet the question of compensation depended on the building—'situated at a considerable distance'—being over thirty feet in height. In another case a claim for compensation was made against a builder by the widow of a workman who was injured while engaged in putting an iron roof on to a boiler-house. This house formed part of a factory which was being constructed by this builder, but he had made a sub-contract with the employers of the

deceased for putting on this roof. The County Court Judge found as a fact that contracts for putting up iron roofs formed no part of the trade or business carried on by this builder, but that contracts of that kind are nowadays commonly made in the building trade, and held that the work in question was not merely ancillary or incidental to, but was part of, or a process in, the trade or business carried on by the builder. On appeal, the Court of Appeal allowed the appeal, holding that, on the findings of fact of the County Court Judge, the putting up of the iron roof was merely ancillary or incidental to, and was no part of, or process in, the trade or business carried on by the builder. The Compensation Acts applied only to certain classes of employment, including employment by the undertakers, as in the Acts defined, on or in or about a factory. 'Undertakers,' in the case of a factory, meant the occupier thereof within the meaning of the Factory Acts. A firm of engineers was engaged in erecting a fly-wheel for an engine in a cotton factory, when one of their workmen met with a fatal accident while at work in the factory. The widow of this workman claimed compensation from the mill-owners and the engineers. But the County Court Judge made an award against the widow, who appealed. The Court of Appeal held that the claim must fail as against the mill-owners, because the putting up of the fly-wheel was not any part of, or process in, the trade or business of cotton manufacturers carried on by them, and as against the engineers, because they were not the 'undertakers,' not being the occupiers of the mill. The Court accordingly dismissed the appeal with costs. (*See Gazette*, April, 1901, p. 107.) The widow then appealed to the House of Lords, the appeal being brought against the decision of the Court below, only so far as it concerned the engineers. The House of Lords dismissed the appeal, holding that the engineers were not liable to pay compensation because the accident happened, not in their factory, but on the premises of other persons."

In most large factories at the present time the owners employed engineers to look after their machinery, and therefore if the law, as stated in that case, could be maintained, it eliminated from the provisions of the Act a very large number of workpeople. He had many other cases he could quote, but he thought those he had mentioned were sufficient to show the incongruity of the Act as it stood. They had a right to claim that the Act should be amended at once, because in 1897, in this House, Lord Ridley, then Sir M. White Ridley, said—

"The Government did not contend this was a complete or final Bill. It was a tentative measure, but it was an honest attempt to deal with a difficult question."

Mr. Lery.

The present Chancellor of the Exchequer said to the Trade Union Congress deputation on 6th February last year—

"It was quite clear that, however carefully the Bill was drawn, there would be a large number of points which could only be judged by experience. For instance, take the point in connection with the erection or demolition of buildings. It was a very arbitrary point whether a less distance than 30 feet should debar a workman from compensation in case of accidents; it certainly was a point which would have to be considered. Then there was the period of qualification referred to. He did not think that matter had been properly dealt with. As to whether the provisions of the Act should be extended, and how it should be extended, he was only repeating what he had said before when he said that he thought it was now time to extend the Act. He thought that generally employers were perfectly willing that the Act should be extended."

Having been connected for many years with a large manufactory, he believed that most manufacturers were quite prepared to see the Act extended. What was required was an extension of the Act to all accidents and injuries arising out of employment, giving full compensation to all workpeople included in the Act from the day the accident happened. This was the barest justice to the employees, and would not inflict any hardship on the employers because they could meet all their liabilities by insurance. It would simply mean a slight increase in the premium. He hoped they would get a satisfactory answer from the Home Secretary, because the grievance of the employees was not sentimental or imaginary.

*MR. BUTCHER (York) said he gave his hearty support to the Resolution, and he did so mainly on the ground that the Act had been so eminently successful. Now that the Act had proved so great a success in the case of the more dangerous trades, he saw no reason why it should not be extended to all the trades of the country. The Act had proved of enormous value to the workman, but he went further and said that it had proved to be an advantage to the employer. All the terrible fears which were expressed by some hon. Members in this House as to the ruinous rates of insurance which would be necessary had been shown to be to a large extent groundless. In the case of railway con-

tractors the rate had fallen from 25s. per £100 of wages to 7s. 6d.; in ship-building from 35s. to 10s., and in the textile industry from 15s. to 3s. 6d., and sometimes actually as low as 1s. 3d. He thought, therefore, he was justified in saying that the Act had proved a success both for employers and workmen. The hon. Member for the Wansbeck Division had referred in terms of regret to the considerable amount of litigation which had taken place, but he would remember that under the Employers' Liability Act there was unfortunately a very great amount of litigation also. He himself had looked into the statistics, and was satisfied that the litigation under the Employers' Liability Act was greater than under the Workmen's Compensation Act. He did not support the hon. Member for Falkirk when that Gentleman stated that a Commission was necessary to inquire into the matter. In some cases, as, for instance, on the vexed question of trade disputes, it might be necessary to have a Commission to inquire what the law was, and whether it should be amended, but in this case there was no such necessity. They had already extended the Act to agricultural labourers, and it might with advantage be extended to all the industries of the country, putting aside for the moment seamen, who fell into a different class. The extension of the Act would have two most valuable results. Not only would it give the advantages of the Act to those workmen now excluded from its benefits, but it would have the effect of wiping out a serious amount of litigation which now took place for the purpose of determining whether the particular workman injured did or did not, fall within the provisions of the Act. The amended Act should, in general words, embrace all workmen, and if there was any class which it was desired to exclude, they could be specifically excluded. Broadly speaking, on both sides of the House they were in general agreement that now the original experimental legislation had proved a success they would be justified—it would be their duty—to extend it to other classes of workmen, and to remedy the defects of the Act which had been discovered in its operation.

*MR. JOSEPH WALTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley) said that for the last two years he had had charge of an Amending Bill which had been prepared by the Trades Union Congress, and at the present moment there was another Workmen's Compensation Bill which had been drafted and agreed upon by the Trades Union Congress, the Miners' Federation and the textile workers of this country, which he would introduce in the House within the next few days. The chief points as regarded the amendment of the existing law desired by the trade unions might be briefly summarised as follows: First, a change in the law which would place liability upon all employers for injuries done to all workers—men, women, and children. Second, that the provision in the existing law that compensation in case of accident should not be given for a fortnight after the accident took place should be abolished, and that the compensation should be reckoned from the day the accident happened. Third, that the doctrine of contributory negligence on the part of the workmen should be abolished. Some objection might be raised to the last proposal, but no one could imagine that a workman would intentionally do an act which would endanger his life or limb.

MR. BUTCHER said he thought he was right in saying that the doctrine of contributory negligence was not part of this Act.

*MR. JOSEPH WALTON said that the trade unions objected to the doctrine of contributory negligence as at present interpreted. Take the case of a coal miner working at the face. He might put up such timber for the safety of the working face as he considered sufficient, but he might make a mistake and might be held under the present law guilty of negligence in not having placed sufficient timber. No one could imagine that a working man would run the risk of unnecessary danger, and therefore the law ought to be made much clearer than at present, and that any mistake made on the part of the working man should not debar him from receiving compensation under the Act. Fourth, the trade unions desired the law to be amended, providing a scale of compensation in case

of accident. At the present moment, supposing a workman met with an accident the very first day he entered his employment; there was very considerable difficulty in fixing the amount of compensation. There was a notorious case in which a man was injured on the day he commenced his employment. He had only earned 2s., and the Courts divided that 2s. by six, and he only got 4d. per week as compensation during the time he was laid up. The trade unions desired that the law should be amended, so that there would be a minimum of compensation irrespective of the length of time a man worked in a mine; that was, that the average wage earned per week by the men in the same grade of work should be the basis of the compensation to be paid in case of accident; and compensation should be given for loss of life on the same lines to the man's family. When the Workmen's Compensation Act was passed it was thought by the colliery owners of this country that it would be ruinous, and that it would cost them at the rate of 3d. or 4d. per ton of coal. As a matter of fact, the cost throughout the North of England had been only two-thirds of a penny per ton on the average. Surely that was a great encouragement to extend the Act to all workers of the country—men, women, and children, including sailors. He ventured to say that no expenditure would be so fruitful and beneficial as a liberal rearrangement of the Workmen's Compensation Act. If the Government took in hand the measure he was about to introduce on behalf of the trades unionists and passed it into law, which they could do in two or three days, they would earn the gratitude of the workers of the country. They had had astute electioneering legislation, such as the extension of the Act to the agricultural labourer, and they had had an electioneering Budget, but he could assure the Government that there would be no charge of electioneering made against them if they extended the Act and passed it into law during the present Session.

*MR. STUART WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) said that there was no necessity for the passionate declamation of the hon. Member for the Wansbeck Division about the remissness of hon. Members sitting on the Government Benches with respect to the injuries to workmen in the course of

their employment. The first speech he had made in the House was in favour of the Employers' Liability Act of 1880. He also took part in 1888, as a subordinate Minister, in the discussions on the Bill of that year, which would have very largely extended the Act of 1880. He remembered the debate on the Bill of 1893 introduced by the right hon. Member for W. Fife, and he also remembered that the problem of the present Workmen's Compensation Act had then been developed by the present Colonial Secretary. It was not uninteresting to refer to these debates, because the curious and apparently indefensible limit as to the height of the buildings was borrowed from the Factory Act of 1895, introduced and passed by the right hon. Member for W. Fife.

Many years ago he had ventured to suggest in this House that they were proceeding on hopelessly wrong lines as long as they mixed up the negligence of other workmen with the case of injury of an employee. The Act of 1897 gave a practical certainty to the workman that, independently of all questions of negligence, he should receive compensation for his injuries. That was a tremendous new departure in the law, and he was bound to say that the Ministry of that day were right in asking the House to proceed cautiously. They did proceed cautiously, and did not apply the Act to agricultural labourers, for the very good reason that in the election in the year preceding the passing of the Act not a word was said of the possibility of extending the liability for compensation to the farmers class. He thought it would not have been fair, without much fuller notice, to place so serious a new liability upon that class, who had no sort of reason to imagine that it would be imposed upon them. There were also solid reasons for drawing a distinction between the liability of small employers and large employers. He did not say that in the Act of 1897 there were no ambiguities, and that possibly litigation had resulted from these ambiguities; but of one thing he was absolutely assured, and that was, that whatever litigation had resulted from the Act, it was less than would

have been the case if the existence of negligence had been again made the condition of the benefit to be enjoyed by the employees. It was true that the Act of 1897 deprived an employee of compensation if he were guilty of wilful misconduct, but, apart from that provision, the Act had given an enormous protection to the workmen, and he had never been quite able to understand the opposition of the representatives of labour in this House to the insertion of that provision. He remembered a case of a workman in a coal mine, who was repeatedly told to use certain means for the purpose of supporting the roof of his working place. The workman failed to comply with the directions given him. His attention was drawn to it again, and again he failed to comply. Subsequently an accident occurred, and serious damage was caused to life or limb. When the case was tried, the County Court Judge, for reasons best known to himself, held that there had not been serious and wilful misconduct on the part of the workman. It was obvious, under these circumstances, that the protection of fellow-workmen so devised had not proved what this House had every right to expect it would; but that was a necessary part of the system which the House wisely adopted when it gave the administration of the Act to the smaller and humbler tribunals, with the praiseworthy desire to give to workmen easy and cheap justice at their own door. He did not think the Government had any reason to treat the Motion with disfavour, and he saw nothing in the experience of the Act of 1897 which should make this House close the door to any deserving class in this respect. Of course it was open for the Government to say that at this late period of the session their settled legislative arrangements could not suffer violent disruption and upheaval, but at any rate those who embarked on the experiment of 1897, which gave the working men of the country great benefits by relieving them of a most fruitful source of litigation and by giving them certainty and promptitude in the recovery of compensation, had the least possible reason to fear the consequences of assenting to such a Motion as this.

*MR. LAWSON WALTON (Leeds, S.) said the hon. Member for the Hallam Division of Sheffield had shown himself most anxious to defend the Government against any charge of lack of caution in their legislation on this subject, but he thought the last charge which any critic would be disposed to prefer against them was that the series of Acts which had been passed at their instance had been characterised by headlong or precipitate action. Those who had listened to the debate that night, and had heard the unanimous expression of opinion that the present Act was totally inadequate to deal with the mischief at which it was aimed, would be inclined to ask why proposals of legislation had not hitherto appeared in the King's Speech opening Parliament. They would await with some curiosity to hear what definite promise the Home Secretary was prepared to make when he came to deal with the Motion. But before that stage was reached one was a little tempted to follow the right hon. Gentleman who last spoke in the vein of reminiscence in which he had indulged. He had drawn their attention to the different pieces of legislation which the House had from time to time undertaken. But there were those on the opposite side of the House who could refer back with a considerable degree of satisfaction to the debates of 1897, for the evils which were predicted by the Opposition at the time of the passing of the imperfect measure of 1897 had been amply realised in the experience of the last five and a half years. In the first place they pointed out that the interpretation of the Bill by the Courts of Law would open the floodgates of litigation. They were met with the answer that the Bill was a layman's Bill, framed by laymen and to be construed by laymen. What had been the result? While a Bill framed in legal terms might have been construed without any excessive amount of litigation, this measure had led to results which had called forth protests from all representatives of labour. There was another point. The Bill, as originally introduced, provided for no appeal, and they were told that none was required, as the language was so simple that all

who ran might read. But as a strong opinion was expressed that the absence of power of appeal might lead to a different rule of construction in every County Court District in England, the Colonial Secretary gave way, and allowed an appeal to the Court of Appeal. He apparently quite forgot that under the existing procedure an appeal to the Court of Appeal was opening the way to an appeal to the House of Lords and the result had been that a whole series of decisions all adverse to the interests of labour and adverse to the true views of the House of Commons had been reversed by the House of Lords.

Again, he might point out in vindication of the Motion and the attitude which the critics of this legislation took up nearly six years ago, that certain limitations had been introduced in the Act which were so artificial in character and so vague in definition and phraseology that no court of law could give a consistent or intelligible interpretation of them. In the first place it was pointed out that the number of trades to which the Act was to apply was very small, and in the second place it was shown that the application varied from time to time according to the operation in which the workman was engaged and the hour of the day at which he was employed. A builder's workman, for example, was out of the Act until the building reached 30ft. from the ground, or until a crane was produced, when the protective provisions of the Act extended to him. If a ladder was in use it did not carry with it the protection of the Act, but it did directly a few planks were attached to it, and the ingenuity of many County Court judges had been expended in defining when an erection amounted to a scaffold. A navy was protected in a sewer, but not as a workman on the roadway. The dock labourer's position was still more extraordinary. He came within the Act if he could bring the dock within the definition of a factory, but when a dock became a factory was one of the puzzles which the House of Lords had been unable to solve. It was a factory when a ship was moored alongside and her cargo was being discharged with the aid of the dock machinery, but it was not a factory if the ship was away from the side of the docks discharging her cargo into lighters. Therefore, the same man

employed by the same stevedore on the same ship came within the Act if she was moored to the dockside, but was deprived of its advantages if the vessel was discharging her cargo into a lighter. He had no desire to disparage, in any way, the tribute which hon. Members opposite had paid to the introducer of the Motion, but he thought he was entitled to point out that these pitfalls so far from having been disclosed by experience in the working of the Act were predicted five and a half years ago. It had taken all those years to satisfy the Government that some reform was needed. These and other defects had been persistently pointed out and, meanwhile, litigation involving heavy expense and injustice to large classes of the industrial population had taken place. As the Government had made no sign of bringing forward proposals for further legislation he was glad that this Motion had been submitted, especially if it should elicit from the right hon. Gentleman some specific declaration in point of time and character which would satisfy the widespread feeling throughout the country that something further required to be done.

COLONEL ROPNER (Stockton) supported the Motion. It was not at all necessary, he said, to go back to what happened years ago, but the working men of this country would not soon forget that their thanks were due to the Unionist Government for having passed the original Act. After nearly six years experience of the Act, however, he could not see why its provisions should not now be extended to all workmen in the country. He would like to correct one statement by the hon. and learned Member for York, and to inform him that the cost to shipbuilders had been far more than was originally anticipated. It had gone up to 15s. per cent., but the principle of compensation remained the same, whatever the cost might be; and the greater cost only proved the greater reason for insuring the workmen against risk. In his opinion, legislation ought to be introduced as soon as possible to cover all trades. It might be impossible to bring in a Bill this session, but he did hope a pledge would be given that one should be introduced during the life of the present

Parliament. When he was pursuing his candidature for Stockton, three years ago, he himself gave a promise to bring in an Amending Bill. At that time he was not aware of the great difficulties a private Member had to surmount when bringing in Bills, or he would have said that he would do his best to induce the Government to legislate on the matter. Now he was wiser, and he would take that opportunity of urging the Home Secretary to take a kindly view of this matter and give the House an assurance that the Government would undertake to extend the Workmen's Compensation Act to all men employed in this country.

* Mr. TENNANT (Berwickshire) said he was reluctant to stand between the House and the Home Secretary, but he took much interest in the passing of that legislation in 1897, and he wished to recall the attention of the House to the debates of that year. His hon. and learned friend the Member for Leeds had alluded to the great gaps in the Bill, and he now wished to call attention to another gap affecting one class of workmen who had especial claims to the benefits of the Act: the class employed in workshops. It was an injustice that a man employed in a workshop got no compensation for injury, while if he had been in a factory he would have been compensated. It was in the power of the employers to separate a factory into compartments for legal purposes and to call the one where there was no machinery a workshop. A man might thus be employed in a factory one day and in a workshop the next, and the question of his being compensated in case he sustained injury depended solely on which compartment he was in at the time. Surely this was a little concession to ask at the hands of the Government. There was another point he wished to raise. In his opinion, injury to health in the course of employment should be put in the same category as injury to limb. The man employed in the white lead industry, who was afflicted with paralysis, or the man engaged in sorting hides or wool combing, who was very liable to sudden and fatal attacks of anthrax, in consequence of the nature of the work, had as much right to compensation as

the man who was injured by a steam crane or a revolving shaft. Then there was the industry connected with the generation of electricity. He would ask the right hon. Gentleman whether the relatives of a man who was killed by an electric shock in the course of this employment were not entitled to compensation. There was another trade, the dangers of which would be realised by the hon. Member for Stockton, and that was one involving the use of inflammable paint. Men who were engaged in painting small enclosed spaces such as peaks, bunkers and the holds of small vessels, and who had to use quick-drying, inflammable paint, ran the danger not only of asphyxiation from the fumes of the naphtha, but also of the injury by fire, for there was great risk that when they were feeling the effects of the naphtha the candle they were using would fall into the paint pot and set fire to the place. Thus if asphyxiated, they or their friends were entitled to no benefits under the Workmen's Compensation Act, but if at the same time—he was going to say by the grace of God—the candle fell into the paint pot and the workman was burned, then the Compensation Act became operative. These anomalies, added to those quoted by his hon. and learned friend, made out a strong case, he submitted, for further legislation. There were two distinct precedents for the argument he was submitting. One was the Act passed in 1901, which, by Section 136, gave compensation to people engaged in dangerous occupations; but that section, owing to its phraseology, had not been put into force. The other was the scheme of compensation given to workers in the pottery trade. When Lord James went down to arbitrate in that trade he suggested a scheme of compensation for men and women injured in their health while in that employment. That was a good precedent which the right hon. Gentleman might follow, and it was very honourable and creditable to Lord James that he was able to institute such a scheme. I trust the right hon. Gentleman will follow the example set by Lord James.

MR. BELL (Derby) said that he only proposed to intervene in the debate in the interest of classes of workmen who

were great sufferers from the operation of the Act. He would not emphasise the advantages which a great number of workmen who were fortunate enough to come within the meaning of the Act obtained; but there was still a large number of workmen in different occupations, who, owing to the different interpretations put upon the Act by the judges in the lower Courts, as well as in the Court of Appeal, and in some cases in the House of Lords, were excluded from the Act. For instance, boiler makers were a class who suffered greatly from the loss of their eyesight in consequence of accidents. Yet the insurance company with whom the majority of the shipbuilders insured, in many instances had refused compensation and had refused to insure a workman after he had lost one of his eyes. That was a very great disadvantage, because frequently, when an employer found that such a man was not insured he declined to continue to employ him.

Then a large number, practically all the railway men in the country, engaged in the working of trains were subject to accidents on private sidings. An employee of the North British Railway most unfortunately met with a very serious accident on a private siding. That case was carried to the Court of Session in Scotland, and the Court decided against the workman because he was not on or about the railway at the time of the accident. It had been decided also that appeals to the House of Lords were not allowed under the Act in Scottish cases. He failed to see why a Scottish workman should not have the same access to the House of Lords as an English workman, at any rate under the same Act.

Another class who also suffered through the interpretation which had been put on the Act were railway carmen. There was an instance in which he was interested in which a man was injured only twenty yards from the goods shed. The arbitrator awarded him damages, but the Court of Appeal reversed that decision; and it was now held that a carman meeting with an accident outside the company's premises was not entitled to compensation under the Act. There was even a worse case than that which was brought before him. The London and North-Western Railway Company own premises 100 yards from their main property. A man was injured

Mr. Tennant.

in the stable owned by the company, and it was held in that case that the stable was not on or about the railway, and consequently the man was unable to obtain compensation. He could quote, if necessary, a number of other cases in support of his contention. He merely rose in order that the Home Secretary might be able to observe the great number of instances in which men were excluded from the benefits of this Act; and he would urge on the right hon. Gentleman to introduce an Amending Bill. Since he had been in the House he had never seen such complete accord as on the present occasion; and he certainly thought that that ought to encourage the right hon. Gentleman to bring in the Bill to amend the Act in accordance with the desire of every hon. Member who had spoken. He believed that the right hon. Gentleman's predecessor promised to bring in an Amending Bill before the Government went out of office. These were days of great uncertainty; he did not know how soon the Government might go out of office; and, therefore, he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would bring in the measure as soon as possible.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS (Kent, St. Augustine's) said after listening to the entire debate he had certainly come to the conclusion that there was a unanimous opinion in that House, first of all with regard to the benefits of the Act of 1897; secondly, in regard to the necessity for amendment and extension; and thirdly—a rather unusual opinion—that the House of Lords was not such a bad place after all. Hon. Members had repeatedly expressed gratitude to the highest tribunal in the country for having extended the somewhat close interpretation placed on the construction of this Act by the Court of Appeal. He had to thank the hon. Gentleman who brought forward this Motion for the great courtesy with which he introduced it. It was a pleasure to listen to the hon. Member. The hon. Member who seconded him was somewhat more severe in his criticisms of the Act of 1897, and by comparison seemed to prefer the Act which preceded it. [Mr. FENWICK: No.] The hon. Member however, desired not only to see the

Act amended, but extended. [Mr. FENWICK assented.] He thought the benefits of the Act had been generally allowed, not only inside but outside the House. By the workmen, certainly, the benefits had been freely admitted; in fact he hardly knew of any gathering of workmen in the country held during the last two or three years which had not gone out of its way first to praise the Act of 1897, and then to press for its extension. The last conference of the Miners' Federation was a case in point. He believed, too, that many of those employers, who, when the Act of 1897 was under consideration, expressed fears lest its results should be to hamper the industry of the country, had found their fears to be very largely unfounded, and had shown comparatively little antagonism to the existing Act. The insurance rates which had been alluded to as first quoted by insurance companies were certainly extravagantly high. They had now, however, been very greatly reduced, and he thought that with a larger experience, and probably with the larger field afforded by an extension of the Act, they might be still further reduced. As had been stated that night, the Act was introduced as a tentative measure, and was confined to those industries which were thought to be most liable to accidents and about which statistics were most easily procurable. The Government had repeatedly promised to amend the Act and to extend it, and they had certainly never shown any unwillingness to receive suggestions to that end. All they asked was that, before undertaking its amendment and extension, they should have an opportunity of gaining sufficient experience of its working, and that they should wait until certain points had been definitely decided by the courts. Personally he had been in favour of an extension of the Act, and he had never made any secret of his desire. He had, in his private capacity, largely availed himself of the Act, and, even before it was passed, he had insured not only the whole of his agricultural servants, but every one of his domestic servants. He found he could do it on the cheapest possible terms, and the result was not only a benefit to the servant, but a satisfaction to himself. He was, therefore, not preaching what he did not practise.

It would be generally understood, he thought, that the Government were prepared to accept the spirit of this Motion; but, as he pointed out in February to a deputation from the Trade Union Congress, and as the members of that deputation agreed, there were certain inquiries which it was necessary to make before they would be in a position to introduce anything more than a very flimsy Bill indeed. He had every hope and intention, however, of introducing a Bill next session which would deal with the question of Amendment and of what extension was possible. It had been generally admitted that, while the Act had worked smoothly and well in many respects, there were certain points which were ripe for Amendment. Many serious difficulties undoubtedly arose in the earlier years of the Act owing to the narrow constructions which were placed upon many of its provisions by the Court of Appeal. This was especially the case with regard to the notice to be given by the workman, the application of the Act to casual labourers, to the building trades, and to workmen employed in vessels and in docks. Many of these difficulties had been removed by decisions of the House of Lords, while an Amendment introduced into the Factory Act of 1901 in regard to docks had practically made a ship in a dock, harbour, or canal equivalent to a factory. So that it was no longer possible for a workman to be injured on one side of the ship and not obtain compensation, whereas, if he had been working on the other side of it he would have been entitled to it. A good deal had been said that night as to the cost of litigation under the Act. They did not often find lawyers so frank or so careless of their fees as the hon. and learned Gentleman opposite, who spoke strongly against litigation; and he would be glad to find that there were lawyers who were prepared to give up their emoluments for the public good. But, considering the enormous number of accidents that occurred, and quite apart from the litigation involved under the Act in regard to points of construction, he did not really think it had been very large. A great number of cases had been settled promptly and by agreement without coming into court at all, and the number of appeals was very largely diminished. The facts were clearly set out in the statistics

under the Workmen's Compensation Act which had been published for the year 1901. These statistics showed that the costs of litigation under the Compensation Act in 1901 were considerably less than the costs under the Employers' Liability Act. He found that the average amount of solicitors' costs was, in that year, under the Employers' Liability Act, £21 5s. 0d., and under the Compensation Act, £10 13s. 0d.

*MR. FENWICK said that his statement was that as far as the Northumberland Miners' Association was concerned their expenses were considerably heavier under this Act.

*MR. AKERS DOUGLAS said that the hon. Member's district must have been more unfortunate than other districts. The cost of litigation had been less, and the number of appeals was considerably decreasing. He thought that as the Compensation Act dealt with entirely new matters, the legal questions to be settled must necessarily be numerous. But it was reasonable to suppose that the majority of the decisions would be given during the first years of the operation of the Act; and, judging by these statistics, he earnestly hoped that the worst of the litigation was over, and that in future years the Act would work, not only as smoothly as it had done, but with less expense.

With regard to the points which called for amendment, the question which struck him most was that of no compensation for the first fortnight. The present Act did not apply when a workman was disabled for a period of less than two weeks, nor was compensation payable in respect of the first fortnight in the case of prolonged disablement. When the Bill was before the House it was urged that there should be some period of delay in order to check malingering. He thought two weeks was not an exceptional period to prescribe in order to test the *bonâ fides* of the claimant; but if the disablement was serious and lasted longer than two weeks, and the *bonâ fides* of the claimant were distinctly proved, he certainly thought there was a clear case for making the compensation payable from the time of the accident. That would be a very reasonable Amendment, and would not interfere with the

Mr. Akers Douglas.

necessity for proving a *bonâ fide* serious case. Then there was the question of serious and wilful misconduct. This condition was not in the Bill as it was originally introduced, but was rightly added by the House. By the decisions of the Courts given since the Act was passed it had been settled that the exception did not apply to cases of mere negligence on the part of a workman; it only applied in a bad case where the workman had sustained injury in consequence of directly disobeying the distinct orders of the employer. He could not agree that compensation should be given in such a case. To do so would certainly be inequitable, and would be putting a premium on disobedience. Some of the suggested Amendments could easily be dealt with, but there were others which required further consideration. He might tell the House frankly that they were now being considered, and had been noted for some time past by the Home Office, with a view to an Amending Act.

In addition to the request for an Amending Act there was the request for the extension of the Act. The Act applied only to persons engaged in or about mines, quarries, factories, and engineering works, to certain classes of building works, and to persons employed in agriculture. He fully recognised the desirability and necessity of a further extension of the Act, at any rate, to all industrial employments. In 1897 Lord Ridley intimated that they proposed to proceed tentatively, and to take in the first instance those classes of industry which included the great majority of industrial accidents, and in regard to which full statistics and information were available. But there were certain classes which at present were wholly excluded from the Act. There were, for instance, the seamen and the fishermen. This was a subject which he should like to have seen discussed that night, but he was afraid he should be ruled out of order if he entered into that question. Perhaps the House, therefore, would excuse his going further. There was a point raised by the Member for Derby, however, to which he wished to refer—the question of inland transport service, carriers, and others. There were also classes connected with the building trade, and some of these classes, although small in point of numbers, were amongst those who

suffered most under exclusion from the existing Act. Very often the importance of a class in regard to numbers was in inverse degree to their liability to accidents. All these points would be very carefully considered, and they were being considered now. He could say they would be seriously considered during the present year. Then the hon. Member for Barnsley, who proposed to introduce a Bill on behalf of the trade unions, stated that he might gain considerable experience by looking at that Bill. Well, the Bill had not yet appeared, but the hon. Member had promised to show it to him. However, if that Bill were based on a former Bill introduced on the part of the trades unions on the subject, he thought it could hardly effect the purpose which the hon. Member aimed at, because it included cases to which the provisions of the Act could not possibly apply.

*MR. TENNANT asked whether the right hon. Gentleman would consider the question of injury to health.

*MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: Certainly with regard to poisonous trades. That was a matter well worthy of consideration. He was already engaged in drafting a Bill which would amend the existing Acts, but he could not promise to deal with the question this session. He thought it would be unreasonable to expect him at this period of the session to introduce a Bill extending the existing most useful Acts.

MR. ASQUITH (Fifeshire, E.) said he had listened with great satisfaction to the speech of the right hon. Gentleman, as he understood him to accept the Motion, so that they would not be put to the trouble of a division. He only rose to make a few comments on what had been said. He thought that, on the whole, the existing Act was a very good Act and that it had done good work. The whole of the difficulty that had arisen about the Act was due to the exemption from its operation of particular trades. Indeed, the whole litigation which had taken place had been entirely due to the system of exemption, limitation, and qualification which was most unnecessarily introduced

at the time the Act was under consideration. In the first place, the whole class of seamen was exempted. There was no reason whatever why seamen should not be put in the same category as agricultural labourers and others. Another important class were builders' workmen. For five years the Courts had been engaged in deciding what was a scaffold. Metaphysical questions of the subtlest character, such as might have puzzled the schools, were made the subject of judicial decision. Again, there was a limitation in the scope of the Bill whereby, in order to establish a claim for compensation the injury must have been sustained on the premises of the employer. In a case arising on this point, he had been personally engaged, where an engineer fitting a fly-wheel to an engine was injured and had not the right to compensation he would have had because he was injured on the premises of the customer who had ordered the wheel, and not on the premises of the man's employer. All these subtle, unnecessary, and artificial distinctions should be swept away, and he hoped that in the Amending Bill promised by the right hon. Gentleman the benefit of the Act would be extended to all classes of workers in all employments, without limitation of time or place.

Resolved, that this House calls upon the Government forthwith to undertake the Amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act.—(*Mr. William Jones.*)

PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO WILD ANIMALS BILL.

MR. CORRIE GRANT (Warwickshire, Rugby) moved the Second Reading of this Bill, the object of which, he said, was to prohibit the catching of wild rabbits and the coursing of them in enclosures, and to prevent the hunting of
Mr. Asquith.

stags originally wild and kept in confinement.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY (Camberwell, Peckham) yielded to no one in his desire to put down cruelty to animals, but he was not at all sure that this Bill did not go a little too far. It was doubtless introduced with a good object, but sufficient consideration had not been given to the possible results arising from the passage of the Bill.

And, it being midnight, the debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed this day.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES (RURAL DISTRICTS).

Bill to amend the Housing of the Working Classes Acts, 1890 and 1900, and the Local Government Act, 1894, so as to facilitate the provision of cottages by Rural District Councils, ordered to be brought in by Sir Walter Foster, Mr. Broadhurst, Mr. Channing, Mr. Price, Mr. Herbert Samuel, Mr. Soames, Mr. Stevenson, and Mr. Frederick Wilson.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES (RURAL DISTRICTS) BILL.

"To amend the Housing of the Working Classes Acts, 1890 and 1900, and the Local Government Act, 1894, so as to facilitate the provision of cottages by Rural District Councils," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Tuesday 26th May, and to be printed. (Bill 199.)

COAL MINES (CERTIFICATES) BILL.

Considered in Committee, and reported without Amendment; read the third time, and passed.

Adjourned at five minutes after
Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.
Thursday, 14th May, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House. That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have not been complied with.

Kip's Patents—(Petition for Bill).

The same was ordered to lie on the Table.

Kip's Patents — (Petition for Bill). Examiner's Certificate of non-compliance with the Standing Orders referred to the Standing Orders Committee on Tuesday next.

Gosport, Fareham, and Cosham Tramways Bill [H.L.]. The order made on Monday last appointing certain Lords the Select Committee to consider the Bill, discharged.

Mid Yorkshire Tramways Bill [H.L.].

Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Five Lords appointed a Select Committee on the Midland Railway Bill and other Bills, do form the Select Committee for the consideration of the Mid Yorkshire Tramways Bill [H.L.].

Aston Manor Improvement Bill [H.L.] Report from the Select Committee, that the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition thereto having been withdrawn; read, and ordered to lie on the Table: the Orders made on the 9th of March last and the 4th of May discharged: and Bill committed.

Scunthorpe Urban District Water Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

East Ardsley Gas Bill; Chard Corporation Gas and Electricity Bill [H.L.]; Belfast Water Bill [H.L.]. Reported, with Amendments.

Maidstone Gas Bill. Reported, without Amendment.

South Staffordshire Tramways Bill [H.L.]. Report from the Select Committee, that the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition thereto having been withdrawn. Read, and ordered to lie on the Table: the Orders made on 23rd March and 28th April last discharged; and Bill committed.

Great Eastern Railway Bill. Read 2^a and committed.

Great Northern Railway Bill. Read 2^a, and committed, the Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Birmingham Corporation Bill [H.L.]. Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Hove, Worthing, and District Tramways Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Midland Railway Bill; London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Bill [H.L.]; Bradford Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Willesden Urban District Council Bill [H.L.]; Mid Yorkshire Tramways Bill [H.L.]. Leave given to the Select Committee not to sit again till Monday next, at twelve o'clock.

Wakefield and District Tramways Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Select Committee, that it is not expedient to proceed further with the Bill; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

Coal Mines (Certificates) Bill. Brought from the Commons.

Commercial Gas Bill. Brought from the Commons; read 1^a, and referred to the Examiners.

Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London) Bill [H.L.]; Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (East Ham, etc.) Bill [H.L.]; Pier and Harbour Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]. Read 2^a [according to Order].

PETITIONS.

OUT-DOOR RELIEF (FRIENDLY SOCIETIES) BILL.

Petition against: of the Guardians of the Poor of the parish of Paddington; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

Report of the Committee of Council on Education in Scotland; with Appendix, 1902-1903.

General Report, by the Chief Inspector of the Western Division of Scotland for the year 1902.

TRADE REPORTS—ANNUAL SERIES.

- No. 2971. Bavaria (Nuremberg).
- No. 2972. United States (New York).
- No. 2973. Spain (Corunna).
- No. 2974. Netherlands (Java).
- No. 2975. China (Chinkiang).
- No. 2976. France (Calais).
- No. 2978. Germany (Pomerania).
- No. 2979. France (Nantes).

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

No. 589. Mining industries and forestry in Turkey.

ARMY (SPECIAL PENSIONS).

Return for the year ended 31st March, 1903, of pensions specially granted to warrant officers and soldiers under Articles 730, 1173A, and 1207 of the Pay Warrant.

EXPLOSIVES (EXPLOSION AT THE LOWWOOD GUNPOWDER COMPANY'S FACTORY AT LOWWOOD, NEAR ULVERSTON).

Report to the right hon. the Secretary of State for the Home Department, by Major A. Cooper-Key, His Majesty's Inspector of Explosives, on the circumstances attending an explosion which occurred in a press-house of the factory of the Lowwood Gunpowder Company at Lowwood, near Ulverston, Lancashire, on the 12th March, 1903.

Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie upon the Table.

NATIONAL DEBT ACT 1883 (TERMINABLE ANNUITIES).

Treasury Warrant, dated 1st April 1903, regulating the terminable annuity held on behalf of the Supreme Court of Judicature.

RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION FACILITIES ACT, 1864.

Certificate of the Board of Trade authorising the construction of a railway across the Western Shore Road, Southampton, to form a connection between a siding of the London and South-Western Railway and the Electric Generating Station belonging to the Corporation of Southampton.

Laid before the House [pursuant to Act], and ordered to lie on the Table.

PORT OF LONDON BILL.

Message from the Commons, That they have come to the following resolution, to which they desire the concurrence of this House, viz.: That it is expedient that the said Bill should be committed to a Joint Committee of both Houses: The said Message to be taken into consideration on Monday next.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE BILL [H.L.]

A Bill to amend the law relating to justices of the peace with respect to residence and the removal of ex-officio justices was presented by the Lord Chancellor; read 1^a; and to be printed. (No. 68.)

COAL MINES (CERTIFICATES) BILL.

Read 1^a; and to be printed. (No. 69.)

OUT-DOOR RELIEF (FRIENDLY SOCIETIES) BILL.

THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: My Lords, I beg to present a petition from the Board of Guardians of the Union in which I live — Paddington Union — against the Out-door Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill, and to give notice that when the Second Reading of the Bill comes on to-morrow week I shall move that it be referred to a Select Committee.

THE TRANSPORT SERVICE MEDAL.

LORD MUSKERRY, in rising "to call attention to the long delay in granting the transport medal to captains and

officers of the Merchant Service, and to move that this House do present an humble Address to His Majesty representing that, if the preliminary announcement of the Admiralty regarding the award of this decoration be adhered to, many members of the Mercantile Marine, who have rendered most valuable service to the nation during the South African War, will be debarred from obtaining just and proper recognition; and praying that His Majesty will ordain that the rules regulating the issue of the transport medal will be of such a character that the fullest recognition will be given to those who have laboured in the transport service during the late war in South Africa," said: My Lords, in bringing this Motion before your Lordships, I should like, firstly, to express the unbounded satisfaction of the Merchant Service generally at the announcement that His Most Gracious Majesty had instituted a special decoration for the purpose of recognising the splendid services of those employed in our merchant transports during the late war. If I might venture to say so, I think that the institution of this decoration is by no means the least of the many graceful acts performed by His Majesty. What I desire to draw attention to in relation to my Motion is this. I fear that what I humbly think were His Majesty's intentions in the matter will not, under the preliminary announcement of the Admiralty, be fully carried out, and I address myself to His Majesty's advisers, who issued this announcement, and to your Lordships, whom I trust will give me your support, in humbly presenting an Address to His Majesty showing that the announcement of the Admiralty is far too restricted in its scope to ensure recognition for many who have rendered valuable service to the State. By the term "chartered troop transports" is meant those particular vessels of the Merchant Service which were chartered or hired at certain rates agreed upon, and had numbers affixed to their bows, being known as Transport No. 1, 2, or 3, as the case might be. These transports, or chartered troop transports, numbered, I believe, something over 100, but a very large number of

other ships were employed in doing exactly similar transport service, though, owing to the private arrangements between the owners and the Admiralty being of a different character, these ships do not come within the category of chartered troop transports.

I do not think there is a subject in this country who does not feel that a debt of gratitude is owing to the Merchant Service for the magnificent way in which it came to the aid of the country during the late war in South Africa, and the public statements of members of the Government and articles in the Press show what valuable service has been rendered. I will just draw your Lordships' attention very briefly to one or two of the comments made. The late First Lord of the Admiralty, now a Member of this House, when laying the Naval Estimates before Parliament, said, referring to the magnitude of the operations performed:—

"Since the beginning of July, 181 transports and freight ships"

I ask your Lordships to particularly notice this latter term "freight ships"

"have been engaged in the conveyance to South Africa of a force of over 32,000 officers and men, 22,300 horses and 23,600 mules, exclusive of the troops, horses, etc. which had been conveyed from India and the colonies under local arrangements,"

I ask your notice also to this term "local arrangements,"

"and exclusive of certain Volunteers and such detachments. As far as we know the whole of these operations have been undertaken without the loss of a single life; and in these operations we have seen the reserve power of this country for all the subsidiary operations of war and the assistance which can be rendered by the Mercantile Marine in times of emergency. Not only have the ships been excellent but the masters of them have invariably acted with courtesy and ability in discharging their onerous duties, and have excited the admiration and praise of the military authorities."

Speaking at the banquet of the Royal Academy last year, the present First Lord of the Admiralty, in replying to the toast of "His Majesty's Navy," said that—

"Were he to say that His Majesty's Navy is not efficient, he should say what is untrue."

Then to testify to this efficiency he pretty well confined his remarks to the

Transport Department of the Admiralty—the Department, of course, which deals with merchant ships. That Department, he stated—

“Had conveyed to the Army in the field 1,250,000 tons of stores, and that without taking into account any of the forage conveyed for the horses and mules. It had carried across the seas to that Army 4,000 horses and mules, and it had transported 500,000 men, and this 500,000 men—troops and prisoners of war—had been transported without the loss of a single human life due to any cause connected with the ships. In this work nearly 600 British ships had been employed.”

I ask your Lordships' very particular notice to this expression, “600 ships.”

“And this unrivalled feat had been the work of that splendid Mercantile Marine, the continued enjoyment of which by this country was inseparably bound up with its prosperity and its existence.”

The Times, in a leading article, referring to the announcement as to the transport medal, stated that—

“It is to be awarded by the Admiralty to a class of officers who, though not directly in the service of the King, have nevertheless done work for the State both responsible and difficult in itself, and no less indispensable to the successful conduct of the campaign undertaken than any work done in the field. We are, perhaps, a little too apt to forget this aspect of the matter. We are so accustomed to the waging of wars in the uttermost parts of the earth that we seldom realise altogether how it is done, how paramount is the sea service of the Empire in the successful conduct of such an enterprise.”

The Times, giving some figures in connection with the work of the transports, stated that—

“When the last of the Boer prisoners returns to South Africa, the number of all ranks conveyed in Government transports on time charter will be upwards of 625,000, the total mileage accomplished being no less than 600,000,000 miles.”

Dealing with immunity from accident *The Times* goes on to say:—

“This is an unimpeachable and most emphatic testimony to the zealous efficiency and nautical skill of the officers of the Mercantile Marine engaged in the service.”

I have alluded to these comments in order to show your Lordships that if the present preliminary announcement of the Admiralty is adhered to, the great majority of the masters and officers of our transports will require to rest satisfied with these eulogiums, for no tangible form of the country's recognition will be granted to them. I will give your Lordships a few

Lord Muskerry.

illustrations from letters which I hold in my hand from certain masters and officers who have done splendid service for us, but who, as I have said before, must rest satisfied with mere eulogium showered upon the service. An officer of a naval collier states that he was at a China station for six months during the war there, and also for months at the Cape, where they coaled a great many transports and carried stores to the different ports on the coast. He very rightly thinks that he is entitled to a medal among the rest, as they had a great deal to put up with, both on the China station and at Capetown attending on the Fleet. They were the means of towing off one of our largest men-of-war, which had stranded, spent a whole night on deck assisting her, and never received any thanks for it. Another officer in a freight ship asks whether the steamers carrying stores for the Government are included, for he had some hard work out there loading and discharging night and day, and not even being paid overtime. The chief officer of one of the regular mail steamers trading out to the Cape, which has carried a very large number of our troops out safely, but does not come within the category of chartered troop transports says—

“No doubt you will agree with me that our ships have done a very fair share of trooping during the war without being hired transports. I suppose it would be too much to expect any recognition in our case, considering the whole of the Merchant Service was forgotten when the thanks of the country were voted to those who took part in the war. I am inclined to go one better in the case of the mail steamers, and say our duties were even greater than the hired transports that had troops only, for we had our own business as well to attend to—mails, passengers and cargo; and we certainly made a greater number of voyages in the year. A great deal more might besaid with the pen of a ready writer, but I am not equal to it myself.”

The captain of another steamer says:—

“As regards the medal for transports, I certainly think it is hard lines that the freight ships get no recognition. I had a great number of troops on my ship, besides carrying about 700 Hollanders turned out by Lord Roberts. I also brought home the first lot of sick and wounded from Ladysmith after the relief. Besides, I believe that the transport commanders received a gratuity from the Admiralty, while we of the freight ships got neither a gratuity nor even any thanks. There were plenty of soldiers in South Africa on the lines of communication who did no more fighting than we did, and if we were not the most important of the lines of communication I am much mistaken.”

Another captain says of the transport medal:—

"These medals, it appears, are only to be given to captains and officers on the numbered troop transports. This is a great injustice, seeing that we who were in the mail steamers or intermediate ships carried large numbers of troops; in many cases even more than those in the numbered transports. Yet we are to be debarred from participating in the recognition of service, which is manifestly unfair seeing that instead of being hired transports most of our ships were freight ships. The work and responsibility in each case was the same, and yet we get no reward whatever under the present intention of the Government."

The captain of a large steamer writes —

"I notice that only captains and officers of chartered troop transports are to receive medals for their service during the late war. If this is so it seems very unfair. Surely the officers of monthly hired transports were equally deserving of recognition. I carried troops on four different occasions, twice to Africa and twice to China, and was engaged altogether about a year trooping on monthly hired transports, and I fully expected that if medals were to be presented I would receive one. I shall be glad to know if it has been definitely settled that the officers of other transports are not to receive any recognition for their services."

These, my Lords, are the feelings of gentlemen who rightly consider that they are faring very badly at the hands of their country, and it is really extraordinary to think that service such as theirs can be ignored. The figures which have been quoted to your Lordships do not by any means refer to the chartered troop transports alone, and as great praise has been showered upon all, it is highly inconsistent that only one portion should be eligible for the decoration. Munitions of war and Government stores were carried to an enormous extent, as also numbers of horses and mules, by vessels termed freight ships. Though the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have informed the Merchant Service Guild that they fully recognise the efficient way in which the masters and officers of other British ships engaged for the conveyance of troops, horses, mules and stores at rates per head or ton, carried out the freight contracts, they are not disposed to recommend any further recognition. I would draw the attention of your Lordships to the case of many vessels carrying mules from America and other ports during the war, being months and months away, when usually they were regular traders to this country. The duties were most difficult and onerous, very much less pleasant than on

chartered troop transports, as will be apparent to your Lordships, and also there were extreme difficulties with the mule attendants, who were of the very lowest class, shipped in American ports. The mutiny on the "Milwaukee" whilst carrying mules was an instance of what captains and officers of such vessels had to contend with. Many other ships have been running with cargoes of Government stores, some of them being as much as two or three years away. Are all these magnificent services to go by unrecognised?

I venture to suggest that there is yet time to remedy a grave omission, not only on the score of gratitude for services rendered, but on the score of preserving the goodwill, loyalty and patriotism of what the late principal transport official at Capetown described as our magnificent Merchant Service. We shall be told, perhaps, that there are difficulties. I have thought the matter over very carefully, and cannot see that these are insuperable. In any case, it is the duty of the Admiralty to overcome them. To me it seems a great stretch of imagination that one officer will obtain a medal as against another, simply because the private arrangements between the Admiralty and the shipowners have been different. Though it is pleasant to say that the war in South Africa is now over, we cannot, of course, blind our eyes to the fact of future occasions when this country will require to uphold the honour of its traditions and its flag. Therefore in maintaining the efficiency of our Merchant Service, which is absolutely essential for success, we must, when the opportunity offers, err rather on the side of being too liberal than too niggardly in rendering honour where honour is due. I sincerely trust—and very many are with me—that this House will humbly represent the matter to His Majesty, whose sympathy with sailors, and whose promptitude in recognising the services of his subjects, will, I have no doubt, lead to pure and simple justice being given to our Merchant Service.

*THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (The Earl of SELBORNE): My Lords, I think the noble Lord has laid down a rather dangerous doctrine. He has practically told your Lordships that no Government is entitled to praise any

individual for the contribution that he has made to the success of the war unless they are prepared also to reward him with a medal. I entirely demur to any such proposition as that. We are perfectly within our rights, and are only fulfilling our duty in expressing our sense of the admirable services of the Mercantile Marine in the late war; and this medal has been established by His Majesty to recognise the indissoluble co-operation of the Mercantile Marine with his own Navy in the transport of troops to wars in which this country may be engaged. This medal was instituted for the officers of chartered troop transports. The noble Lord says it ought to have been instituted for all the officers who in any way by sea contributed to the supply of the Army in the war. He is entitled to that view. But it was not with that view that the medal was instituted; and I fail to see on what logical grounds you could go to the length of instituting a medal for every officer who has been connected with the supply of the Army at sea and not give such a medal to civilians who have contributed to the supply of the Army on land in this country. If your Lordships will for one moment think of where such a doctrine would lead you, I think you will agree that any Government must approach this subject with a grave sense of responsibility—the responsibility of limiting a medal to a very definite service, and of making it valuable by not extending it beyond a point where the radius it would reach is so wide as to permit of indefinite extension. I am very sorry that there should be disappointment amongst men who have done excellent work by sea. I am equally sorry that there should be disappointment to men who have done excellent work by land. But this medal was instituted for the officers of chartered troop transports, and not for the recognition of any other service, and I can hold out no hope of a change in the opinion or the attitude of the Government in this respect. The noble Lord did not allude to the part of his Question which refers to a delay in granting this medal. I am sorry that some months have elapsed since His Majesty announced his intention to

The Earl of Selborne.

grant this medal. But in the preparation of a new medal, in fixing on an approved design, and in making regulations to govern the grant and distribution of the medal in future, it is impossible to be hurried. I hope that our preparations have now reached a termination, and that this medal will soon be in a position to be issued. I may add that as many as 1,500 officers will get the medal.

Motion, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

House adjourned at Five o'clock,
till To-morrow, half-past Ten
o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 14th May, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—

Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas) Bill.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time to-morrow.

PRIVATE BILL PETITIONS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the Petition for the following Bill, originating in the Lords, the Standing Orders have not been complied with, viz. :—

Kips' Patents Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders.

Cork Harbour Bill (King's Consent signified). Read the third time, and passed.

Coventry Electric Tramways Bill; Gorleston and Southtown Gas Bill; Hyde Corporation Bill; Nelson Corporation Bill; Seaforth and Sefton Junction Railway Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Watford and Edgware Railway Bill. As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time.

Dundee Royal Lunatic Asylum Order Confirmation Bill. Considered; to be read the third time upon Monday next.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 14). Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Colne and Swansea and the South Staffordshire Joint Small-Pox Hospital District, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Grant Lawson and Mr. Walter Long.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 14) Bill. "To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Colne and Swansea and the South Staffordshire Joint Small-Pox Hospital District," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 200.]

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 15). Bill to confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board relating to Liverpool, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Grant Lawson and Mr. Walter Long.

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 15) Bill. "To confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board relating to Liverpool," presented, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 201.]

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill. Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time Tomorrow.

Woolwich Borough Council Bill; South Yorkshire Joint Railways Bill; Baker Street and Waterloo Railway (Transfer) Bill; West Cumberland Electric Tramways Bill; Great Northern, Piccadilly, and Brompton Railway (Various Powers) Bill; Plymouth and Stonehouse Gas Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP No. 7).

Mr. SEALE-HAYNE reported from the Committee on Group No. 7 of Railway Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned until Tuesday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

Thames River Steamboat Service Bill. Reported [Preamble not proved]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Thames Steamboat Trust Bill. Reported [Preamble not proved]; Report to lie upon the Table.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to consolidate the existing loans of the Southampton Harbour Board and to empower them to raise further money; and to authorise contributions by and agreements with the London and South Western Railway Company and the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the borough of Southampton; and for other purposes." (Southampton Harbour Bill [Lords]).

Southampton Harbour Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

PETITIONS.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE BILL.

Petition from Truro, against; to lie upon the Table.

COAL MINES REGULATION BILL.

Petitions in favour: from Onllwyn; Merthyr Lantwit; Aberpergwm; Garswood; Gelly Ceidrim; Emlyn; Cwmteg;

Trimsaran; Cawdor; Wyndham; Abram; and Hephthorne Lane Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

DETENTION OF POOR PERSONS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Rafford, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES (REPAYMENT OF LOANS) BILL.

Petition from Kensington, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

LICENCES RENEWAL AND TRANSFER BILL.

Petitions against: from North Wales; and London; to lie upon the Table.

[LICENSING LAW (COMPENSATION FOR NON-RENEWAL) BILL.

Petitions against: from Coupar Angus; and Finsbury; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Petition from Hamilton, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

LONDON EDUCATION BILL.

[Petition from Kensington, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL.

Petitions in favour: from West Wyham; Radcliffe and Pilkington; Ashton-under-Lyne; Leeds; Holloway; Doncaster; Burnbank; Willington Quay; New Basford; Walker; Shrewsbury; Tiverton; Glasgow; Chorley; Withnell; Failsworth; Oldham; Clay Cross; Rhodes; Cannock; Hayfield; Royton; Brandon and Byshottles; Tudhoe; Mirfield; Willington; Pleasley; North Shields; Oxford; Irthlingborough; Kettering; Townhill; and Ashford; to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC HOUSES (HOURS OF CLOSING) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Greenock, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Petition from Birmingham for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SATURDAYS (IRELAND) BILL.

Petition from South Shields, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

SHOPS (EARLY CLOSING) BILL.

Petition from St. Pancras, against; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE DISPUTES BILL.

Petitions in favour; from Onllwyn; Merthyr Lantwit; Aberpergwm; Garswood; Gelly Ceidrim; Emlyn; Cawdor; Cwmtege; Pontardulais; Rockingham No. 1; and Abram Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EXPLOSIONS (LOWWOOD GUNPOWDER FACTORY, NEAR ULVERSTON).

Copy of Report by Major A. Cooper-Key, His Majesty's Inspector of Explosives, to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, on the circumstances attending an explosion which occurred in a press house of the Lowwood Gunpowder Company at Lowwood, near Ulverston, Lancashire, on the 12th March 1903 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN SCOTLAND (TECHNICAL EDUCATION).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 8th July, 1902; *The Lord Advocate*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 159.)

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS SECURITIES.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 1st April; *Mr. Hayes Fisher*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 160.)

RAILWAY (CERTIFICATES) (LONDON AND SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

Copy presented, of draft certificate of the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of a railway across the Western Shore Road, Southampton, to form a connection between a siding of the London and South Western Railway and the electric generating station belonging to the Corporation of Southampton [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Rules and Programme of Examinations for 1904 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 161.)

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2976 to 2978 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Practice Ammunition for the Navy.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty, in what way has the supply of practice ammunition, which was stated on 23rd April to have been recently revised, been affected by that revision; and is the allowance for heavy guns of eight rounds per gun per quarter the same allowance as was made thirty years ago, when the Navy had only muzzle-loading guns with a rate of fire of one round per minute as against the ten rounds per minute of the present day.

(Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.) The following alterations have been recently made in the regulations governing the supply of ammunition for practice purposes—1. The allowance to guns mounted on tops of turrets and barbettes was increased in March, 1899, from ten rounds per gun a quarter to forty rounds. 2. The ammunition for aiming rifle practice from heavy guns was increased at the same date from sixty to 100 rounds a quarter. 3. The following additional ammunition is now allowed to every man qualifying for the ratings of acting second captain of gun and acting qualified gunner.—Acting qualified gunner: aiming rifle, twenty rounds each; light quick-firing gun, five rounds each; heavy gun, five rounds each; acting second captain of gun: aiming rifle, twenty rounds each; heavy gun at towing target, ten rounds each. This alteration was made in April last. 4. There is also an additional allowance

of 200 rounds per quarter of Morris Tube ammunition for use with the deflection teacher for each captain and second captain of gun. This alteration was made in February last. 5. The new prize firing regulations, now about to be issued, provide for turret and barbette guns, carrying out prize firing by the method of independent firing instead of, as heretofore, firing singly. This will increase the expenditure of ammunition under more practical conditions. 6. Firing of lyddite shell in addition to the ordinary allowance of ammunition has recently been introduced. With regard to the latter part of the Question, the proportion of eight pounds a quarter is the same for breech-loading guns and heavy quick-firing guns as it was for muzzle-loading guns, but there is an important exception with regard to the allowance for prize firing. Under the old regulations any excess of ammunition expended when prize-firing was deducted from the following quarterly allowance, whereas there is now no limit to the number of rounds that a gun fires when prize firing; and however many rounds in excess of the normal allowance are expended, the usual quarterly allowance is fired next quarter without any deduction. Provision is thus made for the exercise of the utmost rapidity of fire that can be attained.

Native Labour in Transvaal Coal Mines.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS (Carnarvonshire, Eifion): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, seeing that the output of coal from the Transvaal coal mines since the war exceeds by nearly 50 per cent. the output in 1898, he can state whether the increased Kaffir labour in these mines has been obtained by any increase in the wages offered by the coal-owners to the Kaffir workmen.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.) I have no information on the subject.

Repairs to Boilers of H.M.S. "Ocean."

MR. HARMSWORTH (Caithnessshire): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he can state the nature of the repairs required to the Belleville

boilers of H.M.S. "Ocean," during her present detention in Hong Kong dock-yard.

(*Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.*) The repairs required to the boilers of the "Ocean" during the refit at Hong Kong comprised the renewal of the economiser tubes in four boilers out of the twenty fitted, moderate repairs of the boiler and uptake casings, and repair of the furnace fittings in all the boilers. The repairs have been completed.

Naval Shooting Returns—Defective Sights.

MR. HARMSWORTH: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he can state whether any of the shooting returns from ships in the Navy have been affected by defective gun-sights; and if so, in how many cases have the sights had to be re-adjusted.

(*Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.*) There have been two cases in which the shooting returns have been affected by defective gun-sights. Sights require frequent re-adjustment, and this is done by the gunnery officers of the ship in accordance with instructions contained in the Gunnery Manual.

"County" Class of Cruisers—Speed Tests.

MR. HARMSWORTH: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he can state how many cruisers of the "County" class have passed the three-hour full-power speed tests of twenty-three knots per hour; and which vessels, if any, have failed in this test.

(*Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.*) Three cruisers of the "County" class, namely, the "Bedford," "Kent," and "Monmouth," have passed their eight-hours full-power trials, and have attained speeds of 22.6 to 22.9 knots. These speeds are not considered final, as the question of the suitability of the screws fitted to these vessels is under consideration.

Licensing Prosecutions for Opening during Prohibited Hours.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON (Cornwall, Camborne): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether

his attention has been called to the action of the Highgate bench of magistrates in dismissing, on the 5th instant, a police summons for keeping open during prohibited hours, the ground of dismissal being that a licensed house could be kept open all day on Sunday so long as it was not open for the sale of intoxicating liquors; and, if so, whether he proposes to take any steps in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas*) I understand from inquiries which I have made of the justices that the ground on which the case was dismissed was not as stated in the Question. The charge was brought under Section 9 of The Licensing Act, 1874, for keeping licensed premises open for the sale of intoxicating liquors during the time the premises were required to be closed. The facts of the case, as admitted, viz.: that two men, who claimed to be *bonâ fide* travellers, were being served at 11.20 on a Sunday morning with ginger beer, were held by the bench not to substantiate the charge.

Destruction by Police of Animals Mortally Injured in Street Accidents.

SIR BARRINGTON SIMEON (Southampton): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will consider the advisability of giving the police authority immediately to kill any horse or dog that may be mortally injured in the streets of London and other towns in Great Britain and Ireland, so as to avoid the torture which animals constantly undergo whilst the consent of their owner is being obtained for their destruction.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*) The police are already empowered under The Injured Animals Act, 1894, to kill an injured horse without the consent of the owner if a veterinary surgeon certifies that the animal is injured mortally or so severely that it is cruel to keep it alive. This power is frequently exercised by the police in London; and there are standing arrangements by which the services of veterinary surgeons can be obtained

without delay. There is no similar provision with regard to dogs; but I believe that injuries to dogs in the streets are not so common as to require special legislation.

"Black List"—Consent of Persons Placed Thereon.

MR. BROOKE ROBINSON (Dudley): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Home Office propose to do anything to remove the disabilities attaching to persons who have lately without their consent been sentenced by magistrates to be placed on a so-called black list, some being also committed to an inebriates' home, having regard to the fact that such sentences the High Court, in the case of the Commissioner of Police *v.* Donovan, has decided to have been illegal.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.) There seems to be some misunderstanding as to the effect of the decision referred to. The High Court decided that in order that an inebriate may be dealt with summarily it is necessary that he should consent to the jurisdiction of the magistrate. If he did not so consent the magistrate would be obliged to commit him for trial, when an order under Section 6 of the Licensing Act, 1902, or under the Inebriates Act, 1898, could be made upon the prisoner's conviction by a jury. The consent is not necessary in regard to the actual making of any such order. There appears to be no action for me to take in the matter.

Employment of Children Bill—Date of Next Stage.

MR. TALBOT (Oxford University): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether it is proposed to take the further stages of the Employment of Children Bill before Whitsuntide; and whether he will undertake that the Bill shall not be brought on without notice.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.) I hope to be able to make progress with this Bill before Whitsuntide; but I cannot make any definite statement as to dates. I will, however, undertake that due notice shall be given.

Waima Incident—Payment of Compensation.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea District): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the compensation due to the sufferers by the Waima incident has yet been paid by the Government of the French Republic; and, if not, what is the cause of the prolonged delay in the settlement; has any correspondence taken place between His Majesty's Government and the Government of the Republic of France since the publication of the award in the matter; and, if so, will he lay it upon the Table.

(Answered by Lord Cranborne.) The French Ambassador has been authorised to settle this claim, and the money will be paid during the next few days.

Sea Police Duties of H.M.S. "Seamew," "Speedwell" and "Cockchafer."

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Lord Advocate if he will state whether H.M.Ss. "Seamew," "Speedwell," or "Cockchafer" have been engaged on sea police duty during the present year; and, if so, will he say what areas have come within their respective patrol and the number of days each vessel was engaged at sea.

(Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.) H.M.S. "Seamew," after undergoing her annual refit, commencing 2nd March, left Harwich on the 6th May for the protection of the trawl fishing from Ramsgate to The Wash (later on from Brown Ridge and Broad Fourteens), also of the whelk fishing in The Wash. She has been on duty continually since that date. H.M.S. "Speedwell," after undergoing her annual refit, commencing 22nd January, left South Queensferry on the 7th May for fishery duties in the Shetlands, with head quarters at Lerwick. She has been on duty continuously since that date. H.M.S. "Cockchafer" is at Queensferry making good defects, which were taken in hand on the 16th March, and has not yet been detailed for fishery duties. She will proceed to the Shetlands about the 1st proximo.

Sir Bhashyam Aiyanger.

MR. H. C. RICHARDS (Finsbury, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will state under what circumstances and for what reasons has Sir Bhashyam Aiyanger been continued in office after the assignment of a special land grant as pension, and after passing the age limit, upon which understanding he had been originally appointed.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) Sir Bhashyam Aiyanger has been continued in office after the date on which he would otherwise have retired because the sudden illness of another Judge created an unexpected vacancy, and it was thought desirable to make as little change in the Court as possible. I explained, in reply to a Question by my hon. friend on the 24th ultimo, the circumstances under which a special grant of land revenue was made.†

Elections Declared Void—Eligibility of Candidate for re-election.

SIR CHRISTOPHER FURNESS (Hartlepool): To ask Mr. Attorney-General whether he will consider the advisability of amending the law to prevent the nomination of candidates at municipal elections whose previous election has been declared void by a decision of a court of law.

(*Answered by Sir Robert Finlay.*) Provision is already made by the law for the disqualification of persons convicted of corrupt or illegal practices. I do not know what is the precise alteration of

the law as to disqualification which is suggested, but it would be going too far to provide that avoidance of an election for any cause whatever should entail subsequent disqualification.

Postal Facilities at Ballahacomane, near Killarney.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): To ask the Postmaster-General if his attention has been called to the fact that a daily delivery of letters takes place in part of the townland of Ballahacomane, near Killarney, county Kerry, whereas only a bi-weekly service is given in the other part of the same townland; and, if so, can he arrange for similar treatment for the entire townland.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) I will make inquiry as to the arrangements for the delivery of letters in the townland of Ballahacomane, near Killarney, in order to ascertain whether any improvement can be effected, and I will inform the hon. Member of the result as soon as possible.

Customs and Excise Duties on Beer, Spirits, and Tobacco.

SIR HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will state the amount of duties (Customs and Excise) respectively received from beer, spirits, and tobacco in the year ending 31st March 1903, and the quantities of beer, spirits, and tobacco in respect of which such duties were paid.

(*Answered by Mr. Ritchie.*) The particulars are approximately as follows:—

	Quantity.	Imperial Revenue.	Local Taxation Revenue.	Total.
Customs :		£	£	£
Beer - -	55,561 barrels	23,255	693	23,948
Spirits - -	8,589,265 gallons	4,739,779	215,256	4,955,035
Tobacco -	81,132,874 lbs.	12,442,949	—	12,442,949
Excise :				
Beer - -	35,370,000 barrels	13,263,900	442,100	13,706,000
Spirits - -	34,757,000 gallons	18,164,300	869,000	19,033,300

† See (4) *Debates*, cxxi., 357.

Pensions of Abstractor Clerks.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether his attention has been called to cases of efficient Abstractor Class established clerks who have been retired at the age of sixty, and who, although they were recommended for pensions on all their temporary service by the heads of their departments, have been awarded pensions of less than 15s. per week for continuous services of from twenty-eight to thirty-one years; and, if so, whether he will reconsider the cases of these clerks, with the view of granting to each of them a pension based on all admitted temporary service, under the powers of Clause 3 of the Superannuation Act of 1887.

(Answered by Mr. Arthur Elliot.) My attention has not been called to specific cases of the kind alluded to in the Question, but I can hold out no hope that the present practice as to reckoning the pension of these officers will be reconsidered.

Transfer of Voluntary Schools.

MR. ELLIS GRIFFITH (Anglesey): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether in the event of the managers of a voluntary school in a non-school board district passing a resolution, prior to the appointed day for the area in which the school is situated, to transfer the school to the local education authority, under Section 23 of The Education Act, 1870, and conforming with all the necessary conditions of such transfer, the local education authority would be empowered to accept the transfer without reference to Section 8 of The Education Act, 1902, and to conduct the school as a council school from the appointed day.

(Answered by Sir William Anson.) As the transfer could not be completed before the appointed day, the provisions of Section 8 must necessarily apply to such case.

Newport County Council's Education Scheme.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): To ask the Secretary to the Board of

Education whether the scheme passed by the Newport County Council on 14th April, and afterwards submitted to this Department, was passed by an absolute majority of the whole Council; and whether, seeing that the scheme of 14th April was, in principle, the same as that of 13th February, but modified in detail to comply with the suggestions made by the Board of Education to the Council, he will state the specific object of the inquiry proposed to be held under Section 22 (10) of the Act of 1902.

(Answered by Sir William Anson.) The scheme submitted to the Board on the 13th of March was of a wholly different character to the schemes referred to by the hon. Member. As I stated on the 7th May,† there is evidently a wide difference of opinion in the borough as to the composition of the Committee, and the object of the inquiry will be to ascertain whether a scheme cannot be framed which would satisfy both parties that the educational purposes in which they were interested would receive fair treatment and full consideration at the hands of the local education authority.

Sligo Police Barracks.

MR. H. C. RICHARDS: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will direct further inquiries to be made as to the original ownership of the land upon which the barracks for the Royal Irish Constabulary at Sligo have been built; and if he is aware that the owner of the adjacent lands upon which a further extension has been proposed has been informed that no record exists, nor is any title forthcoming of the original acquisition of the land in 1866.

(Answered by Mr. Atkinson.) It is not proposed to make further inquiry on the point referred to. No extension of Sligo Barracks is at present contemplated. The extension contemplated in 1891 was not carried out. The owner of adjacent lands was informed that certain particulars applied for in reference to the acquisition of the site of Sligo Barracks cannot be furnished.

† See page 29.

Poor Law Superannuation (Ireland) Bill.

MR. O'MALLEY (Galway, Connemara): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to the alterations made in the Poor Law Superannuation (Ireland) Bill so far as the financial clauses of the Bill limiting the charges on the rates under its provisions to a farthing in the pound are concerned, and the increase in the amount of the officers' contributions from a stationary 2 per cent. to a graduated 2, 2½, and 3 per cent. deduction; and, if so, whether he can afford facilities for a discussion of the Bill during the present session of Parliament.

(*Answered by Mr. Atkinson.*) The Bill of this year differs in no material respect from the Bill of last year. The actuary, whose report upon the Bill of 1901 was presented to Parliament, considers that, even on the very favourable assumptions on which he based his report, a rate of one farthing in the pound on the valuations of the unions would be wholly inadequate to meet the liabilities of the fund proposed in the Bill. The question whether facilities will be afforded for discussing the Bill during the present session is properly one that should be addressed to the Prime Minister.

Valuations of Licensed Premises in Ireland.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the valuation of the licensed premises occupied by Mrs. Lowe, Kiltegan, County Wicklow, has been raised without giving Mrs. Lowe notice in time to allow of her entering an appeal; and, if so, whether he will take steps to provide, by legislation or otherwise, that the Commissioners of Valuation in Dublin shall not increase the valuation of licensed premises without giving due notice to the occupier.

(*Answered by Mr. Atkinson.*) Mrs. Lowe received the same notice that all ratepayers do under the Valuation Acts in similar cases. The revised valuation lists were issued to the County Council on 1st April, and were then published by the Council in the manner prescribed

by statute. Mrs. Lowe had twenty-seven days within which to appeal. No legislation, as suggested, is called for.

Pay of Volunteer and Militia Medical Officers.

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford): To ask the Secretary of State for War if he will explain why those medical officers of the Militia and Volunteers whom the War Office has employed continuously for the last three years or more in lieu of Royal Army Medical Corps officers, and whose services it still finds necessary, through the dearth of Regular medical officers, to retain for the same duties, no longer receive the pay and allowances of their corresponding Army rank, but have been reduced to a salary of £270 per annum, a reduction in the case of a lieutenant of more than £50, and in that of a captain of nearly £100 per annum.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) These officers have been demobilised and are now employed as civil medical practitioners. They act as such entirely at their own option, and it is impossible to treat them differently from other civil medical practitioners.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.**21st Lancers—Alleged Ill-treatment.**

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is in a position to give any information to the House in reference to the ill-treatment of an officer of the 21st Lancers.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): No, Sir, I am not yet in a position to give any information on this subject. An inquiry is being held.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether, in view of the statements which have appeared in the Press on this matter, he will say when he will be in a position to give information.

MR. BRODRICK: I really cannot say. The question is being inquired into by

the Field Marshal the Commander-in-Chief in Ireland, and until a communication is made to the War Office I will not be in a position to say.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: When the right hon. Gentleman receives that communication will he inform me or tell me when to put down another Question?

MR. BRODRICK: When a Question is addressed to me I always endeavour to give the information required. If the hon. Gentleman wishes I will inform him when I am in a position to give information on this matter.

Irish Garrison—Supply of Brushes.

MR. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state the contract value of the brushes supplied from the Receiving Depôt at Woolwich for the use of the troops in Ireland during the years 1898, 1899, and 1900 respectively.

MR. BRODRICK: The figures are as follows—1898, £2,733; 1899, £1,621; 1900, £3,180.

Belfast Barracks Canteen Arrangements.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will state under what arrangements are the troops of Holywood and Victoria Barracks supplied with groceries, and when is it tendered for; and whether, seeing that the canteen shops are supplied by a person who pays an annual sum for liberty to do so without tenders being asked for, he will state what sum is so paid.

MR. BRODRICK: This is a matter resting entirely with the General Officer Commanding, to whom my hon. friend should address any communications on the subject he may like to make.

MR. SLOAN: Can the right hon. Gentleman say whether any tender was asked for under this contract?

MR. BRODRICK: With regard to canteens the contracts never come to the War Office at all. We have no cognisance whatever of the arrangements made by General Officers Commanding in

their districts for the supply of the canteens.

MR. SLOAN: Then I may take it the War Office are not aware whether these things were contracted for or not?

SIR JAMES HASLETT (Belfast, N.): Can the right hon. Gentleman say if the existing arrangements work satisfactorily?

MR. BRODRICK: I am afraid I cannot give my hon. friend a reply to that. The question of canteens is never dealt with at the War Office. With a view to decentralisation and placing a proper responsibility on commanding officers it has been deemed very undesirable that the War Office should assume duties which they have never undertaken before.

Guild of the Holy Standard.

MR. SLOAN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can give the number of commissioned and officiating Army chaplains who are members of the Guild of the Holy Standard.

MR. BRODRICK: The Army Guild is a voluntary association of Church of England communicants in the Army, and the War Office has no knowledge whatever of the point raised in the Question.

The Mullah—Treatment of a Spy.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS (Carnarvonshire, Eifion): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he has now any information as to a native having been arrested in Berbera in December last on suspicion of being a spy of the Mullah, who denied the charge, but eventually, under punishment, confessed that he was a spy; and whether he can say if the punishment was inflicted for the purpose of obtaining the confession, what was the nature of the punishment, and by whose orders it was inflicted.

MR. BRODRICK: On inquiry General Manning stated, on 27th December last, that there was no foundation whatever for the statement made in the Question as to the punishment of the spy, but that the Press message to which the

hon. Member evidently alludes should have read as follows: "Prisoner confessed that, under threat of punishment, he was employed by the Mullah as a spy."

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Where is the Mullah now?

Gunnery in the Mediterranean Fleet.

MR. HARMSWORTH (Caithness-shire): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that the comparative merit of the shooting efficiency of twenty of the ships in the Mediterranean Squadron has been published; and whether he will now lay this information before the House.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): My attention has been drawn to the fact that certain Returns with respect to gunnery in the Mediterranean have been published. They were not published with the authority of the Admiralty, and, as I have previously stated in answer to Questions, it is not considered to be in the interests of the service that detailed Returns with regard to the gunnery of individual ships should be given, especially in view of the fact that similar information is not obtainable with regard to ships of any other Navy. It is not proposed to lay any such Return as that referred to before Parliament. As I have already informed the hon. Member in answer to Questions, the Admiralty will always be prepared to give information to the House with respect to the progress of gunnery in the Navy, and an abstract of the Gunnery Returns showing the order of merit of the respective ships will, for the future, be issued to the ships, and will, of course, be available for the information of Parliament.

Cretan Operations.

MR. HARMSWORTH: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he can state when the medal for the Cretan operations is to be distributed.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I think the hon. Member's Question must be due

to a misapprehension, as no medal has been authorised for the Cretan operations.

Practice Ammunition for the Navy.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty in what way has the supply of practice ammunition, which was stated on 23rd April to have been recently revised, been affected by that revision; and is the allowance for heavy guns of eight rounds per gun per quarter the same allowance as was made thirty years ago, when the Navy had only muzzle-loading guns with a rate of fire of one round per minute as against the ten rounds per minute of the present day.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I can only answer my hon. friend's Question fully by a detailed statement, and I must therefore ask him to allow me to furnish him with a printed reply, which will be circulated with the Votes, as I think it is not desirable to reply at such length in the House.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Cannot the hon. Gentleman answer the last part of my Question?

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I could, but it would have a very misleading effect if taken by itself.

The following is the reply referred to in the above answer:

The following alterations have been recently made in the regulations governing the supply of ammunition for practice purposes: 1. The allowance to guns mounted on tops of turrets and barbets was increased in March, 1899, from ten rounds per gun a quarter to forty rounds. 2. The ammunition for aiming rifle practice from heavy guns was increased at the same date from sixty to one hundred rounds a quarter. 3. The following additional ammunition is now allowed to every man qualifying for the ratings of acting 2nd captain of gun and acting qualified gunner:—acting qualified gunner, aiming rifle, twenty rounds each; light quick-firing gun, five rounds each; heavy gun, five rounds each. Acting 2nd captain of gun: aiming rifle, twenty rounds each;

heavy gun at towing target, ten rounds each; this alteration was made in April last. 4. There is also an additional allowance of 200 rounds per quarter of Morris Tube ammunition for use with the deflection teacher, for each captain and 2nd captain of gun. This alteration was made in February last. 5. The new prize firing regulations, now about to be issued, provide for turret and barbette guns carrying out prize firing by the method of independent firing, instead of as heretofore firing singly. This will increase the expenditure of ammunition under more practical conditions. 6. Firing of lyddite shell in addition to the ordinary allowance of ammunition has recently been introduced. With regard to the latter part of the question, the proportion of eight rounds a quarter is the same for breech-loading guns and heavy quick-firing guns as it was for muzzle-loading guns, but there is an important exception with regard to the allowance for prize firing. Under the old regulations any excess of ammunition expended when prize firing was deducted from the following quarterly allowance, whereas there is now no limit to the number of rounds that a gun fires when prize firing, and however many rounds in excess of the normal allowance are expended, the usual quarterly allowance is fired next quarter without any deduction. Provision is thus made for the exercise of the utmost rapidity of fire that can be attained.

Gunnery Efficiency in the Navy.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty, is he aware that in 1901 H.M.S. "Alarm," "Dryad," and "Renard," and that in 1902 H.M.S. "Renard," "Speedy," and "Gleaner," did not once hit the target at prize firing; did the special reports with regard to gunnery efficiency, forwarded to the Admiralty for consideration at the time of the half-yearly recommendations of lieutenants for promotion, disclose the cause of these unsatisfactory results; and if not, what inquiry has been made to ascertain whether these results were due either to faults in the gunnery officers of these ships, or to the ships themselves, or to

the gunnery officers having been deprived of necessary facilities for conducting gunnery training by the Admiral, the captain, or the executive officer.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The facts are as stated in the first portion of my hon. friend's question. In these and in all similar cases the reasons of failure are reported on by the Admirals under whose orders the ships are acting. The reports are fully considered on receipt by the Admiralty, and such steps are taken with regard to the individual officers concerned as in the opinion of the Admiralty are required. My hon. friend is doubtless aware that the mere absence of direct hits in the case of such small vessels as the "Speedy" and "Gleaner," is not in itself an evidence of bad gunnery.

Coal Storage.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty how far the experiments directed towards preventing the deterioration of coal when stored have proceeded; and, seeing that the deterioration which takes place in weathered coal is said to be physical rather than chemical, will he arrange that a chemical analysis shall be made of the coal at the beginning and close of each further experiment.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Experiments for the purpose of ascertaining the result of storing coal under water are in progress. Chemical analyses are made at intervals, but sufficient time has not yet elapsed for a complete and satisfactory report to be furnished.

British Indian Subjects in the Transvaal.

MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, if he has yet received the report of the Inter-Colonial Conference that was held at Bloemfontein, and whether he will lay upon the Table of the House the proposals of the Transvaal Government with reference to the conditions of residence and trade of British Indian subjects.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire,

E.): The right hon. Gentleman is unavoidably absent and has asked me to read his answer as follows—"I have received the report of the Inter-Colonial Conference at Bloemfontein, but the report makes no mention of any special proposals with reference to the conditions of residence and trade of British Indian subjects as having been put forward by the Transvaal Government. A despatch from Lord Milner dealing with the question of the position of the Asiatics in the Transvaal is on its way to me."

Coolies in Trinidad Gaols.

MR. SCHWANN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the fact that a large proportion of the convicts in the Trinidad gaols are indentured coolies sentenced under special regulations for breach of service rules, he will lay upon the Table of the House those regulations, and state what arrangements exist for the protection of indentured coolies in Trinidad.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN (for Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN): The provisions made for the protection and control of indentured coolies in Trinidad are embodied in the Immigration Ordinance of 1899 as amended by Ordinances 2 and 33 of 1902. These Ordinances are in the Library of the House.

Russian Import Duties on Scottish-Cured Herrings.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been directed to a Report of the General Inspector of Sea Fisheries relative to the Continental herring trade, showing that a uniform rate of duty is charged on all kinds and qualities of herring imported into Russia; and whether, in view of the effect upon the trade if the duty on the cheaper classes of Scottish-cured herrings were reduced to a level somewhat similar to that imposed by Germany, he will consider the expediency of making efforts to secure the desired reduction.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord CRANBORNE, Rochester): The subject of

the Russian duty on Scotch herrings has been under the consideration of His Majesty's Government for some time past, and, after receiving a Report on the matter from His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg, they came to the conclusion that no good purpose would be served by any representations to the Russian Government with a view to the lowering of the Customs tariff.

Monastir Massacres.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he is in a position to make any statement in reference to the alleged massacre of Christians near Monastir.

LORD CRANBORNE: His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Monastir telegraphed on the 7th instant that a panic prevailed there on the previous day as a result of a fatal quarrel between a Bulgarian and a Turk. In several quarters of the town Bulgarians were attacked by armed Mussulmans. Several Christians, principally Bulgarians, were believed to have been killed and wounded. The whole garrison was under arms, and the Vali had taken energetic measures to restrain the Turkish population. Disturbances were also reported from outlying villages, and a number of prisoners had been brought to Monastir. The reports which reach us from Turkish sources are somewhat inconsistent, but they all agree that the statements in regard to the loss of life are greatly exaggerated, that there have been no disturbances within the last three days, and that business is being transacted as usual.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: May I ask whether any representations have been made by His Majesty's Government to the Turkish Government with regard to the massacre of these Christians?

LORD CRANBORNE: His Majesty's Ambassador is constantly in communication with the Porte on many of these matters.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: It does not do much good.

Liverpool Small-pox Outbreak—Escape of Patient from Fazakerley Hospital.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will state under what circumstances a man named Costello, of Latimer Street, Liverpool, recently escaped from Fazakerley Small-pox Hospital; and, in view of the danger which may result therefrom, will he state what steps, if any, he proposes to take in the matter.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (MR. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.): I am informed that on the evening of the 19th March the patient referred to, who up to that time had shown no indication whatever of mental derangement, left his ward and went into the grounds of the hospital. He was followed by the hospital officials, and found on land belonging to the Corporation adjoining the hospital grounds. It may be mentioned that the hospital site is 130 acres in extent. The incident was not attended with any ill effects either to the man or anyone else. I do not propose to take any steps in the matter.

Liverpool Emigrant Lodging Houses.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that out of thirty-four houses in Great George Square, Liverpool, eleven are habitually used as emigrant lodging houses and are overcrowded; is he aware that when the houses Nos. 11 and 18 Great George Square were visited on the 25th March last by Inspector Ball, he found at the former house no fewer than eighty-six persons in excess of the regulation number, while at the latter house he found sixty-one in excess; and, seeing that the houses are the property of the Corporation of Liverpool, will he consider the expediency of communicating with that body on the subject, having regard to the fact that an epidemic of small-pox has been raging at Liverpool for upwards of six months.

MR. WALTER LONG: I have communicated with the Town Clerk of Liverpool on this subject, and he informs me that in Great George Square there are nine houses registered for the

accommodation of emigrants. None of these are in the possession of the Corporation. It is stated that the houses are of a high class of respectability, and that the emigrants using them are chiefly Scandinavians, who are cleanly and well conducted people. The houses are stated to be kept scrupulously clean. They are under the supervision of the Corporation and are visited daily and frequently by night also. The unexpected arrival of a large body of emigrants on the 25th of March resulted in an excessive number being received into Nos. 11 and 18. Proceedings were taken by the Corporation in respect of the overcrowding thus caused and a fine was imposed in each case. As regards small-pox, I am assured that the disease is very rarely introduced into Liverpool by emigrants, who, as a rule, are vaccinated before starting. I am glad to add that the outbreak at Liverpool is stated to be subsiding—a result which appears to be largely owing to the strenuous action taken by the Corporation.

Local Rate Collections.¹

MR. MANSFIELD} (Lincolnshire, Spalding): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if his attention has been drawn to the fact that in certain parts of the country where ratepayers have refused to pay a portion of the local rates the rate collectors have refused to accept the portion tendered, whereas in other districts the rate collectors have accepted as much of the rate as was offered; and, if so, will he consider the advisability of issuing a circular to the local authorities advising them to instruct the overseers and rate collectors to accept as much of a rate as is offered them by the ratepayers.

MR. WALTER LONG: I have not received any communications drawing attention to cases of the kind alluded to, but I have seen references to the matter in the newspapers. It rests with the overseers to decide whether they will or will not in any particular case accept part payment of an amount of poor rate due from any ratepayer; but I am advised that in any case where part of

a rate is accepted it cannot be allocated to any particular purpose, but must be treated as paid towards all the purposes or which the rate is levied. I do not propose to issue a circular of the kind suggested by the hon. Member.

Scottish Industries and the St. Louis Exhibition.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, in view of the fact that the Irish Department of Agriculture are arranging for a special exhibit of Irish industries at the St. Louis Exhibition, will the Secretary for Scotland consider the expediency of making arrangements for an exhibit of Highland industries.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL FOR SCOTLAND (MR. SCOTT DICKSON, Glasgow, Bridgton): The Secretary for Scotland is not in a position to add anything to the reply given on the 11th March.†

Loans to Scottish Fishermen.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, in view of the fact that out of a sum of £30,111 16s 7d. advanced by the Fishery Board for Scotland to fishermen by way of loan up to 1891 the Board have recovered £23,282 6s. 5d. of the principal and £3,579 5s. 4d. interest, will the Board now consider the expediency of resuming the practice of granting loans to fishermen in crofting fishery districts.

MR. SCOTT DICKSON: The Fishery Board has no present intention to revert to the practice of granting loans to fishermen, which was discontinued only after mature consideration.

Civil Code for the United Kingdom.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General whether he has observed that the Reichstag has formally sanctioned the Civil Code framed by a Commission of distinguished jurists for the German Empire; and, if so, will he consider the advisability of preparing a similar code for the United Kingdom or British Empire.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): My hon. friend will realise that it would not be practicable to have one Code for the whole Empire, owing to the many systems of law which are in force within the United Kingdom; there are great divergences between the laws of Scotland and England. Considerable progress has been made with the codification of particular parts of the law and more would be done in this direction, if it were possible to make arrangements that the details should not be discussed in Parliament.

Holyrood Palace.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the hon. Member for North Huntingdonshire, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, if he will state whether during the last three years the Office of Works surveyor at Edinburgh reported on the condition of Holyrood Palace, and, if so, on what dates; and will he say when and by whom the defective condition of the drainage was first brought under notice.

MR. AILWYN FELLOWES (Huntingdonshire, Ramsey): The condition of Holyrood Palace has been the subject of annual examination and report for several years past. The architect and surveyor of the Office of Works reported last October that the drainage was defective.

MR. WEIR: Was the Report sent in to the gentleman deputed to represent the Office of Works in Scotland?

MR. AILWYN FELLOWES: Certainly.

Rotten Row.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I beg to ask the hon. Member for North Huntingdonshire, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, whether he has considered the condition of the ride in Rotten Row, the defects wherein have continued for many years and are yearly increasing; whether measures cannot now be adopted to take up the whole of the existing soil of the Row to a depth of several feet in order to

† See (4) *Debates*, cxix., 384.

provide such a new sub-soil and surface as will secure permanent and adequate drainage to the Row; and whether he will take further steps in order to secure an increase in the present provision of labour for keeping the Row in good order.

MR. AILWYN FELLOWES: The First Commissioner has had under consideration the improvement of the ride in Rotten Row. He proposes to ask the Treasury to sanction the provision in next year's Estimate of £500 as the first annual instalment of a total expenditure of £2,500 on this service. To do the work all at one time would be a great inconvenience to the public; and it is therefore better to do it in sections. In the First Commissioner's opinion, it is not necessary to incur the excessive outlay which would be involved in the drastic measures of my hon. friend; the renewal of the sand will provide an adequately and sufficiently rapid drainage; and the additional sum proposed to be taken will enable more to be spent on labour.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Is the whole £500 to be spent on sand and nothing on the drainage? Is the hon. Gentleman aware the complaint is of defective drainage and not so much of surface?

MR. AILWYN FELLOWES: If the sand is placed there I am told it will improve the drainage.

Education Bill—Hyde Park Demonstration.

SIR GEORGE BARTLEY (Islington, N.): I beg to ask the hon. Member for North Huntingdonshire what arrangements have been made as to the number of platforms authorised for the demonstration in Hyde Park on Saturday.

MR. AILWYN FELLOWES: Under the Parks Regulations the First Commissioner of Works has sanctioned only six platforms for the demonstration on the Education Bill on Saturday; but he has since, in response to representations that these were insufficient, allowed the use of twelve vans as platforms.

Education Department—Resignation of Mr. Sadler.

MR. EMMOTT (Oldham): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education if he can state what the new proposals or arrangements affecting the department of special inquiries and reports are which have led to the resignation of Mr. M. E. Sadler, the director of that department; and whether any correspondence on the question will be laid upon the Table.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir WILLIAM ANSON, Oxford University): The Board of Education made no proposals affecting the department of special inquiries, nor did they suggest any departure from the terms of Mr. Acland's minute adopted by the Treasury when the office came into existence in 1895. Such new proposals as were made, were made by Mr. Sadler who some weeks ago asked as a condition of his continuing to hold his post for an increase in the funds, staff, and accommodation for his branch of the department, and for a discretion in the use of them so wide as to appear inconsistent with the terms of his appointment. The Board were anxious to meet the wishes of Mr. Sadler but felt bound to call his attention to the terms under which his office was created by Mr. Acland; to his relation to the Heads of the Department; and to the fact that his services and those of his staff must at all times be at the absolute disposal of the Board. Mr. Sadler considered that the general inquiries which he might be conducting should take precedence of the immediate wants of the Board if in his opinion they were of greater importance. This was not the view of the Board, and Mr. Sadler thereupon declined to continue in his office. I shall be happy to lay the Papers on the Table if the hon. Member desires it.

West Horsley National School.

MR. MANSFIELD: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education if his attention has been drawn to the fact that the managers of the West Horsley (Surrey) National School have dismissed the head master because he refused to

sign an agreement accepting the school-house as it stood, and promising not to require the managers to put it in good repair; and, if so, will he consider the advisability of issuing a circular requesting the local authorities to instruct their surveyors to report on the condition of each house before they accept any liability in connection therewith.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: My attention has been drawn to the facts stated. I do not think that the local authorities need advice in a matter which concerns the ordinary relations of landlord and tenant.

Public Offices (Dublin) Bill.

*MR. MOONEY (Dublin County, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he will arrange to invite Irish architects to submit plans in competition for the proposed new buildings contemplated by the Public Offices (Dublin) Bill.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. ELLIOT, Durham): I do not propose to adopt the suggested method of selecting an architect for the proposed new buildings.

*MR. MOONEY: Will the hon. Gentleman undertake that the architect will be selected by the Board of Works, acting upon the advice of the Board of Agriculture.

MR. ELLIOT: I can assure the hon. Member that any recommendations from the Irish Board of Agriculture and the Office of Works for Ireland will carry with them great weight.

Cork Model Schools.

MR. FLYNN (Cork Co., N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state the estimated number of children the Cork Model Schools were constructed to accommodate, and the number now in daily average attendance,

and the annual cost per child at present; and whether, in view of the public meeting of the citizens held on the 10th instant in regard to these schools and the claim of the Technical Instruction Committee, he will state what steps the Commissioners of National Education are prepared to take in view of the expenses incurred by the Technical Instruction Committee.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N., for Mr. WYNDHAM): The Cork Model Schools were built to accommodate 1,226 pupils. In 1902 there were 359 pupils on the rolls and 260 in average daily attendance. The expenditure on the schools in 1902 was £1,819 18s. 4d. This, divided by the average attendance for the past year, gives a sum of £7 per pupil. But this money is not all expended on the pupils. The schools are normal schools for the training of pupil teachers and are a centre for the training of national teachers in elementary science, hand and eye work, cookery, and other extra branches. The circumstances under which the Commissioners decided to require possession of the school premises from the Technical Instruction Committee were mentioned in my right hon. friend's reply to a Question put to him on the 18th December last.† The matter was again before the Commissioners on the 31st March, when they decided to adhere to their determination.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): Inasmuch as the Technical Instruction Committee, which got possession of a portion of this building last January, is now under notice of eviction from the National Board may I ask whether the Irish Government would make some representation to the Board to postpone the eviction until the Irish Education Estimates, come on when an opportunity will be had of discussing the matter.

MR. ATKINSON: As I understand, the point in dispute between the Committee and the Commissioners is this: The Technical Instruction Committee got

† See (4) *Debates*, cxvi, 1631.

permission to occupy the premises temporarily. They thereupon decided upon making alterations of the structure entirely at variance with the general scheme of the premises. And therefore the Commissioners required them to leave. I do not think it is in the power of the Irish Government to coerce or force the Board.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: Of course, I recognise there is no power to coerce the Commissioners, but inasmuch as the matters in dispute are of such enormous importance as to require discussion in this House, will the Irish Government represent to the Commissioners the necessity of postponing for a month the eviction of the Committee so that we shall have an opportunity of discussing this matter?

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): May I ask whether it is a fact that this body, which spends £1,300,000 of Irish money annually, is a body over which the Government has no control.

MR. ATKINSON: I think the hon. Gentleman is perfectly well aware of that circumstance.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: I should not have asked if I had known.

MR. ATKINSON: I will communicate with my right hon. friend the Chief Secretary on the matter.

MR. FLYNN: Is it not a fact that the Local Government Board Inspector was sent down on behalf of the Commissioners and certified that the alterations were satisfactory and that no structural alterations were intended, and that the Committee have spent £700 already upon the building.

MR. ATKINSON: I must ask the hon. Member to put that Question down upon the Paper.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork Co., E.): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the Borough Council and the County Council have both protested against the high-handed action of the Commissioners.

MR. ATKINSON: Both bodies are anxious to get this school for their own purposes.

AN IRISH MEMBER: All classes and creeds are united in this matter.

Dromore Labourers' Cottages.

MR. WILLIAM M'KILLOP (Sligo, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that several labourers' cottages were applied for in the Dromore West Union, county Sligo, and that the sites were approved and the plans perfected; and, if so, whether he will explain the cause of delay in the erection of these cottages.

MR. ATKINSON: The District Council in January last made an improvement scheme for the erection of a number of cottages, but the scheme has not yet been forwarded to the Local Government Board for approval. The District Council are, apparently, solely in default.

Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act—Convicted Justices of the Peace.

MR. MANSFIELD: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, in view of the fact that all the prisoners under the Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act have been liberated, will he consider the advisability of restoring their commission to those Justices of the Peace who, through imprisonment under the Act, have been deprived of their seats on the magistrates' bench.

MR. ATKINSON: The disqualification is statutory in Ireland, as it is in England. The Executive have no power in the matter. I refer the hon. Member to my right hon. friend's reply to a similar Question addressed to him on the 31st March by the hon. Member for North Longford on the question of legislation necessary on the subject.†

MR. DELANY (Queen's Co., Ossory): Cannot the Government take steps to remove the disqualifications from county and district councillors?

MR. ATKINSON: It can only be done by legislation.

† See (4) *Debates*, cxx., 690.

Irish Electoral Divisions.

MR. O'KELLY (Mayo, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, if he will

grant the Return, Electoral Divisions (Ireland), on to-day's Notice Paper.

The Return referred to is as follows:—

Electoral Divisions (Ireland).—Return showing the area, valuation, population, and occupiers in the electoral divisions of each Union in the counties of Galway, Sligo, Leitrim, and Roscommon, in the following form:—

Electoral Divisions.	Area of each Electoral Division in acres.		Population.	Decrease in Population in two decades.	Number of Occupiers in each Electoral Division whose Valuation amounts to—							Valuation per head of the Population.	Valuation per head of Population excluding Valuation of grazing farms.	Area and Valuation of grazing lands.	
	1881.	1901.			£4 and under.	£6 and over £4.	£8 and over £6.	£10 and over £8.	£15 and over £10.	Over £15.	Total Occupiers in each Electoral Division.			Area in acres.	Valuation.
£															£

Districts scheduled as congested are marked thus *.

MR. ATKINSON: The information indicated in the last three columns of the proposed Return is not officially recorded, and cannot, therefore, be given. Nor is it possible to give the valuation of holdings in electoral divisions within the particular limits mentioned. If the hon. Member will amend the Notice in the form which I have communicated to him the Return will be granted.

MR. O'KELLY said his desire was to get the information before the Committee stage of the Land Bill. He wanted to show the fallaciousness of the policy adopted by the Congested District Board in fixing congested districts.

Commission on Trade Disputes.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury into what questions it is intended that the Commission on Trade Disputes is to inquire, and whether it is to be limited to the matters dealt with in the Trade Disputes Bill rejected on Friday last, or to include that of the legal liability of the funds of trade unions involved in the first Taff Vale judgment.

MR. BELL (Derby): I beg also to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he can state when he will proceed with the appointment of the Royal Commission to inquire into the present position of trades unions under the existing laws and the various judgments of the Courts; and whether he can state the number and composition of such Commission, and what he proposes to refer to them.

SIR JOHN ROLLESTON (Leicester): I beg further to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can state when the Commission of inquiry into suggested amendments of the law in trade disputes will be appointed, and the terms of its reference.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): Can the right hon. Gentleman tell us when it is proposed to issue this Commission—will it be within two or three weeks or, at any rate some time before the end of the session?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (MR. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I desire to get on with this matter as quickly as I

can; but Members of the House who have had any experience of the appointment of Royal Commissions are well aware that it is not an easy matter to get together a Commission which would prove satisfactory to all parties interested in an answer to the three Questions which are down upon the Paper.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: Is it the intention of the Government that the Commission shall be what is called an impartial Commission, consisting of persons unconnected with the questions in dispute—a Commission of a somewhat judicial nature—or a Commission which will represent employers and employed.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I confess I have a personal preference for the first kind of Commission when one can be appointed, but the difficulties are almost insuperable in this case. Probably the more ordinary course will be followed of endeavouring to have an adequate representation of, I do not say any violent partisanship, but of persons thoroughly cognisant of, and interested in, the various competing views, who, I hope, might not find it impossible to come to something in the nature of a unanimous conclusion.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: Will the questions raised by the Taff Vale judgment come before the Commission?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I should doubt whether any Commission would be satisfactory from the purview of which that question was deliberately excluded.

MR. BELL: Can the right hon. Gentleman give us any encouragement to hope that the appointment of the Commission is in the near future?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I should certainly hope so.

SIR JOHN ROLLESTON: Is it likely to be appointed soon enough to ensure that legislation shall be possible early in the ensuing session?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: That is a very difficult question, which it is impossible to answer with certainty. It is difficult even to give a conjectural answer to

it. I do not know whether the Commission might think it necessary to take a great mass of evidence. I should rather hope not; but that must be, after all, left to their discretion. If a Royal Commission is appointed it is impossible for the Government to control their arrangements.

Whitsuntide Holidays.

DR. FARQUHARSON (Aberdeenshire, N.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he can give the House any authentic information as to the date and probable duration of the Whitsuntide recess?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I should like to be able to give information on that agreeable subject if I had power to do so, but it must depend on the course of business. I cannot as yet foresee what business the House will get through in the next fortnight.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

MR. HALSEY reported from the Committee of Selection that they had discharged the following Members from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping and Manufactures:—Mr. Solicitor-General for Scotland, Sir Frederick Wills, Colonel Long, Sir William Tomlinson, Sir William Mather, Mr. Burt, and Mr. Dillon; and had appointed in substitution: Sir Frederick Dixon-Hartland, Sir William Walrond, Colonel Denny, Mr. Cameron Corbett, Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Mr. Charles Douglas, and Mr. Black.

MR. HALSEY further reported from the Committee: That they had added to the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures, the following fifteen Members in respect of the Licensing (Scotland) Acts Amendment and the Licensing Acts Consolidation (Scotland) Bills:—The Lord Advocate, Mr. Asher, Sir Andrew Agnew, Mr. Hunter Craig, Sir John Leng, Sir John Stirling-Maxwell, Mr. Munro Ferguson, Mr. Nicol, Sir Robert Reid, Mr. Parker Smith, Mr. Shaw Stewart, Mr. Solicitor-General for Scotland, Sir John Tuke, Mr. Ure, and Mr. Wallace.

Reports to lie upon the Table.

SUPPLY [9TH ALLOTTED DAY.]

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

NAVY ESTIMATES, 1903-4.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £2,991,800, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the expenses of the *personnel* for shipbuilding, repairs, maintenance, etc., including the cost of establishments of dockyards and naval yards at Home and Abroad which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904."

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee) said he desired to call attention to the enormous increase in the Vote as a whole for shipbuilding and repairs.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) asked whether a general discussion on the Vote as a whole would be in order.

*THE CHAIRMAN said he thought it would be inconvenient to divide the Vote and discuss it in sections. The first part showed an increase, and the second a decrease, and the third an increase. He should think it desirable to treat the Vote, therefore, as a whole, so far as its general character was concerned.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON said he desired to call attention to the enormous increase which had taken place in regard to the expenditure on the construction of new ships. But first he must express his satisfaction at seeing the First Lord of the Treasury present, because he could assure the right hon. Gentleman that when the subject was last discussed he was greatly missed. He was sure that if the right hon. Gentleman could remain for a time the Committee would be greatly benefited. The details embodied in this Vote were almost innumerable, but the only thing he wished to impress on the Committee was that this was the predominant Vote for the Navy. If they desired to stop the growing increase

in the Navy Estimates at its source they must begin with this Vote, and especially with the particular part of it now before the Committee—namely, the expenditure on new construction. The Vote represented nearly one-half of the whole Navy Estimates; it amounted to more than £17,000,000 altogether, an increase of more than £2,000,000 as compared with the Vote of last year. The increase on the Navy Votes as a whole was £3,000,000, and more than £2,000,000 of that was for shipbuilding alone. The Government was asking this year more than £10,000,000 for construction of new ships alone. This did not account for the whole of the increase, for there was an increase of £1,000,000 on the item of reconstruction and repairs. It was important to bear in mind that they were now spending three times the amount that was spent on repairs six years ago. It was significant when they remembered that they had a brand new Navy on which they were spending for repairs as much as was formerly spent on reconstruction alone. He now passed to the general question of the expenditure on new construction. As he had already pointed out, the sum asked for was £10,000,000, and he would like to ask the attention of the Committee to the gradual progress in that item. In 1879 the estimate for new ships was £6,600,000; in 1898 £7,600,000; in 1899 £8,800,000; and now it had risen to £10,000,000. It was proposed to begin this year the construction of four battleships, three first-class cruisers, fifteen destroyers, four scouts, and ten submarines, and he contended that they ought to have a financial statement on these proposals. What was the total amount to which the country was committed in sanctioning this construction programme. That was what the country ought to know. It was important to consider the corresponding amounts which were being spent this year on new ships by other Powers. According to Brassey's "Naval Annual," France, which was always the great bugbear, was spending on new construction no more than £2,400,000; the amount quoted for Russia was £4,200,000; and for Germany £3,600,000. So that the Government were proposing to spend for additional ships an amount which equalled, if it did not exceed, the expenditure of the three great Powers named. The

United States were going to spend £5,000,000 for new ships and £1,700,000 for reconstruction and repairs. It might be that the growth of the American Navy was to be treated as an asset on our side, justifying a diminution of the expenditure on our Fleet. On the other hand it might be treated as a reason for increasing our expenditure in order to counter-balance it. But that was not a question for the Admiralty; it was a question of policy for the Government, and especially for the Prime Minister. It was not for the Admiralty to decide our foreign policy. His authority was Lord Brassey, who published a letter in the *Daily News* some days ago, which the hon. Gentleman probably saw. He could not quite make out on what authority it was based, but it referred to a German official's naval annual of some sort. He was not quite sure what the figures meant. The Committee might take it from him, however, that the figures apparently came to this, that not only in shipbuilding but in manning, victualling, and everything, the expenditure of Great Britain was more than equal to the combined expenditure of France, Germany, and Russia. In naval works our expenditure was vastly greater than the combined expenditure of all these Powers. The only other thing relating to strengths that he wished to say was that two years ago the present First Lord of the Admiralty calculated that the British Navy accounted for one-third of the battleships in all the world. He had himself made a calculation separately from that statement, and he had come substantially to the same conclusion, namely, that so far as battleships were concerned we were years ago working not on what was called the two-Power standard but a standard equal to one-third of the navies of the rest of the world. What they desiderated on this occasion was a reasoned defence and justification for the great increase that was proposed this year. He was sure he was doing no injustice to the hon. Gentleman who represented the Admiralty so well in this House, if he said that for years past these great and growing Estimates had been laid before them almost as a matter of course, with the underlying assumption that whatever the Admiralty asked for would be given and that no special defence was needed for any special increase. In humbler times

than these, ten, or even eight years ago, they could afford to do that, but when they came to Estimates of £34,500,000 from which naval works were entirely excluded, and which amounted to £2,500,000 more, they were driven to consider the question of policy, and they were forced into regions of political speculation in which naval opinion had no particular place at all, and where statesmanship came in and the Government alone was responsible.

The Committee would perhaps pardon him if for a moment he referred, by way of example of the sort of thing they should have, to the speech made in July, 1898, by Mr. Goschen. Some members of the Committee would remember that at that late period of the session he came down to the House with what was substantially a new naval Estimate, beyond the original Estimate for the session, and asked for four battleships, four cruisers, and a certain number of smaller craft. The speech Mr. Goschen made on that occasion was a precedent which he wished to dwell upon. He told the Committee that the principle on which he and all his predecessors for many years past had been acting was the principle of the two-Power standard, and it was because something had happened that imperilled that standard that he came down to the House with the new proposal. He gave the House frankly and fully the reasons which justified him in saying that the two-Power standard was in danger, and that in order to preserve it he must have this additional number of ships. He said—

"I regret that it should be my misfortune to have to introduce the name of any foreign Power, but it is impossible to conceal the fact that it is the action of Russia, and the programme on which she has entered, which is the reason for our strengthening our Fleet and taking parallel action with her."

Then he went on to say, and his language was unexceptionable, that we did not propose anything aggressive, and that we did not blame Russia for anything she was doing, but that this increase on the part of Russia necessitated an increase on our part also. What was the answer of Russia to this strong and impressive demand made in the face of Parliament by the First Lord of the Admiralty? The answer of Russia was given within five weeks, and it was an invitation to

this and other countries to take part in a conference, having for its object the stopping of the further increase of naval armaments, and not only that, but the devising of means by which these naval armaments might in future be reduced. The increase that Mr. Goschen asked for that day was rather less, he imagined, than the increase the Admiralty was asking for now. The size of the Estimates now was so enormous and so monstrous that they were entitled to ask the hon. Gentleman representing the Admiralty to follow the example set by Mr. Goschen in 1898 and to tell the Committee as frankly as he did, why it was that he was calling upon them to spend £10,000,000. Since he last spoke on this subject the present First Lord of the Admiralty had made a speech in another place to which he should like to direct attention. On the 24th of March, Lord Selborne made a statement in which he said that the Government had not abandoned the two-Power standard. But if that was so, and he was not challenging the statement, how came it that that standard necessitated an expenditure of £10,000,000. The only answer to that could be by showing that there had been increases in other navies in the intermediate time, which compelled us to spend the sum now asked. One thing which he thought the Committee ought to have was a detailed and authoritative statement making good the position taken up by Lord Selborne that we were still standing by the two-Power standard. It had been said that we had only followed other countries whose shipbuilding had compelled us to keep pace with them. That was a statement also which he thought ought to be made good, for, in the speech to which he referred, Lord Selborne did not mention other countries at all. He thought they had come to a pass when they were entitled to ask the Government to tell them what countries they were, and here again they came to the domain of policy which the Government, and not the Admiralty, were responsible for.

There were different definitions of the two-Power standard. It might mean the two Powers next apparently in strength to ourselves. In that case America would become an important element,

Mr. Edmund Robertson.

and it would be interesting to know how that was to be dealt with. If America was left out he supposed they would not build against Japan. These were all difficulties in the application of the two-Power standard which could not be settled by naval opinion alone. It might be that we were going to build against the next two Powers, whoever they might be, which in all probability would be fighting on our side. The two Powers in Europe, however, from which we most apprehended danger ten or twelve years ago were France and Russia. The two-Power standard in the olden days referred to France and Russia. It might be these two Powers to-day, but on that point they ought to have some information. The rest of Lord Selborne's speech referred to the sea-borne traffic which the British Navy had to protect. That appeared to him to be rather a development of the two-Power standard, and he did not know for what purpose it was introduced. Possibly the hon. Gentleman might tell them. There was this to be said about it, namely, that the sea-borne traffic did not increase in proportion to the increase of the contribution for the Navy, so that this could not, so far as he could see, be an argument for the increase.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): Does the hon. Gentleman include the Indian and the colonial trade?

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON said he took it that the First Lord had included this. He gave an average of twenty years. When the noble Lord urged the vast extent of that trade as a defence for the large Navy Estimates he did not say what he told the Colonial Conference; he did not tell the audience what he told the Colonial Premiers, and that was that of the entire trade defended by the British Navy one-fourth consisted of ships in which the people of the United Kingdom had no interest whatever.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB: No direct interest.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON said he was not going to be drawn into discussion of the colonial position, but he would say they had never been able to get the reasons of the colonies for not contributing to this increase. He believed the reasons had

been published in Australia, and the arguments of the Colonial Premiers had also been published. If that was so he thought they ought to have a publication of them in this country now. He thought he had said enough to show that whatever defence there might be for the specific demand on the part of the Admiralty, the question underlying it was a question of policy. He thought the Committee ought to have some explanation, if possible, on the part of the right hon. the First Lord of the Treasury. Coming back to, not the menace, but the warning addressed to Russia in 1898 by Mr. Goschen; Russia laid down a certain number of battleships in 1898—four, he thought—and Mr. Goschen met that by six, or an increase of two, which he provided for in the supplemental programme of the summer of 1898. Russia's answer to that was the invitation to the Peace Conference, to sit down and consider how these great naval and military armaments could be prevented in the future and reduced in the present. That was the point on which he hoped the First Lord would have an opportunity of saying something, because his Government were committed to the policy of considering the question of a general reduction of naval armaments. The proposal as regarded the Navies was in the original letter of invitation. The nations were to be invited to take measures to check the progressive increase in military and naval armaments. One of the main points was—

“To seek without delay the means of putting a limit to the progressive increase of naval armaments, a question the solution of which becomes evidently more and more urgent in view of the fresh extension”

that was the extension of which he had spoken

“of these armaments.”

Still more specifically, in a sort of agenda prepared for the Commission, the Russian Government suggested an—

“Undertaking not to increase the present effectiveness of the naval and military forces and at the same time not to increase the Budgets pertaining thereto, and a preliminary examination of the means by which reductions might be effected in the future of the forces above mentioned.

Now, that was the policy suggested by the Czar of Russia in 1898 in answer to the appeal made to him by Mr. Goschen. The right hon. Gentleman,

the First Lord of the Treasury, in the absence of Lord Salisbury wrote in reply stating that Lord Salisbury expressed himself as being glad to accept the invitation addressed to him by the Russian Government—of which this was the first and most important point. The Peace Conference was appointed, and it had been of a great deal of use, but it did not touch this question, to the regret of himself and indeed, of all of them, including the right hon. Gentleman himself. It was found impossible to deal with it. There were various meetings at which it was mentioned, but from want of time—he was quoting shortly from the official papers—the Commission of the Conference to which it had been referred contented itself with expressing the opinion that a further examination of the Russian invitation in regard to the naval as well as military proposals, by the Powers would prove of great benefit to humanity. And the last words in the report were that “for the present” that was abandoned, and the abandonment for the present was accompanied by the expression of the hope that the Powers by which the Ambassadors were accredited, would take up the subject themselves and consider it, and the further expression of opinion that, if they did so, great benefit would result.

Well, four years had elapsed since that great Conference was held, and one of the things that immediately followed was the devastating war in South Africa. He was not going to say anything about that war, because it would be irrelevant to the Vote under discussion, but it was not irrelevant to point out that all the Powers which entered into this undertaking to consider the question of stopping the increase and bringing about a reduction in naval armaments, had continued making increases. This Government had most certainly given an effusive welcome to the proposal to stop the increase, but what had they done? The Naval Estimates in 1898 amounted to £23,000,000, and this year they were £34,500,000, not counting the naval works at all. Having come to a decision that it was desirable to reduce our Naval Estimates, they had made an addition of 30 per cent to them! He did not think that was a satisfactory position. One wondered what it all meant on the part of ourselves and others? Was it all hypocrisy, the

sort of hypocrisy that prevailed at the beginning of the session, when they all clamoured for economy and then spent the rest of their time in piling up more expenditure? He hoped that it was not hypocrisy. The right hon. Gentleman must have given the matter more consideration than formerly on account of his relation to the Defence Committee, and now that he occupied a more responsible position, he hoped the right hon. Gentleman, speaking as a principal and not as a deputy, could assure the Committee that he, at this moment, stood in the position to which the Government was committed in 1898, in reference to stopping the increase and reducing the expense of the Navy. If he took the noble and patriotic course of offering to the rest of the world an example of disarmament, being the first to say that this expenditure—as was set forth in the Conference papers—was ruining all the nations; that it was becoming more ruinous than ever—if the right hon. Gentleman who had done much, did nothing else than make such a declaration as that this day, he would add to his career the greatest of all his achievements.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) said that the hon. Member for Dundee had dismissed from his speech the large expenditure this year for repairs, and he would follow the hon. Gentleman's example in that respect. His hon. friend the Member for Gateshead would, no doubt, deal with that subject by itself. The hon. Member for Dundee hardly broke through the principle he laid down to limit the debate rigidly to the great main lines touched upon by the First Lord of the Admiralty by introducing the topic of the Colonial Conference. He agreed with the hon. Gentleman that they had had one or two discussions on that subject in the course of the present session, and that it would do little good to repeat the arguments. The specific point alluded to by the hon. Gentleman was the publication of certain reports in the Australian papers. An explanation, he thought, might be given. The Australians were led to believe that the publication of Sir John Forest's Memorandum in this country was a breach of faith as anticipated, and it was in consequence of that publication that the

Mr. Edmund Robertson.

statements of the other Australian Ministers were published elsewhere. The speech of the hon. Gentleman divided itself into two parts—the part in which he appeared to give some sanction to the doctrine of his hon. friend, the Member for Islington, and the hon. Member for Camborne—whose return to the House he gladly welcomed—of putting economy before efficiency. [Mr. LOUGH was understood to dissent.] At all events, the hon. Gentleman put economy first. The latter portion of the speech of the hon. Member for Dundee touched upon another, though connected, matter—the possibility of this country taking some initiatory steps with a view to the reduction of naval armaments. He had more sympathy with that portion of the speech than with the former, as he had shown on more than one occasion. The statement of his hon. friend as to what he called the enormous increase in this Vote was, he thought, perhaps a little exaggerated. Although he hesitated to use that phrase in connection with the Naval Estimates, these were, no doubt, immense. The figures which the hon. Gentleman gave to the Committee showed that there had been something like a stationary Building Vote for three years, and that that period was followed by an increase of £1,000,000 this year. Looking at the programme of the two other great naval Powers, he did not think that these facts quite bore out the expression, “enormous increase.” But his hon. friend himself was responsible for a very considerable increase in 1894—an increase proportionately greater for new construction than had ever been made before or since. He was sorry to hear him use the words that if we wanted to stop the increase in the cost of the Navy we must strike at this Vote, which was the root cause of all the increase. That was not the way he looked at this Vote or the Estimates generally. He did not want to stop the increase in the cost of the Navy at its root, unless we could do it safely and consistently with the action of the other Powers. He was afraid his hon. friend gave a dangerous colour to his remarks; and even a weightier authority than the hon. Gentleman, the late Chancellor of the Exchequer, had given likewise a dangerous colour to his view in his speech at Bristol. In drawing

a line apart from the consideration of the safety of the country, the late Chancellor of the Exchequer laid it down arbitrarily, that there ought not to be an increase this year in the Building Vote.

Speaking at Bristol the late Chancellor of the Exchequer laid down the twin positions, that taking the Army and Navy together there might be a small decrease in the Army expenditure, but that the naval expenditure should be stereotyped at the figure at which it was. On this Vote it was not possible to discuss the economies which might be effected in the Army, but the Committee had given an earnest in the present session that they would make the reductions which they could make with safety, in the Army expenditure. He could not, however, agree with the late Chancellor of the Exchequer that we must stereotype this Vote at its present figure. If we took to praising economy as economy in the abstract there was a danger that, at a moment when the pressure of taxation was considerable and expenditure was unduly high, and there was a desire on all sides of the House to reduce it, we might take an unintelligent view of particular items of expenditure, the reduction of which might lead to those ups and downs occurring in the naval Estimates which had always been condemned and which had been so unfortunate in the past. In former times there were sharp pitches up and down, and it was universally admitted that those sharp pitches had been most costly to the country, consequently there had been a general desire in the past few years to keep in the view of the Board of Admiralty and of the House of Commons that in steadiness lay safety.

With regard to the two-Power standard, the greatest proportionate increase ever suddenly made in the Fleet was made by Lord Spencer in 1894. For that his hon. friend was responsible. That increase was powerfully defended in the House of Lords by Lord Spencer, and in this House by the Secretary to the Admiralty, Sir Ughtred Kay-Shuttleworth, who said—

“Whatever it may cost, and whatever sacrifice it may entail, we shall keep our Navy equal to defending our interests against any combination which may be formed against us,

and to performing those exceptional duties which in time of peace or war fall upon our ships.”

Sir Ughtred added that that was a truism accepted by people of all shades of opinion. It was difficult to understand how any one could get it into his mind that this Shipbuilding Vote was to be stereotyped at a particular amount. Quite apart from the position we held in the world, it seemed to him to be idle to suppose there could be any possible stereotyping of this Vote. Those principles which were laid down by Sir Ughtred Kay-Shuttleworth, and which must at all times guide this House, were laid down in far more sweeping terms than he should have ventured to have adopted, because “any combination” was there used without any information being given. It had never been supposed by anybody that we should be ready to meet the world in arms. What was supposed was that the two-Power standard gave this country a sufficient margin against any probable combination; but seeing that a fleet could not be suddenly increased in fighting strength, it was necessary to look a few years ahead in making calculations. The United States had now reached the second place, and meant to remain there; but he agreed that it was not necessary for us to build against the United States, which was the protector of the rights of neutrals. It would be as great a mistake to count on them as an enemy as it would to regard them as an active ally. The hon. Member for Dundee had compared our expenditure with that of three Powers; but the weak point in that argument was the two-Power standard meant not only a little more than equality in battleships, but a great deal more than equality in cruisers. The two-Power standard was ascribed to a most respectable author. Lord Spencer stated that it was Cobden who first laid down the two-Power standard for our Fleet. He stated that our Navy ought to be sufficient to efficiently cope with the Navies of any two Powers; that standard allowed a certain margin of strength even as regarded battleships, but the two-Power standard had never been explained by anyone, or even suggested by those who supported it, to have any relationship to anything

except battleships. As regarded cruisers, it was always admitted that we wanted a larger number than would be required by the two-Power standard. That fact vitiated all comparisons of mere expenditure and *personnel*. They could not take the Fleets of France and Russia, and say we were beyond the two-Power standard, without taking into account our enormous number of cruisers. As regards *personnel*, our *personnel* was more costly than the *personnel* of other nations, as we had no conscription, and had, therefore, to keep up a larger supply of long service men than they. Lord Spencer, in 1894, in defending the two-Power standard, said, with regard to cruisers, we had already two to one as compared with any two Powers together, and that we needed cruisers far beyond the proportion of the two-Power standard. What was meant by the two-Power standard was that it gave us a sufficient superiority in battleships over the Fleets of any two Powers. Our position with regard to our Fleet was and ought to be such as to make any three Powers pause before they attacked us. How had these matters been affected since 1894? At the present time it could not be denied that we did not stand in that position with regard to a maritime alliance with Italy that we stood in some years ago; and, on the other hand, Japan was now building more slowly. Though our expenditure on the Navy was very large now, our expenditure on the land forces of the Empire was still larger. Our naval expenditure was, with war money, under £38,000,000, whilst the expenditure for our land forces was £52,000,000.

His hon. friend had raised the question whether it was possible to take any steps, in conjunction with other Powers, toward reducing the naval expenditure of the world. He never thought himself that the particular proposals indicated by the Russians in their circular were likely to be fruitful; and they were put in a form which was perhaps not the best form. He held that something might be done, not by treaty or by any attempt at a formal engagement, but by a general understanding with the Powers. In that he was with his hon. friend. In the present disposition of France and the peaceful and friendly

attitude of the French Government, with the presence at the Quai d'Orsay of a man so weighty and possessing so much the confidence of Europe as M. Delcassé, he could not but think that it might be possible for England and France to talk the matter over and see whether they might not themselves meet Russia on the subject. If these three Powers agreed, even if Germany stood out, something might be done towards promoting that reduction—not very large, perhaps, in such circumstances—to which his hon. friend pointed. While he would always oppose anything like an attempt to make a binding arrangement, which would be certainly dangerous, and would be likely to cause, rather than prevent war, yet, he thought it might be possible to do something in the direction of reducing armaments by a friendly conference of the Powers.

*THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.) said that he only intervened at that stage of the discussion because he was anxious that what he had to say on the particular question raised by the hon. Member opposite should be said before the Committee proceeded to discuss the more technical matters connected with the Vote. He did not know that it was altogether convenient to attempt to discuss great questions of policy on what was, after all, only one Vote in the Navy Estimates, but it appeared to him that the speech of the hon. Member opposite divided itself into two entirely distinct parts. One related purely to a matter of policy; and he certainly would have thought that this was not the best time for discussing the question of the policy of the Government quite independently, as the hon. Member said, of the policy of the Admiralty. The hon. Member said truly that the question whether we could, or could not, make a pause in our naval preparations was one which did not concern the Admiralty at all; but that being so, it was not altogether convenient on a Vote purely concerned with the administration of the Admiralty to introduce a subject which, *ex hypothesi*, the Admiralty was not able to decide or in any very remarkable degree to affect.

MR. LOUGH: When are we to introduce it?

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said he would have thought there were many opportunities.

MR. LOUGH: We are always put off.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said there were many opportunities, such as on the Address, or on votes of censure, when the general policy of the Government could be brought under review. He would not labour the point, however. He still maintained that the course taken was an inconvenient one; but since the question of policy was before the Committee he would like to say a word upon it. The hon. Member opposite had pointed out that no conclusion was arrived at at the Hague Conference upon the question of naval disarmament. In those circumstances he would submit whether it was not the plain duty of the Admiralty to deal with facts as they were, and not with facts as they might have been. The facts as they were they knew perfectly; the facts as they might have been they knew very little about. The facts which he, as a member of the Board of Admiralty, knew, were these—that so far from there having been any cessation in the maritime preparations of any of the great Powers concerned, there had been an increase of activity, and if that increase had been more marked in respect of one nation than of another, it had been in respect of the particular nation which the hon. Member cited as having proposed this reduction. That was the state of facts they were compelled to contemplate, and when the hon. Member asked them to base a reduction on a hypothesis of what might have happened, but did not happen, he was asking of them a great deal too much. The hon. Member for West Islington made an interruption which he confessed did not commend itself to him as a wise contribution to the discussion, remarking that economy was the first consideration.

MR. LOUGH: With efficiency.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said he thought the hon. Gentleman also com-

mitted himself to the observation that the policy which was considered necessary in 1894 ought to have been the guide to the present policy.

MR. LOUGH said he had only alluded to the statement which the Liberal Government made at that time, that it would make adequate provision for the needs of the Empire. He did not mean to say there ought not to be progression afterwards in proportion to population and commerce, but certainly not such bounds as had taken place since then.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said that that was a generous amplification of the hon. Gentleman's interruption; but as he heard the interruption, he would say that economy based on any lines of that kind was the worst possible sort of economy. There seemed to be an impression in some quarters that they could measure the Navy as they could measure money in the bank. It was a very good thing to have £100,000 in the bank, but if they could not have that, then it was good to have £90,000; and if they could not have that, then it was good to have £50,000. That was true in regard to money in the bank, but it was not true in regard to the Navy. If they had not a Navy which could do their work, and not only go into action but come out of it successfully, it was far better not to have a Navy at all. What he would ask the hon. Member to address himself to was this—not the question whether we were spending so much money in 1894 and so much more money now, but whether the problem which the hon. Member on the Front Bench opposite, as representing the Board of Admiralty, set himself in 1894, and thought he had solved, could be solved by the same means at the present time; and until he had an answer which convinced him that what was sufficient then was sufficient now, he confessed that he would pay very little regard indeed to these statistical comparisons. He thought he would be able to show that what was sufficient in 1894 was not sufficient now. It had been pointed out with great truth that the increase in the Navy Estimates in that year was one of the largest increases on record

in view of what had preceded it. His hon. friend, and the Administration of which he formed part, acted then, he knew perfectly well, on precisely the same considerations as those on which the present Government were now acting. They adopted precisely the same process of informing themselves as the Government were now utilising. They consulted their representatives in foreign countries; they took stock of their resources at home; and as a result of their consultation and consideration, they decided that a certain strength was necessary for the British Navy. That was precisely the process the Government were adopting at the present time.

He was not going into the details of the actual list of ships of foreign countries. He noticed that his hon. friend did not do so either. He noticed that his hon. friend had referred him to a book which he himself had in his hand. He had it in his hand because he thought it was one of the sources of inspiration on which his hon. friend would draw for his information, and he was correct. But he observed that the hon. Gentleman did not quote some of the figures, which he believed were on the very page to which he was referring. If he had done so he would have been able to demonstrate to the Committee that arguments based entirely on the naval expenditure of two different countries were not at all a safe guide in this matter. What they wanted to know was what were the available forces likely to be opposed to us in time of war in any conjuncture which was reasonably likely to happen; and if his hon. friend had read the list of ships given in that book—a list to which he personally would not commit himself, but which for the moment he would not dispute—if he had read that list of the ships, not of all the Powers which he was pleased to take into consideration, but of the two Powers which he himself selected—if he had told the Committee that according to the figures given there, the battleships of those two countries being built, or about to be built, were three more in number than the battleships of this country, he would have impressed the Committee rather less by a mere statement of expenditure than he had done. Expenditure, indeed, was one of the many items which had to be considered; but it was only one. This country had

costs to contemplate and to bear which were unknown to other nations. We were not extravagant. There was no question at all about that. We were not extravagant in producing what we did produce. He had seen it stated that we were producing our battleships for 37 per cent. per ton less than were the French. But we had imposed upon us an enormous amount of expenditure not common to other countries, and the mere expenditure on the ships themselves was not by any means the limit of the total expenditure. We had, in the first place, the expenditure on the *personnel*, which grew, of course,* with the number of ships. Our *personnel* was a very highly paid and was a voluntary one, the whole charge of which fell on us, while a similar charge did not fall on other countries. Then we were compelled to keep up costly naval establishments throughout the world for the protection of our commerce. All those causes of expenditure were absent from the Budgets of the countries with which comparison was made. He submitted that he was right in choosing as his test of the duty devolving upon the Admiralty the actual force in ships which was capable of being raised against this country in the unfortunate event of war. That was not the only consideration, but it ought to be the principal consideration, which weighed with the Admiralty in deciding the standard to which the British Navy ought to be kept up. If they were to upset the conclusions which had been arrived at by the Board of Admiralty on that basis, they must submit a much fuller and more elaborate indictment than the hon. Member had brought to-day.

*MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I did not bring an indictment. I called for an explanation.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said he would not stick at a word, and he would not say indictment, but he would say that the hon. Member had brought what he considered to be a very grave charge. He had suggested that the Admiralty, which in this matter was the adviser of the Government, was insisting upon an expenditure and a

scheme of naval development which were in excess of the naval requirements of the country.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON : No.

*MR. ARNOLD FORSTER said if the hon. Member did not mean that, what did he mean? If the hon. Member did not mean that, then he had very little to reply to. If it were the fact that the Admiralty were only preparing a fleet for an emergency which it might reasonably be expected to encounter, then they were simply doing the plain duty placed upon them by the House of Commons and the country.

He did not intend to follow the hon. Member into the question of whether this or that Power ought to bulk differently in our consideration in the future from what it had done in the past. He did not desire to express any view at all about the position of the United States. That was a situation which would no doubt have to be considered in the future, and about which something would have to be said. But he would adhere to this—that, taking into consideration only those Powers which had been referred to, the position the Admiralty were now contemplating was at least as serious as when the hon. Member for Dundee was partly responsible for the Navy Estimates. They were, he believed, carrying out in the letter and in the spirit the injunctions which had been laid upon them by the House of Commons, and he heard very little from the hon. Member which tended to convince him that he really questioned that fact. But he still held the view that the Committee could not profitably discuss the question of policy on a wide scale—that was to say, the question of whether or not the European Powers and the great Power across the Atlantic might come to some further agreement as to the cessation of armaments. He was not certain whether the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean had not the better advised view of this matter when he suggested that that was the last development of military activity which some foreign Powers would desire to review. But whether that were so or

not, the Committee were not dealing with that question. The duty of the Admiralty, as he understood it, was to give an assurance to the nation that, under the circumstances which existed, they were prepared to guarantee it against attack, and, what was much more important, against defeat, by any combination of Powers with which they might reasonably expect to be at war. He challenged the attack on the Admiralty on that ground. The more closely the Committee examined what was going on in other countries, the more abundantly they would find that the Admiralty were not only justified in, but compelled to adopt, the course they were following. It was true that shipbuilding was much more expensive than it used to be, and that was a matter that could be discussed in detail when they dealt with the different parts of the Vote. On the general question his answer was that they were merely dealing with the problem with which the hon. Member for Dundee had to deal in 1894, but that though that problem was the same in its nature it was not the same in its degree, and the Admiralty were varying their methods exactly to the extent and in the measure of the change in the circumstances they had to meet.

SIR ROBERT REID (Dumfries Burghs) said he would not attempt to deal with the technical portions of the hon. Gentleman's speech; he wished to refer only to one matter raised by the hon. Member for Dundee, in regard to which no answer has been given, viz., whether any effort was being made to come to an understanding with foreign Powers by means of which these enormous Estimates might be diminished. So far as the Estimates were concerned, when the Admiralty came forward with their knowledge and declared they found it necessary for the safety of the country that so much money should be spent, he was not prepared to go against them. He did not consider himself qualified to gainsay the view of the Admiralty, and if they insisted that these ships were required, he could not do otherwise than comply with their demand. But he felt that some answer should be given as to whether any effort had been made in

the direction he had suggested. It was well known that the matter was expressly included in the invitation to the Hague Conference. Russia, who had increased her expenditure more than any other power of late, originally made the proposal in 1898, but it was not carried to any conclusion because the time was inopportune. Obviously, provided we maintained our relative strength, that was all we required. No harm could result from an attempt being made to come to such an agreement. At the same time certain alterations in the laws of naval warfare might be considered with a view to withdrawing from the different nations the inducements they now had to maintain large navies. With regard to this country there was the necessity of maintaining its food supply. It ought to be seriously considered by the Government whether they should not try to come to an agreement that food stuffs should be definitely considered as being not contraband of war.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL (Oldham) asked whether the hon. and learned Member would really stake the food supplies of this country upon an international agreement that food should not be regarded as contraband of war.

SIR ROBERT REID said he would do nothing of the kind. It would be a foolish thing to do, but it would be for our advantage to get that ruling into international law. The hon. Member, however, had not permitted him to finish his suggestion. It would be to our advantage if we could get the law, which was doubtful at present, established upon a sound basis in that sense; and if we made a concession in return it might induce other nations to make a proportionate reduction in their navies. The concession to which he referred was one which the United States had been pressing on the civilised world for the last twenty years, viz., that private property at sea should be exempt from capture in time of war. He was aware that that might diminish our naval power in the way of bringing pressure to bear, but it would withdraw nearly all the inducements that foreign nations now had to keep up strong navies. It

was, however, a matter of opinion whether such an arrangement would procure an ultimate reduction of naval armaments, but what he really wished to know was whether the Government had the slightest intention of approaching foreign Powers in an endeavour to come to an understanding by which that result could be achieved.

SIR JOHN COLOMB said that with regard to approaching foreign Powers, he understood the right hon. Baronet the Member for Forest of Dean carefully to guard himself by saying that he could not contemplate a formal or binding agreement; what he wanted was a friendly understanding. All he would say on that was that in preparations for war a friendly understanding was about the most dangerous thing they could have. He desired to protest against the use of the phrase "building against" Powers. Our shipbuilding programme was not against any Power; it was for ourselves, and it was based on the real necessities of our position, having regard to what other countries were doing. As had been pointed out, to stop naval expenditure, they must stop this Vote, because it really ruled every other Vote. The growth of expenditure on this Vote had been treated purely by reference to the building of other Powers. But did not other elements enter into the matter? Whatever ships were built must be up to date, with all modern appliances, fulfilling all modern conditions, and to meet the demands of science itself involved an enormous advance in expenditure. But that was not all. When the *personnel* of this Vote was reached, the Committee would ring with appeals not for reduced but for increased expenditure. Dockyard representatives would get up and protest against alleged inadequate wages.

MR. KEARLEY (Devonport): Yes, some of them protested against Irish landlords getting such a pull.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB said he was simply stating the fact. It had been stated that our naval expenditure was based upon a Jingo policy, but he wished to point out that from the very circumstances of the case there must be an inevitable growth of naval expenditure.

by increase of wages. With regard to the question of approaching foreign Powers, he did not think there was a man either inside or outside the House of Commons who was not anxious to have a diminution of armaments. In this matter they were all in the same boat, but what they wished for and what was obtainable were two different things. When they talked about asking foreign Powers to come to some friendly understanding for reduction of armaments, he could not conceive how such a thing could be practicable. If foreign Powers built more ships, this country would have to do the same. Suppose they went to Germany and said, "We want you to come to a friendly understanding to stop this mad career of shipbuilding." What would Germany's answer be? She would reply, "Go to the United States and get her to stop building, and then we will talk to you." In dealing with a very great and serious question like that of naval construction, it was right that they should have material principles before them before coming to the details of shipbuilding. In such matters as this he deplored getting into the sentimental stage and being misled by a will-o'-th'-wisp.

* MR. RUNCIMAN (Dewsbury) said that like his hon. friends he had strong opinions in favour of the maintenance of the peace of the world, and he regretted that the heavy expenditure upon armaments, which this Vote contained, was necessary. When the hon. Member for West Islington, who was such a pronounced apostle of economy, as a concomitant of efficiency spoke of reducing the cost of construction, he appeared to confuse the word efficiency with deficiency. When his hon. friend suggested economy on the Army Votes he deserved the support of hon. Members on this side of the House.

MR. LOUGH: Yes, but I didn't get it.

* MR. RUNCIMAN said he believed that the best economy his hon. friend could advocate was that they should maintain the strength as well as the efficiency of the Navy. It had been stated that our naval strength was so great that an explanation was necessary for the great naval expenditure proposed

this year. It had been stated that in battleships alone Great Britain was as strong as one-half of the world. He did not know what figures that contention was based upon, but if they took the battleships afloat at the beginning of this year, they would find that Great Britain had fifty-seven, whilst of those the number under twenty-five years of age was forty-eight. On the same scale Germany and France together had fifty-two battleships afloat, and the number under the age of twenty-five was forty-five. If they took Germany, France, and Russia together, they had seventy-three battleships, fifty-one of which were under the age of twenty-five years. Therefore, as a matter of fact, so far from Great Britain having as many battleships as half the world, she had not as many as Germany, France, and Russia together, and barely a preponderance over Germany and France together. If a comparison was made of what the strength of the various Powers would be in 1906, the deficiency was even greater, and the present naval programme would only provide for the increase made by France and Germany, or by Germany and Russia. It would have been as well if the Secretary to the Admiralty had justified, by a comparison, the programme of this year, for it was not beyond his ingenuity to give comparisons in order to justify the heavy claims he was making upon the National Exchequer. In regard to their Navy, France had stood still, and might continue to do so for some years to come; but in Russia and Germany the increase in their naval programmes had been enormous in recent years. So long as Germany and Russia maintained those increases it was essential for our national safety that this country should not be allowed to drop behind. It was impossible to go into a comparison without dealing with their cruiser strength as well as battleships. The position of this country was peculiar, and necessitated a large cruiser fleet. At the beginning of this year Great Britain had fifty-four large cruisers over 5,000 tons, whereas Germany, and France, and Russia together, had forty-nine large cruisers. The Admiralty might have been working to a two-Power standard in battleships, but apparently they were working up to a three-Power standard in regard to cruisers. Taking those under twenty

years of age, which was the limit stipulated in the German naval law, Great Britain still had fifty-four large cruisers over 5,000 tons, whereas the three Powers he had named had forty-four; there again this country exceeded the three-Power standard. If they took the beginning of the year 1907, when the Continental programmes would be completed, and when our programme for the present year would be completed, Great Britain would then have seventy-six large cruisers afloat, and Germany, France, and Russia would have fifty-five. It was perfectly clear that the Admiralty were not working up to a two-Power standard, but to a three-Power standard in large cruisers. Considering the position of the British Empire he did not think a three-Power standard as regarded cruisers was at all to be deprecated, and he should be one of the first to vote in favour of a vote of censure if the Government dropped below a safe two-Power standard as regarded battle-ships and a three-Power standard in regard to cruisers.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL said he could not quite agree with what fell from the Secretary to the Admiralty as to this not being a suitable occasion for discussing questions of general naval policy. They did not get very many opportunities of discussing naval questions in their general aspect, the aspect which was undoubtedly the most important part of this subject and one which he thought the House of Commons was most fitted to deal with. He was surprised that the Secretary to the Admiralty referred them to the King's Speech as a good opportunity for discussing these questions. Hon. Members below the Gangway had had bitter experience of the debate on the Address in regard to questions of general naval and military policy. They knew that when these questions were raised on the King's Speech, immediately the Secretary to the Admiralty, or some other more distinguished Member of the Government, rose and said it was a question of confidence, and the vote which was taken did not in the least represent the opinion of the House on the merits of the question. There had been, in the course of the debate, very general agree-

Mr. Runciman.

ment among all parties in the House that the British Navy should be the finest in the world, and that it should be strong enough for all the work it was likely to be required to do, and he supposed the Committee would not dissent from the proposition that if the British Navy was to have predominance among other navies the Shipbuilding Vote should be rather ahead of the other Votes. Guns could be borrowed, soldiers had in war times served on board ships, engineers could be obtained in an emergency from other quarters. But while there would be a reserve which we could count upon in other quarters, ships took a longer time to build. It was a curious fact that while soldiers and sailors for scientific war might be produced more rapidly than in former times, the great weapons took a longer time to produce. How strong ought the Navy to be? They had heard of the two-Power standard and the three-Power standard, but having listened to many debates with great attention, he had not gathered what was the view of the Government as to the actual standard they were trying to work up to. One thing was perfectly clear—we could not make ourselves secure against an attack by the entire civilised world. Nothing would be more ridiculous than if we were to try it, and if we so conducted our diplomacy and statecraft that other nations regarded us with general and universal hostility, then it might be a good thing that we should realise that no preparations we could make, however great our patriotism and however prodigious our sacrifices, would make us absolutely secure. The hon. and learned Gentleman opposite was a great supporter of international law and agreement. He confessed that he should himself be sorry to see us influenced in our naval policy by an international interpretation of what constituted contraband of war. Assuming the effective blockade of this country and the effective subjection of this country by a coalition of Powers we might depend upon corn being contraband of war. Notwithstanding many Hague Conferences to the contrary corn would be declared contraband of war.

SIR ROBERT REID said the hon. Member misunderstood him. What he

said was that if international law by treaty were altered there would be less inducement to the nations of the world to have strong navies.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL said that appeared to him to be putting too great dependence on international assurance. We must allow something for our diplomacy and statecraft. We could strengthen our Navy not only by increasing the number of ships at our disposal, but by reducing the probabilities of hostile combinations against us. If we could cultivate a friendly policy towards the foreign nations with whom we were particularly associated, we should really be strengthening our Navy by indirect means; and, so far as we were able to establish particularly friendly relations with any other Power, in that very respect we might modify our Estimates to the amount of force we required to have at our disposal to deal with contingencies. For instance, he did not think that the growth of the navies of the United States and Italy need cause us any anxiety or disquietude; both were nations with which, with occasional lapses, we had consistently cultivated very good relations. The most formidable nation to which this country might be opposed—France—had not of late years shown any inclination to force the pace in the matter of naval armaments. On the contrary, he believed it was an indisputable fact that France had fallen behind very much in the race of naval armaments, and thereby, he ventured to say, had shown how very strongly the instincts of that great democratic people were towards peace. They were all agreed that when the last word had been spoken in diplomacy, when every precaution we could take had been taken, the British nation must be strong enough to face all outstanding liabilities.

The Secretary to the Admiralty said that it was no good having a Navy unless they had a good enough Navy to face the probable combinations which might be opposed to it. They were nearly all agreed with that, and they did not grudge the money to attain that result. But what was England's great advantage over all other nations in the attempt to procure

a really predominant Navy? It was not altogether our wealth. Other nations were wealthy, and some nearly as wealthy as we were; it was not altogether that there was any inherent superiority of seamanship in English sailors, because, now that the matter had passed so much into the realms of machinery, seamanship did not appear to be such an important factor in naval strength as it used to be. He had often been told by people who had studied these matters that if it came to mechanical skill and mechanical genius, the French, or Americans at any rate, had shown that they were not likely to fall very far behind the mechanical attainments of this country. There was one advantage we possessed over other countries in Europe, which enabled us to have a Navy far greater and better than they could have, no matter how great were the sacrifices they made, and that was, while all these Powers had to depend upon a great Army and to consider enormous land preparations for the defence of their frontiers, we, in this Island, were able to concentrate the whole of our energies and strength upon the Fleet. It was with that indisputable assertion in his mind that he would respectfully direct the attention of Ministers on the Treasury Bench to the present ratio between naval and military expenditure. He was not going to elaborate the point now, but he would say without any doubt that those who advocated a military expenditure well over £30,000,000 a year as a permanent part of our strategic policy, were the real enemies of our naval predominance, and were far more to be feared by those who had the interests of the Navy at heart than a certain hon. Gentleman opposite who was such a strict economist. He would suggest to those who were rightly interested in the Navy that they should, at any rate, look at the growing Army Estimates with all attention and with a critical eye.

MR. LOUGH said he did not suppose in considering the needs of the Navy they should neglect economy. He put economy first, and he interpreted economy in a wide sense. It was no economy not to make judicious expenditure. He was very glad that the Committee had

been allowed to have a general debate on matters connected with the Navy. He thought the Committee had not been treated very well by the hon. Gentleman in charge of the Vote, who had protested against any general debate on what was only one Vote in the Navy Estimates. It had been said that this was the Vote that led to all the other expenditure. His hon. friend the Member for Dundee had asked what was the reason for the great expenditure now proposed for shipbuilding; but no answer whatever had been given by the Government. Such questions had been deprecated as unseasonable, but the Committee never came to a time when they were seasonable. He wished to emphasise the demand which had been made for an explanation why this increase had been proposed. Last year the amount spent fell £600,000 short of the amount voted, though the amount voted was £2,500,000 less than they were asked to vote now.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The whole of the money was spent except £35,000.

MR. LOUGH said the total spent for new construction under contracts last year was 6·3 millions, whereas the Vote was 6·9 millions.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The hon. Member's statement is misleading. There were reasons why the new construction did not progress so fast as was anticipated, but the whole of the money, except £35,000, was expended in doing other work.

MR. LOUGH said it appeared to him that the figures he had quoted were correct. The whole of the money was not expended on that Vote, although it had been expended in another way. It seemed to him that the total amount of the Vote was in excess of anything the Admiralty would be able to spend within the year. The figure of this Vote was 17·3 millions, and that was more in proportion to the whole Navy Estimates than Vote A ever was before. He would like the right hon. Gentleman to make some explanation of this increase. Ten years ago the total expenditure on the Navy was £17,000,000 odd, and this Vote

Mr. Lough.

was £6,500,000, or less than 40 per cent of the whole, while to-day Vote A was more than 50 per cent. of the whole. The important point was that the expenditure on Vote A would govern the whole of the rest of the Estimates, and it was large enough to provide for a total naval expenditure of £42,000,000 instead of £34,500,000. They ought to have some explanation of the principle on which the Government was working. His hon. friend behind him had given the Committee some figures to show that we were working up to much more than the two-Power standard in regard to shipbuilding—taking battle-ships and cruisers very considerably above the two-Power standard. In 1901 the Secretary to the Admiralty stated to the Committee that the Admiralty had received definite instructions from the House not to allow the standard of the strength of the Navy to fall below that of the two Powers which ranked next to us in naval construction; and last year, in answer to the hon. Member for Dewsbury, the hon. Gentleman said that the Admiralty were working at the standard which for many years past had been enjoined upon them by the House of Commons—that the Navy should be in such a condition that it should be able to contend, with hopes of success, with any two naval Powers. In working up to that two-power standard, however, it would be very wise for this country, which was the leading country in the matter of naval expenditure, to do only what was absolutely necessary. In 1898 we spent 1·4 millions more on new construction than any other two great Powers. In the next year we spent £300,000 more; in the following year £70,000 more, and the next year £1,000,000 more. What was the result of that expenditure? It simply stimulated the other Powers into greater activity, and last year we somewhat fell behind, and the two other Powers spent £1,000,000 more than we did. This year we resolved in an exaggerated way to make good this defect, and the increase of the Vote for construction was £1,100,000 and £2,000,000 on the total Naval Estimates. He thought that the conclusion must be drawn that the more we spent and went anything beyond the two-Power standard we'd d

not improve our relative position, and only stimulated other Powers to make greater exertions. He thought that we ought to make some approach, direct or indirect, to the other Powers to see whether anything could be done to reduce this gigantic expenditure. The time was most opportune.

A remarkable incident in connection with the Newspaper Press of the country took place some time ago. One enterprising newspaper was attracted by the provision made for the German Navy by the German Parliament, and it applied to the German Embassy to know what Germany was really doing. A most polite reply was sent by the German Ambassador by direction of the Emperor to the effect—

“You ask me what we are doing. Look to your own Parliament, and ask your own Government what they are doing. They are the motive Power. If you can get them to abate these vast armaments, that will be a start in the solution of this great problem.”

Something had been said about France. He thought they must all agree that the nation was to be congratulated on the happy visit of the King to France which had just taken place, and which was calculated to promote better relations between the two countries. He noticed that the French Minister had already modified the Navy expenditure in that country, and he believed the Army expenditure too. The time was therefore opportune for this country to take some steps in the direction of a friendly approach to the Powers with the view of abating this huge expenditure. Yet they did not hear from the Government of anything of the kind. The hon. Member for Dundee had pointedly asked the Prime Minister to remain and make a statement. The right hon. Gentleman did remain for a short time, but said nothing, and neither from him nor from the representative of the Government who had spoken, had the Committee received the slightest satisfaction. Why should there be this increased Estimate of £2,000,000 at a time when the olive branch was held out, and when our own people were complaining of the heavy burden of taxation? The Government ought to respond in a more sympathetic spirit than they had done, to the appeals made to them. He

was not preaching any new doctrine. Thirty or forty years ago Mr. Disraeli in this House used to say exactly the same as he was now inadequately saying.

He was standing up for a policy of economy rather than a policy of successive panics. He thought every man in the House ought to try and think out for himself some policy in regard to this matter. The position he took was that of a well-conducted Liberal, as he ventured to call himself. His hon. friend who opened the Debate was rather twitted by the right hon. Baronet, the Member for Forest of Dean, with having started these great increases in the Naval Estimates in 1894. The increases really began in 1888, but he remembered that the programme of 1894 was accompanied by the statement that the provision then made was adequate for the needs of the nation. It had been assumed that the giant leaps in naval expenditure had been made to put the nation in line with the other Powers, and that in future there would be only a reasonable expenditure proportionate to our expanding commerce, and growing population. But we found the panic increasing from year to year, and the expenditure had jumped up from £17,000,000 in 1894, to £34,500,000 this year, and there was much evidence that it would be £42,000,000 two or three years hence. He could only utter his protest now as he had done before. He was not the sole advocate for economy. There had lately been some distinguished converts to that creed. The notable speech of the late Chancellor of the Exchequer had been already alluded to, but nothing had been said about the equally remarkable speech of the present Chancellor of the Exchequer when he introduced his Budget, in which, in the course of a long digression, he deplored the growing expenditure and said that the Government would respond to any approach that might be made to them from abroad with regard to a modification of the national expenditure on the Navy. The Estimates before the Committee, however, did not give any indication that they were making any proposition of the kind. He hoped the hon. Gentleman would respond to the demand for a full and

clear statement of the naval policy of the Government. The hon. Gentleman invited the Committee to plunge at once into the weary details they were always discussing. He would ask the hon. Gentleman whether he would not give some explanation of this great increase in expenditure, and also whether there was to be any limit to it.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY (Yorkshire, Shipley) said he should like to explain to the hon. Gentleman who had just spoken that his fear that the Naval Estimates, as a whole, were increasing in proportion to the Shipbuilding Vote, was founded on inaccurate knowledge. The reason why the Shipbuilding Vote had increased to such an extent was that ship-building was becoming more and more expensive in proportion to the number of men that was carried. In the days of Nelson a first-class battleship carried rather more than a first-class man-of-war carried to-day. The latter would, however, cost £1,000,000 sterling, whereas in Nelson's time five or six line-of-battle ships could be built for that amount. Another reason for the increase in the Shipbuilding Vote was that the Admiralty were now getting rid of a number of obsolete vessels, and were transferring their crews to new and improved vessels. Therefore, the increase in the Shipbuilding Vote was entirely out of proportion to the increase in the Naval Vote as a whole; and that would continue for some years, until all the obsolete vessels were expunged from the Navy. He rejoiced that the broad question which had been raised by the hon. Member for Dundee, and supported, with all the eloquence the Committee expected, by the hon. Member for Dumfries, had been very fully discussed by the Committee. He remembered two or three years ago, when there was a modest attempt to make a comparison between expenditure on the Army and on the Navy, that it was ruled, no doubt properly, out of order by the Chair. To-day the Committee had had a pungent comparison from the hon. Member for Oldham as to the proportion between naval and military expenditure, and the basis on which it should be founded. He ventured to say that the statement of a well-known statesman that the Navy

Mr. Lough.

was the first line of defence, and that the Army was the second, was not well-founded on fact, because he believed the Navy was the only line of defence, and that if the Navy went, this country would be powerless against other countries. The Navy was the only hope of the country. If that proposition were accepted, then one must realise the vital importance of the question raised by the hon. Member for Dundee, with all the authority of his former position at the Admiralty. He did not wish to criticise the speech of the hon. Gentleman; but he thought it right to point out to the Committee that the hon. Gentleman did not condemn this expenditure. The hon. Gentleman criticised the wisdom of the expenditure, and he asked the Secretary to the Admiralty to explain and justify it; but he did not, either himself personally, or on behalf of those whom the hon. Gentleman represented in naval matters, condemn this expenditure. He ventured to say that the Government and the Admiralty had done splendidly as regarded the Navy. Everything they had done was entirely justified; and had been done in answer to an agitation from outside, which was of the most powerful character, and in which practically the whole of the people of the country, without distinction of Party, had taken their full share.

Some years ago a letter was published which was written by Lord Charles Beresford, then second in command of the Mediterranean Squadron, in which he stated that there was not sufficient preparation either as regarded the number of ships or the details to justify the position which the Fleet ought to hold in relation to the defence of the country. His hon. friend the Secretary to the Admiralty then justified the existing condition of things; but since that time, what had happened? The Mediterranean Squadron had been strengthened by eight battleships, four cruisers, and sixteen destroyers. That had been done quietly, without much fuss, but it had been done out of the money voted by Parliament during a period of two years. If the Admiralty had done that, they had not wasted the resources which had been placed at their disposal. The hon. Gentleman asked his hon. friend if the Government were going to build up

an alliance. He ventured to say that any Government, however constituted, which would rely on a treaty or an alliance, or on the well-known and undoubted friendship and cousinship between the American people and the people of this country, and reduce the naval strength of the country below the two-Power standard would be creating a dangerous precedent. It might be that they could have an understanding of the character indicated during the debate, which might lead to a mutual reduction of armaments; but to allow the Navy to fall below the standard which had been accepted, because of any treaty or any evidence of friendship would, he ventured to think, be a mistake, the consequences of which might perhaps be fatal. He desired to support by all the means in his power the policy of the Admiralty during the last two years, especially the establishment of the Council of Defence. The Council was a safeguard that Parliament might rely on a proper proportion between expenditure on the Army and on the Navy being observed. On that Council there were the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer; but even more important than these great officers, they had, as integral parts of the Council, experts from the Army and Navy. They had the Sea Lords and the Commander-in-Chief, who would be able to give advice, not as witnesses, but as Members of the Council. There would be a permanent record of the proceedings of the Council.

* THE CHAIRMAN: The right hon. Gentleman is now getting far away from the Vote. There was a desire for a general discussion on the shipbuilding Vote, but that cannot be extended to the Council of Defence.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY said he was only showing how it would be possible under the new organisation to co-ordinate between the Army and the Navy. That had been discussed under the Vote.

* THE CHAIRMAN: I beg pardon. I have not allowed it to be discussed. It is true the hon. Member for Oldham did make a passing reference to it, but he stopped. There was no discussion on co-ordination

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY said he would, of course, bow to the decision of the Chair. He was referring to the excellent steps which the Admiralty had taken for spending money to the best advantage of the country. The Shipbuilding Vote was larger in point of money and ships than ever before. In the past financial year seventy-two vessels of all classes were being built, and in the course of the financial year we had entered on the Admiralty expected to commence thirty-nine more, so that during the course of the present financial year we should see 111 vessels in course of construction. When contrasted with the building programmes to be finished in 1907 of other Powers with whom we were likely to be in competition, it would be found that it would not leave us very far above the two-Power standard except in regard to cruisers, in regard to which we had a special and peculiar justification having regard to our trade and commerce.

* SIR WILLIAM ALLAN (Gateshead) asked whether he would be in order in showing how this increase had arisen in naval expenditure.

* THE CHAIRMAN said he could not say until he heard what the hon. Member said. He would not be in order in dealing with the particulars of the Vote. If he chose to say the charges for the *personnel* were too high he could do so, but he could not deal with the price of vessels on contract.

* SIR WILLIAM ALLAN said his idea was to show how such a great increase had taken place in the naval Vote. He foretold it many years ago, and he had seen it increase year by year until it had reached its present proportions. Hon. Members had preached economy and efficiency. He did not object to the money being spent on these ships providing the ships were efficient, but when he looked at this large and growing amount of money, and saw how it was wasted and squandered, he considered it was his duty to show the Committee how it was wasted. He could prove that £1,100,000 had been absolutely squandered. The Government gave £2,200,000 for some French

articles which could have been obtained in this country at half the price.

* THE CHAIRMAN : Belleville boilers are not on this section of the Vote.

* SIR WILLIAM ALLAN said in that case he would reserve his criticisms on the Navy until he came into line with the Chairman's ruling.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) said the hon. Member for Islington had put economy first; he, himself, put the defence of the country first. When he had secured that he was prepared to consider what economies he could make consistent with safety. Great regret, in which he shared, had been expressed at the absence of the Prime Minister from this discussion. He thought it mostly concerned the Prime Minister to hear the general discussion on the increase of the Navy expenditure, but it must be remembered that the Prime Minister had other duties. He was always present at Question time, and very often for five or ten minutes afterwards, and he was perfectly certain the right hon. Gentleman would come in in time to answer speeches which he had not heard and to close a debate in which he had taken no part. The hon. Member for Islington had reproached this country with setting the pace in naval matters, but that was not the case, because Germany was proceeding faster. With Germany it was not a question of life and death but a secondary matter. Her principal frontiers which were likely to be menaced by an enemy were land frontiers, and, if Germany was increasing her Navy as she was, it could only be against one country, and that was this country, and the fact that she was increasing her Navy was sufficient for us increasing ours and being on our guard. Passing to the point initiated by the right hon. Member for the Forest of Dean, that we ought to come to some understanding with certain Powers by which this increase in the Navy could be stopped, he thought the basis of the suggestion was sound, because the increase of the Navy could only be relative. The whole question was one of relativeness. If other countries had no navies we might have

Sir William Allan.

one battleship and two cruisers, but we must consider the eventualities of the future, and the naval forces of other Powers were so considerable that he doubted whether we could come to such an understanding. Suppose they took France. She had dropped out of the lists and had ceased to increase her Navy. The two-Power standard must mean any two Powers, and the two principal Powers at present in this respect were Germany and Russia. He doubted very much whether any understanding was possible between Great Britain on the one side and those two Powers on the other. Meantime, there being no understanding, the Admiralty had no choice but to do as they were doing, to go step by step with those Powers, so that the Fleet should be kept in such a condition as to be able to cope with either or both of them.

MR. LOUGH asked whether the hon. Member was aware that Germany had reduced her shipbuilding programme by £600,000.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said that even then her programme was not one to be neglected, and in any case Germany was not the only element to be considered. He was ready to reduce Army expenditure by a very large amount indeed, but he could not consent to reduce the Navy to a niggardly standard. He would rather see a most extravagant increase than anything approaching a dangerous diminution. In dealing with the Navy, economy was altogether a secondary, and not a primary, consideration. As to the suggestion that private property at sea should be exempt from capture, so far from diminishing, it would increase the necessity for a large naval Power. Its effect would be to deprive our cruisers of the power of stopping supplies for the enemy and forcing him to submit by thus exhausting his taxable capacity. The Secretary to the Admiralty was to be congratulated on the course of the debate. In some interesting figures the hon. Member for Dewsbury had conclusively shown that the proposed increase in the shipbuilding programme was none too large. There had been no serious attempt to show that that programme was excessive, except by the hon. Member for West Islington.

But although the hon. Member's constituency was not on the sea shore, it was as much in need of defence as any other part of the Empire. The Committee must remember that this country could not be defended with soldiers. The Navy was our only protection, and when that had been made perfect they might indulge in the luxury of foreign expeditions which required soldiers. The programme of the year was not in the least exaggerated, it was not uneconomical, and it was not one whit beyond the naval necessities of the case.

Mr. MUNRO FERGUSON (Leith Burghs) heartily supported the general policy of the Vote, which he did not think was excessive in view of the greater costliness of the ships, the rapid shipbuilding of other countries, and the necessity of keeping up to the two-Power standard. He was a little surprised, however, that the hon. Gentleman should have complained of the debate turning on general policy, because if the Committee was to express any opinion at all upon the Shipbuilding Vote, it could do so only by having regard to the foreign and naval policy of other countries as well as of our own. The Committee had had no reason to place confidence in the old Committee of Defence, and the present Council had not been sufficiently long constituted to command their confidence; consequently, they were dependent, in coming to a conclusion as to what the construction for the year should be, upon such information as was given by the Government, of the shipbuilding programmes and general policy of foreign Powers. On the occasion of the recent reduction in the *personnel* of the French Mediterranean Fleet, it was stated on apparently good authority that that was equivalent to an invitation by France to reduce the burden of naval armaments. It would be interesting to know whether that view was taken by the Government, although, if he recollected aright, we were very active with our own preparations at the time. He merely mentioned that as being one of the occasions which sometimes arose, when it might be possible to do something to relieve the present burden. It was especially desirable that that should

be done at a time like the present, when the Government of France was not only exceptionally strong, but also so friendly towards us—an attitude which he believed was reciprocated by everybody in this country. He looked forward to an increase rather than a decrease in the cost of the Fleet for some time to come, but the country had a confidence in the Admiralty and its system which it was less prepared to extend to the system of the War Office. He would not wonder if the naval expenditure rose to £40,000,000, but if the plea for an increase in the Naval Vote could be made out, it was all the more necessary that at the same time the plea for economy in the Army services should be recognised. It would be a great mistake to encourage the belief that the Naval Vote could be diminished, and that was a reason why the Committee had the right to ask that its powers of discussing general policy should not be limited. He regretted that neither the Prime Minister nor the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs had been present to deal with questions of general policy. The Government would have to take the House of Commons into its confidence if it was to obtain the great Votes that would be necessary to maintain the unquestioned supremacy of our Fleet. That was the first consideration before the Committee—a consideration greater, he believed, than even that of economy.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said he would be sorry for any hon. Members to think that he failed intentionally to give an explicit answer to a plain question; but as that suggestion had been made by more than one speaker, he desired to clear himself of the accusation. He still held that it was not altogether profitable that they should discuss questions of general policy on this Vote—not because he underrated the importance of the discussion, but because, without the presence of the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs or the Secretary of State for War, there could be no adequate reply to the points raised, and a discussion under such circumstances was not of much value. Nor was it reasonable to expect the presence of these Ministers, as it was not the practice to discuss these matters on a detailed Vote of the Navy

Estimates. The introduction of the Estimates was the occasion on which a discussion on general policy was taken. He had been asked whether he could not give a plain answer to the plain question of why this Vote was increased. He thought he had given the answer almost *ad nauseam*. The explanation was no an elaborate one, nor one that required any large amount of detail to make it clear to the Committee. It was simply that the Admiralty were pursuing the policy they had pursued in past years, and this increase was the normal and inevitable outcome of that policy. They had instructions, which the House of Commons had given and still maintained, to preserve a working balance over any two Powers, which was only a way of saying they should provide a force adequate to preserve the country in any emergency that might arise. It had not been said that they were not doing that, or that they were exceeding their duty in doing it, or that they had taken steps in excess of what the House of Commons had authorised. Until some accusation of that kind was brought—it had not been even formulated, much less supported, by evidence—he thought no further answer was necessary. An increase in the expenditure was inevitable and necessary if that policy was to be pursued, and it had not been disputed that that policy should be pursued. He thought he had given a plain answer to the question put to him as to how the increase in this Vote had arisen. The hon. Member for Islington had dwelt upon what foreign Powers were doing, but he was astonished to hear the hon. Member speak of a Power like Germany and ourselves as being upon exactly the same terms in connection with their Naval necessities and dangers. He thought it would be better if the hon. Member, when he spoke of what was being done by a foreign Power, would give a little more attention to their relative requirements. He told the Committee just now that Germany was diminishing her Navy Estimates.

MR. LOUGH: This year.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said the hon. Member did not tell the Committee the nature of that diminution. Nearly

Mr. Arnold-Forster.

the whole of the reduction of £600,000 alluded to was due to the fact that Germany had not agreed as to whether she would shift the quarters of her Admiralty Department or not, and it had nothing whatever to do with the German naval construction programme.

MR. LOUGH: But I think that programme is smaller this year.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said that was not so. When they were accused of large increases in their Navy Estimates he thought it was only right to say that there had been no increase so rapid and formidable in this way as the increases in the German naval expenditure during the last few years. In conclusion, he wished to say once more that he regretted this discussion because he did not think it could lead to any practical issue at the present moment. He noticed that in the course of the debate three different Ministers had been quoted by hon. Members opposite as being in sympathy with them, and as having expressed themselves as being in strong sympathy with the proposals made on the opposite side of the House, and supported on the Ministerial side of the House, for a reduction in the expenditure on the Navy. He noticed that every one of those persons was a Minister sitting on this side of the House. The names mentioned were the right hon. Gentleman the late Chancellor of the Exchequer, Viscount Goschen and the present Prime Minister.

MR. LOUGH: And the present Chancellor of the Exchequer.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Yes, and he might add a fourth—the right hon. Gentleman the present Chancellor of the Exchequer. Therefore he thought it would be unfair to say that there was any want of sympathy with that idea on this side of the House. It might be within the memory of some hon. Members that he himself as a subordinate member of the Government and the representative of the Admiralty had expressed himself as strongly as he could in the same sense. But there must be reason in all things. He thought he was right in saying that every step that could be taken had been taken by this country in this direction. That being so, they had a right to some response on the part of others

less intimately concerned in their naval safety than this country. He rather reproached the hon. Member for continuing that accusation against this country alone and not remembering that we were dependent to a much greater extent than any other nation in the world upon our naval preparations.

Mr EDMUND ROBERTSON contended that when an increase of £1,000,000 was proposed on an Estimate which was already enormously high, the burden of showing the necessity for it was on the Government. It was the duty of the Secretary to the Admiralty to come forward when asked, and prove why such an increase was necessary. That duty the hon. Gentleman had not discharged. The hon. Member did make in part the answer which ought to have come from the Treasury Bench. He thanked the hon. Member for that answer, but he thought a reasonable and detailed answer ought to be given by the Secretary to the Admiralty. The specific question he put was that if £6,000,000 satisfied the two-Power standard six years ago, how did it come about that £10,000,000 was required this year? He also wished to know how much money was being taken for the new shipbuilding programme which was announced in the First Lord of the Admiralty's statement, and what would be the total cost of that programme? He thought that on this Vote, and at this stage, they were entitled to know what the new shipbuilding programme was to cost altogether.

Mr. KEARLEY said his hon. friend had just asked why £10,000,000 were necessary this year while £6,000,000 was sufficient six years ago. The reply was quite obvious, and he was not at all surprised that the Secretary to the Admiralty had not dealt with it. It had been made clear that the Committee were in favour of an efficient Navy, and did not put economy first. They all stood out for an efficient Navy at all costs. His hon. friend the Member for Islington had asked where they were going to stop? He wished to ask the hon. Member when he would like to stop?

Mr. LOUGH: As soon as you can.

Mr. KEARLEY said they all wanted to stop, but they were not going to be foolish enough to stop so long as the act of stopping would put the country in danger. That was his reply as to the necessity for this £10,000,000 to be spent upon new construction, for that expenditure had been necessitated by the expenditure of other Powers upon new construction. His hon. friend had said that it was no good looking for any economy in naval expenditure. He contended that there was plenty of scope for economy, and when they had got over the difficulty of having the discussions confined to such narrow limits they would be able to demonstrate that there was any amount of scope for economy in naval expenditure. He believed that they could get the same quantity of efficiency for much less money than they were now paying. He regarded with great satisfaction what had fallen from the hon. Member for West Islington and the hon. and learned Member for the Dumfries Burghs as to their being in favour of a thoroughly efficient Navy. That cleared the situation very much. He had been rather under the impression that they wanted to reduce the Estimates, irrespective of consequences. He had suspected that for some years, but he was now in the happy position of knowing that he had formed an erroneous impression.

*Mr. REGINALD LUCAS (Portsmouth) said he thought it was not too much occasionally to have a general discussion on the Navy, seeing how much interest was felt in the Navy by the country, and how much time had been taken up with a general discussion on the Army. He shared, to some extent, the regret expressed that these debates were not attended by more representatives of the Government, but he would point out that it was a very general practice for hon. and right hon. Gentlemen, as soon as they had spoken, to leave the House and remain away a long time, if they came back at all. A curious feature in all the speeches that had been delivered that afternoon was a disinclination to look facts in the face. No one had said that in the future we must be prepared for

a large increase of expenditure. The hon. Member for West Islington had come before the House as the apostolic successor of Lord Beaconsfield. But the hon. Member, and those who thought with him, seemed to have omitted one important fact on which his argument turned, namely, that whatever Lord Beaconsfield might have said thirty years ago, the situation had now entirely changed, because other countries had begun to build large navies which, in the time of Lord Beaconsfield, were not contemplated, certainly not by England. They had better announce at once their determination to maintain British superiority and make in the future still greater sacrifices than they had already made. The most plausible suggestion brought forward was that we should approach other countries with a view to arranging for a reduction of naval strength, but he was bound to say that that seemed to him to be a sort of confidence trick and from what he had heard and seen, he had no hope of any great result in that direction. He shared the belief of the hon. and gallant Member for Great Yarmouth, who hit the nail on the head when he said that if they went to Germany and suggested a reduction that country would immediately refer them to America. He did not believe that it was necessarily against this country that other Powers made naval preparations. We did not sufficiently consider what other countries had to bear in mind. Some time since he quoted an extract from a German newspaper in which loud complaints were made as to the inferiority of Germany in the Far East as compared with Russia, Japan and France. Great Britain was not even mentioned. Therefore he said that although he did not desire to diminish the significance of the situation or cast responsibility from off their shoulders, they ought to realise that there were other Powers besides ours against which the force of other navies might be brought, and therefore it was by no means certain that we should succeed if we took the initiative in this matter. The Member for Oldham attached great importance to better Statecraft. Sounder diplomacy the hon. Gentleman thought might ensure our being able to give way a little in our naval preparations. But he himself thought he would find

that diplomacy was not omnipotent. Let them assume that Germany was their great enemy. Surely it was not the Government who were going to embroil this country with Germany over the Venezuela and the Baghdad questions, but it was the people who charged the Government with being too subservient with Germany. It was also said there was a distinct desire in France to reduce their navy. He had thought so himself, but he had been reading a debate which took place in the French Chamber in November last, and there seemed to be a stronger feeling against naval reduction than was imagined. He could not see very much hope at present of securing general disarmament in Europe. If they intended to occupy their present position in the world they must be prepared for a still larger naval expenditure in the future.

MR. CREAN (Cork, S.E.) said he agreed with the Secretary to the Admiralty that a general discussion of policy was very inconvenient when they were dealing with a particular Naval Vote. Little had been said on the particular subject to which the Vote referred. If he might join in the general irregularity he would say that the policy of increasing the Navy to the strength of any other two Powers was one for which the Government had no alternative until some arrangement could be come to among the Powers themselves. That time was very far distant. The people of Ireland had no interest in any portion of the increased amount of money which was being extracted from the Irish taxpayers. That was certainly an injustice to Ireland, and there should be some protest raised against it. While these extravagances were being lavished on English constituencies, and, specially dockyard constituencies, the people of Ireland were treated in the reverse way. He wished to draw the attention of the Secretary to the Admiralty to the treatment of the workmen engaged at Cork labour docks. These docks being situated on an island the major portion of the employees were compelled to travel by water. He believed that boats were formerly provided by the Admiralty, but now for the first time they had been taken from the workmen. A certain portion of the employees.

had the advantage of the use of a Government launch to take them to the island, but most of them had to pay for a steam launch. He was informed that formerly the poorest class of workmen were supplied with row-boats, and for the first time on record they had lately been deprived of the use of these boats, which amounted to a reduction in their wages. He and some of his colleagues had waited on the Secretary to the Admiralty and asked him to inquire into the matter, which the hon. Gentleman promised to do. He wished to ask the hon. Gentleman if that inquiry had been made, and if he intended to do justice to these poor men.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said it was quite a mistake for the hon. Gentleman to suppose that he had made no inquiry. He had telegraphed at once to stop any change being made until he had made inquiry into the whole facts. That inquiry had been made and he had satisfied himself that nothing unjust or unfair was being done to these workmen and that no departure had been made from the dockyard regulations. If the hon. Gentleman wished it he should be happy to show him the case as it had been represented to him.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.) said the Secretary to the Admiralty declared that no change had been made, while his hon. friend insisted that these poor workmen had been deprived of the boats to take them to their work, the use of which they had had for thirty or forty years. The Committee should have a definite answer as to why these, the poorest working men on the island, were being penalised in this fashion.

MR. KEARLEY said he had an Amendment on the Paper, but perhaps it would not be necessary for him to move it. The Secretary to the Admiralty must be aware that he was expected to make some communication in regard to certain labour questions that had been under the notice of the Admiralty for a certain number of months. If he understood the silence of the hon. Gentleman to mean that he had nothing

to communicate to the Committee, he should have to trouble the Committee with some details.

MR. PRETYMAN (Suffolk, Woodbridge) said that this matter had been under careful consideration, and the members of the Board of Admiralty had visited all the great dockyards and had had the advantage of hearing their case from the men of all sections and kind of rating. They had also the advantage of hearing from the dockyard representatives, who had necessarily the means of knowing what the views of the men were. Certain financial considerations had, however, to be dealt with separately.

MR. KEARLEY asked what these might be. He did not follow the hon. Gentleman.

MR. PRETYMAN said that the financial considerations were what the cost to the country would be of all these matters. The Board of Admiralty had arrived at the conclusion that there was no general grievance, and that the rate of wages paid per hour for work done in the dockyards compared not unfavourably with the rate paid in private yards. There was a perfect mosaic of ratings in different branches of employment, all of which fitted into each other. There were some individual grievances, apart from wages, about which some changes would be made in the interest of the men, but until the general consideration of the cost to the country of the other demands was completed, nothing further could be done.

MR. KEARLEY said that that explanation did not go very far. The hon. Gentleman said that the Admiralty, which had had these matters under consideration since October last, had them still under consideration. The hon. Gentleman evidently meant that irrespective of the merits of the case the Admiralty were considering whether it was going to cost money. He wondered if the hon. Gentleman, or even the hon. and gallant Member for Great Yarmouth, had ever heard of the Resolution passed by the House of Commons in 1893, which had been disinterred by an old and distinguished representative of a

dockyard constituency—the present right hon. and learned Member for Cambridge University—and who had recently expressed his utter astonishment that a Government was still in office which continued on the old, antiquated, and unfair lines of payment of their employees. A paragraph in that Resolution read as follows:—

“That, in the opinion of this House, no person should in Her Majesty’s Naval Establishments be engaged at wages insufficient for proper maintenance.”

Now, what was proper maintenance? The Civil Lord might probably have heard of Mr. Arthur Chamberlain, an active member of the celebrated firm of Kynoch’s. That gentleman made a statement the other day in regard to the men in his employment. He said that he had come to the conclusion that any wage under 22s. per week was not a living wage, and consequently that he had to pay that wage. Mr. Rowntree, in his interesting book dealing with the working classes in York, pointed out that after the most careful inquiry and deduction from the facts collected, he arrived at the conclusion that 21s. 10d. per week was the lowest wage on which a man could live under ordinary rental conditions. It was a matter of notoriety that the rental conditions at such dockyard towns as Devonport and Deptford were abnormal; but there were men employed in the Devonport dockyard who only received a wage of 20s., and some as low as 19s. per week. How was the hon. Gentleman opposite going to reconcile the continuance of that rate of wages with the Resolution of 1893, which had never been repudiated by this or any other Government? Two years ago Mr. Goschen, during a similar discussion, undertook to have the whole question of rates of pay gone into, but that promise had not been carried out; at least, they had seen no results of it. A few weeks ago a deputation from the Trade Union Congress had an interview with the Board of Admiralty, and put before them the exceptionally strong case of the dockyard joiners. It was then disclosed that whereas the joiner’s wage in private yards, doing the same work, and even Government work, was 39s. 6d. per week, the rate prevailing in the Government dockyards was 31s. per week. The question

of the wide disparity between the number of men on the establishment in the dockyards and the number of hired men had been raised more than once. The hon. Gentleman opposite had admitted that the disparity did exist, and stated that the matter was receiving consideration. Had it received consideration? The Government were now going to start on the east coast a new naval base. He should like to know what would be the policy that would be adopted there. The Committee would wish to know whether, at the commencement of this new naval base, the Government would obtain control over a sufficient area of land as would insure their employees being housed, not only under sanitary conditions, but at a rental well within the competency of their pay. He hoped his hon. friend would be able to give him information on those points.

SIR JOHN GORST (Cambridge University) said he thought that the Committee would not accuse him of taking part in this debate on electioneering grounds. He had, however, undergone a long apprenticeship in these matters in other days, and he was quite astonished to hear from the hon. Gentleman who had just spoken, and from communications he had received from his old constituents, that matters had not gone very far during the last ten years; and that the Government, which, ten years ago, a Resolution of the House of Commons declared should be a model employer of labour, was not a model employer at all, and was carrying on the dockyards in the same hand-to-mouth way as they were ten years ago. He would give the Committee one example. He did not think that any employer of labour would have two distinct classes of workmen in his employ at different rates of pay, and in different positions as to pension, and permanency of service. He alluded to the distinction between the hired men and the established men at the dockyards. The question was brought before the Admiralty a few days ago; but he supposed it was no nearer a solution now than it was ten or twenty years ago. Of course, one could understand the principle of having established men in order that a body of efficient workmen might be at the command of the Admiralty for the repair of the Fleet.

Mr. Kearley.

On that the very existence of the country might depend. It was necessary to have a number of permanent men who would receive a lower rate of wages in consideration of the permanency of their employment and other conditions, by which it was supposed they were placed in a better position than the outside workman. At the same time there was a large number of what were called hired men—men who had no claim to superannuation, or to permanent employment, and who were as a matter of fact formally discharged every year, and taken on again. Although those men were nominally only engaged for a year, their employment was really just as permanent as that of the established men. A hired man might retire from a dockyard after working twenty or thirty years, and would have no claim to superannuation. He would merely receive a gratuity. It was quite clear that the maintenance of a system of that kind was a very bad thing. Even before the Model Employer Resolution was passed, the Admiralty used to admit that it was not a satisfactory arrangement, and that it ought to be discontinued. Of course, it was quite right that the Admiralty should have a certain number of men temporarily employed; but when in the case of a temporary man experience brought out his capacity as a workman and his other qualifications, he ought to be put on the establishment. The Admiralty ought to have a certain number of hired men for two or three years; and then when they were satisfied as to their character and industry they ought to be put on the establishment after undergoing a certain period of probation. If a man remained a hired man for seventeen or twenty years it was quite clear that there would be discontent and dissatisfaction. It was a system which no commercial employer of labour would ever dream of attempting to carry out. He was not quite sure that the Admiralty should not take the advice of some practical business man accustomed to employ a large number of workmen of various classifications and trades, in order that the work of the dockyards might be organised in the same way as work in the great shipyards was organised.

In that way, the work would be much more efficiently done, and the Admiralty would have a much more contented and satisfied class of workmen. It was not, of course, an easy matter, and not a matter which they expected the Secretary to the Admiralty to carry out without expert assistance. Many hon. Members knew how difficult the employment of labour was; but if the Government was to be a model employer it must face that difficulty. A scheme should be drawn up on commercial lines for the employment of labour at the dockyards, and if that were really taken in hand by the Admiralty, it would not only satisfy the workmen, but the business of the country would be much more efficiently and economically carried on.

*MR. REGINALD LUCAS said he did not think that it was necessary for dockyard Members to intervene in the debate except to express their thanks to the Board of Admiralty for receiving a deputation of Members interested in dockyards. At the interview they had an opportunity of laying their views before the Admiralty in a much more businesslike manner than by a debate in Committee of the House. As the Admiralty knew the case was not an easy one, as there were so many details that they could not discuss in Committee because of the technicalities of the subject. It was much better to meet and discuss it in a less formal fashion. Another thing for which he expressed thanks was that the Admiralty had acceded to their wish that they should interview the men personally, because while dockyard Members might understand their case to some extent, they could not possibly know the facts and interests so well as the men themselves. He did not wish to be unduly suspicious of the Admiralty. They said they were still considering the matters raised by the men. There were so many matters under consideration that he was prepared to wait until they stated what they were prepared to do, with the confident hope that the statement would be satisfactory and encouraging to all parties concerned.

MR. CREAN said he wished, as a protest, to move the reduction of the Vote by £200. There was no alternative left to him, as he had not received a satisfactory reply. The statement of the hon. Gentleman, that the men to whom he had referred were not deprived of any privileges, was contrary to the facts. He was aware of the facts from the men themselves, and knew that they had to pay out of their small wages for being taken to and from their work. The men had been deprived of a privilege which they had enjoyed for twenty or thirty years. He begged to move.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item B be reduced by £200, in respect of Wages of Men."—(*Mr. Crean.*)

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said he was sorry that the hon. Member should think that he was making a mis-statement.

MR. CREAN said that he did not believe the hon. Gentleman capable of that; but wrong information had been supplied to him.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said he was obliged to the hon. Gentleman. He thought, however, he was under some misapprehension. He himself did not say that no change had been made. The hon. Gentleman came to him with another hon. Member on the subject, and said that there was a case for inquiry. He telegraphed at once that no change should be made in the arrangements until he had had an opportunity of fully investigating the question. What he said was that he was satisfied that no injustice had been done, but that he could not at the moment recollect all the circumstances of the case, as the matter occurred some time ago, and that he should be glad, if the hon. Member desired, to send him the particulars which led to the decision of the Rear-Admiral at Queenstown. He still thought that no injustice had been done. Perhaps, he had an apology to make to the hon. Gentleman for not communicating with him at the time. It might have been better had he done so, although it was not a matter which really came within his province.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.) wished to assure the hon. Gentleman that the statement made by Mr. Crean was

absolutely true. The men were told they must pay their own fares or hire boats. The matter was a small one, but to these men it meant a considerable loss. Since the interview with the hon. Gentleman nothing whatever had been done to restore to these men the privileges they had enjoyed for so long a time.

MR. GILHOOLY (Cork County, W.) asserted that no expense was incurred by the Admiralty in placing the boats at the disposal of the workmen going to and from their work, because they rowed the boats themselves. They felt it was a great hardship and injustice that while the men coming from the other side of the harbour were carried to and from their work by the boats, they should be compelled to pay their own fares. The men were deserving of consideration because their wages were lessened by two shillings per week. He was glad that the hon. Gentleman was going to look into the matter again.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER undertook to refresh his memory and supply Mr. Crean with the Admiral's decision and the reasons for it.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

*MR. PRETYMAN said, in reply to the hon. Member for Devonport, the hon. Member and the Committee would see and sympathise with the rather difficult position in which the Board of Admiralty was placed in having to reply on the question of dockyard workers. There could be no doubt that the Admiralty, as well as every Member of the Committee, must have every sympathy with the men in this matter. The Board of Admiralty desired to be a model employer of labour, but it was one thing to be a model employer of labour and quite another to accede to every request made on behalf of the men. So far as the general conditions under which the men were employed were concerned the Admiralty had not fallen very far short of private employers in this matter. The men worked eight hours a day in the dockyard, and as to the particular point raised by the hon. Member for Devonport and the right hon. Member for Cambridge University, his right hon. friend must have forgotten the fact

that in private employment no workmen were established and that a pension at the end of their service was only obtained in the Government service. Therefore the Government service did not compare unfavourably with that of private employers. Another misapprehension which he desired to try and remove was this, that repeated suggestions of complaint as to the conditions of employment of the men in the dockyards led people to believe that these workmen were a discontented set of men. He had derived great advantage from seeing these men and hearing their views, and he did not think they were at all a discontented set of men. They were like any other set of workmen in the country. They wished to see the conditions of their labour improved, and thought they had certain grievances which they wished to have remedied. Those grievances were not of an extensive character, and were now being investigated. He had held out hopes that he would have been able to give on this occasion a more definite reply to the hon. Member opposite, but, unfortunately, he was not in a position to do so, and he thanked the hon. Gentleman for the patience with which he had waited for a reply. Another suggestion that was often made was that the Admiralty should secure the advice of business men, and place the labour of the dockyards on a business footing. That was a suggestion made by everybody who desired to find fault with the Government Departments. He had had some experience of business men outside the Government, and some short experience of Government methods, and he unhesitatingly said that in those who superintended our dockyards they had business men. No general advantage would be gained in trying to remodel all the labour in our dockyards. What was being done was to endeavour to improve the system that existed by ameliorations and small alterations in it, which were found to fit in with the requirements of the persons who worked under it. He repudiated the suggestion that all the business men of the country were to be found outside the Government Departments. With regard to the question of the hon. Member opposite, it would be a little out of order to enter into the question of the sites for housing the workmen at St. Margaret's Hope at this moment, but he intended to

make a statement on the matter at a future date. It was a matter that could not be lost sight of, and he asked that his reply on that question might be deferred until the introduction of the Naval Works Bill.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £4,786,700,* be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Expense of the Matériel for Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, &c., including the cost of Establishments of Dockyards and Naval Yards at Home and Abroad, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904."

*SIR WILLIAM ALLAN said he had great pleasure in taking up the subject which he had hinted at previously, of the great and extraordinary increase in the Naval Vote. It was all very well for hon. Members to vote money, but it was their duty to ask the question, how was that money spent? They ought to make themselves acquainted with the expenditure, and ask whether the money was wisely spent. The Government had paid for Belleville boilers £2,200,000 of that amount—they had boilered sixty ships with Belleville boilers. Had that amount been spent in Scotch boilers—safe boilers—they could have boilered 120 warships. That meant a dead loss to this country of £1,100,000. Over and above that sum, they had paid in royalties to Belleville £175,000. Had anybody made inquiry as to the validity of the patent? He did not believe any inquiry had been made, and yet they had paid for royalties a sum which would have sufficed to boiler eight warships of 20,000 horse-power. For repairs and renewals of boilers in fourteen vessels only they had spent £350,000, and these vessels were new, having done practically no work. For that money they could have boilered sixteen ships of 20,000 horse-power each. That was an absolute waste and squandering of public money. Then there was the extra coal bill. These boilers required double the ordinary amount of coal. The additional amount taken this year was £233,000, but taking it at £200,000 they could have

boilered nine vessels for the money. Then they had to have extra stokers and artificers, and, putting the cost of these down at £30,000 a year, they could have supplied 1,200 tons of Scotch boilers, or the equivalent of one ship of 30,000 horse-power. That extra expenditure was due to the foolish blundering of the Admiralty. The summary of all this was that Great Britain could have had ninety-four additional ships boilered with safe, economical boilers, requiring fewer men and running no risks, for the money they had given for French boilers and squandered on things that were now running up the Estimates every year. There was no denying those facts. But that was not all. There was the depreciation of the ships to be looked at. The point that determined the value of merchant vessels which were to be sold was the condition of the boilers. Taking the depreciation at $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in the cost of the ships—it ought really to be more—and taking the average cost at £700,000 each—some run to £1,250,000, and some to £300,000 and £400,000—it gave an outlay to be incurred by the taxpayer within from one to four years, which was the limit of the life of the boilers, of £3,150,000 for depreciation. What wonder was it that there should be an increase in the Estimates? For repairs this year there was an increase of £881,000—deducting certain items he took the additional amount for repairs at £546,728, or over half-a-million of money for repairs to these boilers.

Taking another case, to show how the business was done, there was the "Hecate," which had £9,700 spent on her and was sold the other day for £5,000. Was that business? He was glad to see the Chancellor of the Exchequer present, as he was trying to show where the money was running out, and that it was time for him to put the plugs in the rat-holes. They were told that the dockyards were conducted on business lines. If that were so why were they out in their Estimates to the extent of £30,000 or £40,000 per ship? Then the Admiralty spent on the "Medusa," for a German boiler, £56,300, and on the "Medea" £61,300; and they took out of those vessels first-class boilers and put the

others in. They did the same with the "Hermes" at a cost of £47,000. That made a total of £164,600 absolutely flung away. Was that business? He called it an unmitigated squandering of public money. That was where the money was going. Let them not cry "Economy" or roar "Efficiency." There was neither economy nor efficiency. Look at the coal bills, at the cripples in China, at the Cape, and in the harbours. Where was the efficiency? That was a bogus cry. It was inefficiency. For that £164,600 which was being spent on experiments with these boats, they could have boilered seven vessels of 20,000 i.h.p. with safe and economical boilers. After these experiments they would doubtless get the usual highly satisfactory reports! Coming to another phase of the question, he would take the Royal yacht.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER pointed out that there was no Vote for the Royal yacht in the Estimates.

*SIR WILLIAM ALLAN: There is in the repairs.

*THE CHAIRMAN: It does not appear in the Estimates, but the hon. Member is entitled to use it as an illustration.

*SIR WILLIAM ALLAN said he was using it as an illustration to show the business-like character of the Admiralty. The first Estimate for the Royal yacht was £353,000, and she cost £558,000 up to March of last year, or 60 per cent. in advance of the Estimate. Last year the Admiralty put down £18,530 for estimated expenditure on this new boat. That was more business! But she actually cost £77,400. It was, therefore, no wonder the Estimates were rising to such an inordinate extent. He had not gone through the whole of the Estimates because they were so framed as to puzzle and not to enlighten. When the Admiralty declined to take Belleville boilers for three cruisers what happened? They had to pay £41,000 more. The total cost of the changes which had been made amounted to £2,548,600, and that was where the

Sir William Allan.

money was going. That was the business of the Admiralty, and nobody else could do business in that way. His estimate of a business man was a man that could give him 22s. for £1. Probably there were plenty of business men at the Admiralty who could give them 15s. for £1, and that was the kind of business they did there. He wanted to know how it was that the "Enchantress" went to Belfast to be built. The Admiralty invited several shipbuilding firms to tender for a yacht, and certain firms sent in tenders. He put a question upon this subject in the House and he was told that Messrs. Harland and Wolff's firm sent in the lowest tender. He wished to point out, however, that none of the other firms were asked to tender for the same class of boat as that which Messrs. Harland and Wolff tendered for. He wanted to know why that yacht went to Harland and Wolff's to be built, and why the other firms did not get an opportunity of tendering for the same size of yacht? He wanted to get at the bottom of that job. The yacht builders of this country felt very much aggrieved at being treated in this way.

He would now deal with another aspect of this great question, which he might warn the House would lead them into far greater expense in the very near future. It was well known to all shipbuilders and engine builders that some of their latest class of cruisers were badly designed. Take the "Good Hope," which conveyed the Colonial Secretary to the Cape. The design of that ship was such that they could not fire the guns, and she was a wet ship built with hollow lines. All your "County" class of cruisers are also very bad sea boats. They had had many *apologia* for hollow lines, but he thought he could impress the Committee for once with the simplicity of shipbuilding, by simply saying that nature never made a hollow line fish, or when splitting wood a curved wedge was never used, and yet the man of genius at the Admiralty had constructed ships on this principle, putting in bad boilers in a bad design of hull. This was all due to that ideal theory that the lines of a ship should be like the top of a wave. The

"County" class of ships were useless as sea-going boats, although they might be all right for sailing on the *Serpentine*. They were absolutely useless when put into the rough-and-tumble work of sea life. Had the Admiralty learned anything by this experience? No, for they were putting at this moment into their first-class ships one-fifth cylindrical, and four-fifths Babcock and Wilcox boilers. He could give them an instance of the working of Babcock and Wilcox boilers. In the case of one ship, after being two days out from Philadelphia the Babcock and Wilcox boilers they had in the stokehold began to leak. Two days after this had been put right the leakage commenced again, and it was found necessary to use salt water in the boiler. Upon arriving at Glasgow it was found that the bottom row of tubes had curved up three inches, and the second row one-and-a-half inches, and there were various blisters which proved to be only one-tenth of an inch in thickness. That was practical experience of those boilers, and those were the boilers they were now putting into their first-class ships. What did the Admiralty mean by it? Why couldn't they put in the safe circular boilers which the French were now adopting? The French were now putting aside the water-tube boilers altogether, and the latest French battle-ships were to be fitted with ordinary circular boilers, and two of their very latest cruisers were to be fitted with the same type of boilers. Why could they not imitate the French now? The Admiralty many years ago were ready enough to imitate the French, in fact, they would imitate anybody but a Briton. They went to America, and Germany, and to France for their boilers, but what had they done for Britain, where they got the money? The Admiralty were clinging to boilers which would not only pile up the Estimates but would cause all their ships to be cripples in a few years.

But apart from the burning of more coal, and a greater number of men required, they got inefficiency in their ships. They should not talk about economy and efficiency while their ships were all inefficient.

Take the "Ocean," the "Glory," the "Canopus," in fact any boat fitted with water-tube boilers—they were all failures. He felt this matter as a Briton—they could put it as a North Briton if they liked. It was no use for them to run down the dockyards, for the fault lay at Whitehall. It was not the fault merely of those who sat on the front Ministerial Bench, for they merely cried out what was put into their mouths, and they dare not do anything else. He knew the sentiments of the Secretary to the Admiralty, for they had fought this battle years ago. But notwithstanding the lessons the Admiralty had received by using Belleville boilers, they were still plunging into Babcock and Wilcox boilers, and they would be sure to come to grief. All he had to say was that by this policy the Admiralty were simply perpetuating increased cost in men and in coal, and at the same time they were also perpetuating increased inefficiency.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER expressed his regret that he had not time to reply. He did not see why the hon. Member should have brought in the question of the Royal yacht. There was no item in the Vote referring to the Royal yacht. If once they began discussing matters not in the Estimates they would have very little time to discuss those items which were included in the Vote.

And it being half-past seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolution to be reported to-morrow Committee also report Progress; to sit again this evening.

----- EVENING SITTING. -----

ULSTER AND CONNAUGHT LIGHT RAILWAYS BILL [BY ORDER].

[SECOND READING.]

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed,
"That the Bill be now read a second time."

Debate arising.

Sir William Allan.

*MR. O'DOWD (Sligo, S.) said he understood with regard to this Bill that some arrangement for a final settlement had been entered into. He had a Motion on the Paper that the Bill should be read a second time this day six months, but all he wished now was that the Bill should be postponed until Monday next in order to see what the terms of settlement were.

MR. CARVILL (Newry) said all the objections to the Bill had been completely met, but if the hon. Member for South Sligo desired to have the matter postponed until Monday he would not stand in the way, but he considered it would be a great waste of time, and that no useful object would be served.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.) said he hoped the hon. Member for Sligo would not persist in his attempt to postpone the Second Reading of this Bill. As it had been amended all it asked for was Parliamentary powers to extend this railway. By the Amendments it had been so narrowed down that the Bill only gave the railway company an extension of time to exercise powers which had already been granted to them. Under the circumstances he asked the hon. Member not to persist, and pointed out that if the Bill was postponed it might never come on again.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) said he could not understand the last observation of the right hon. Gentleman opposite that the Bill might never come on again if it were postponed until Monday. He himself was in favour of the Bill, and therefore must not be taken as speaking against it. So far as he understood the position, his hon. friend the Member for Sligo, before expressing himself satisfied with the concessions that had been made in the Bill, desired to communicate with those he represented. That was a perfectly reasonable position to take up, and in order to do that he desired to have the Second Reading postponed until Monday, when the matter could finally be dealt with.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.) said he failed to see any reason for the postponement of the Bill. As altered it did not affect Sligo in any way whatever. It merely extended for three years the time in which to make a railway in the North of Ireland which the Company had already powers to construct. The rest of the Bill had been dropped. The Bill had been postponed time after time, and if postponed again it might be too late to do anything with it.

*MR. O'DOWD said he did not oppose the Second Reading in any captious spirit. He represented Sligo and Connaught generally in this matter, and all he desired was to see the terms of the final settlement. There were always two parties to an arbitration and he failed to see why he had not been consulted.

COLONEL MCCALMONT (Antrim, E.) said so far as the North of Ireland was concerned all their objections had been dealt with.

MR. CARVILL, by permission of the House, read the following letter from Mr. Kennedy, the Parliamentary agent for the Bill:—

"I am instructed by the promoters of this Bill to inform you that following on an interview with the Treasury this morning they have undertaken to strike out from the Bill in Committee all the new railways proposed to be authorised thereby, together with the provisions which sought to sanction a grant and loan by the Treasury from public funds towards the cost of construction of these railways."

He said on behalf of the promoters he would repeat the undertaking embodied in that letter, and thus, he thought, remove all objections to the Second Reading of this Bill.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny) said he did not know whether it was agreed that this debate should be postponed or not, and therefore he would move that the debate be adjourned. Hon. Members opposite stated that they were satisfied with the understanding. That conveyed to him the fact that they had been treated in a privileged way in this matter, and had seen a copy of the document containing the conditions of the arrangement. He would have supposed under the circumstances that the hon.

Member for Newry would have had the courtesy to send the hon. Member for Sligo—who it was notorious took great interest in this matter—a copy also. He had been long enough in the House to have serious doubts with regard to statements made by promoters of the Bill. He liked to see these things in black and white. It was only right that his hon. friend the Member for Sligo should have this document in his possession for a couple of days in order that he might consult his constituents upon it.

Motion made, and Question, "That the Debate be now adjourned"—(*Mr. Patrick O'Brien.*)

Put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed upon Thursday next (Evening Sitting).

SUPPLY [9TH ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith), in the Chair.]

NAVY ESTIMATES 1903-4.

£4,786,700, Shipbuilding, Repairs. Maintenance, etc.—Matériel.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said he wished to cancel the few remarks which he was compelled under the stress of circumstances to make before the dinner hour, and to say what he had to say now. He would like to say what he had to say clearly and emphatically, because he thought it was time that the Committee and the House generally should realise what was the value of the exaggerations in which his hon. friend the Member for Gateshead was accustomed to indulge, and how much harm might be done to a good cause by the repetition of statements which did not illustrate, but disguised, the facts which the speaker desired to bring to the notice of the Committee. The hon. Member had done to-day what he always had done. He indulged in a series of violent attacks on the Admiralty. He had said there were no business men and no business faculty and that there was gross waste of

money at the Admiralty, and he had adduced what he thought were instances illustrating his assertions. He asked the Committee to test the value of the hon. Member's charges by the light of what he was going to tell them. To begin with, the hon. Member had not yet arrived at the commencement of his Parliamentary career in connection with the Admiralty. The hon. Member had been digging like a sort of ghoul among the corpses; he had been digging among the dead incidents of the past.

*SIR WILLIAM ALLAN: Does the hon. Member suggest that those are the dead men of the Admiralty?

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said he meant the dead ships. The men were very much alive, and most of them were at sea doing their duty. His point was that most of the hon. Member's examples referred to matters which had no more to do with the Admiralty existing now than with the moon. The hon. Member had said that the Admiralty had been extraordinarily extravagant and foolish with regard to the "Hecate." But the question of the reboiling of the "Hecate" came up for consideration two years before he happened to be a member of the Board of Admiralty. The boilers were never put into the "Hecate" as the hon. Member led the Committee to suppose.

*SIR WILLIAM ALLAN: I did not say so.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER asked then what the hon. Member did say. His charge was that there had been a grave dereliction of duty because the Admiralty bought boilers, put them into a ship, and then sold the ship and lost the value of the boilers. It was said that £9,000 was paid for the boilers.

*SIR WILLIAM ALLAN: That was the amount given by the Committee of Public Accounts as having been spent on her.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said it was represented that so much had been spent on the ship, and that then the

Mr. Arnold-Forster.

ship was sold and that the money was lost. That related to the affairs of five years ago. But the boilers were never put into the ship. The ship was condemned as inefficient. The boilers were retained and were to be utilised for dockyard service, whilst the ship was sold for scrap iron. The hon. Member had referred to the Royal yacht. This matter had been discussed up hill and down dale. The hon. Member had interrupted him and told him that the question of the Royal yacht came up in the Estimates of this year. It did nothing of the kind. The hon. Member was a great deal too free in interrupting him. The other day, presuming on the ignorance of the House about a technical matter, with which he affected to be acquainted, the hon. Member told him that he was wrong in saying that certain evaporators primed, and stated that evaporators could not prime. The hon. Member was entirely wrong on that occasion, whilst he himself was entirely right and moreover happened to be perfectly acquainted with every circumstance with regard to those particular evaporators at the time. He asked the Committee not to take the statements of the hon. Member quite at the foot of the letter. The hon. Member had suggested that there had been some underhand work about the Admiralty yacht. He strongly resented the imputation which was put upon him by the hon. Member, and which was none the less an imputation because the hon. Member chose to pretend that he imputed nothing. The yacht was put up to tender, and the same specification was sent out to every one of the firms. Neither the hon. Gentleman the Member for Gateshead nor any other hon. Member, if called upon to decide on a question which depended solely on the appropriateness of a vessel for the purpose for which it was designed and the cost of that vessel, would have come to any other conclusion than that at which the Admiralty were compelled to arrive. The reason the yacht was taken from this particular builder was that it was thousands of pounds less in cost.

*SIR WILLIAM ALLAN: It was smaller.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said that, small or large, the reason why the yacht was accepted was because it was appropriate to its purpose and light in cost. The hon. Member had raised the question of boilers. The Committee had heard a good deal about that before, and he did not intend to repeat what he had said on a great many other occasions. The hon. Member and he happened to be a good deal in agreement with regard to these boilers, but it was a waste of time to come to the Committee now and revive these dead and buried stories. The hon. Member had spoken of "the boilers which the Admiralty were putting into our ships." The Admiralty were not putting the Belleville boiler into ships; that boiler had been abandoned by the Admiralty for all ships in the Navy. What was the use of the hon. Member getting up and attacking him on the subject of the Belleville boiler?

*SIR WILLIAM ALLAN: I am not attacking you.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said he took responsibility on behalf of the Admiralty. The hon. Member had misled the House and the Committee on this as on almost every other matter on which he had spoken that evening. He had led the Committee to believe that certain boilers were being put into ships when, as he knew perfectly well, they had been discarded. The hon. Member got up as a specialist—he was sometimes tempted to believe that there was only one engineer on the whole of the earth, and that was the hon. Member for Gateshead—and the hon. Member, speaking as a specialist, excited the mirth and approbation of the Committee by saying that these ships burned twice the amount of coal that the old cylindrical-boilered ships did.

*SIR WILLIAM ALLAN: So they do.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The hon. Member had now repeated the statement. It was an exaggeration so gross, so utterly unfounded, that the hon. Member had absolutely no business, even with the liberty which it was customary to accord to him in that Committee, to make such a statement. He had not come across one

single statement in the hon. Member's speech which, so far as his information went, had any reference to the facts as they were. The hon. Member said that French battleships and cruisers were being fitted with cylindrical boilers. He believed there was absolutely no foundation whatever for that statement. He had always admitted that the water-tube boiler ships—the Belleville boiler ships—had been extravagant in their consumption of coal; but if any advantage was to be gained by an attack on the policy of using them, or any other policy, that good was neutralised by gross exaggeration, such as they had heard from the hon. Member. The hon. Member also attacked the Admiralty for an alleged under-estimate. He had read the Report of the Public Accounts Committee with great interest and respect; but he held that if any other Department could show that on an expenditure of £31,000,000 there was so little to find fault with they might be proud of it. What was the *gravamen* of these charges? One charge had reference to an event of fifteen years ago. No one of them had relation to any modern event. The hon. Member had said that there was an under-estimate of £34,000 with regard to a particular ship. That was not so. The under-estimate was in respect of a contribution in aid on a particular Vote, and he submitted that when they were dealing with a sum of £31,000,000 an under-estimate in regard to a contribution in aid of £34,000 was a trivial matter and could not form ground for the attack the hon. Member had made. The hon. Member spoke of the cases of the "Medusa," the "Medea," and the "Hermes" in the extraordinary slapdash style he was wont to adopt. He said the Admiralty had wasted £164,000 on the boilers of those ships. The "Medea" and "Medusa" were two small cruisers which had been running a very long time with cylindrical boilers; but it was decided as a matter of policy, on the authority of men of great experience at the Admiralty, to devote these two ships to experiments with two different classes of boilers, and the old cylindrical boilers were taken out and new boilers were put in. He admitted it was an experiment; but experiments had to be paid for, and he submitted that the price of restoring the boilers in the "Medea" was not excessive when it was considered, in the first place,

that by making the experiment they were contributing largely to their knowledge of these boilers, and, in the second place, that they were making the ships eminently fit for service, as fast cruisers. The hon. Member had thought fit to lump together the case of the "Medea" and the "Medusa," on the one hand, and that of the "Hermes," on the other. The two cases had no more to do with each other than the moon had to do with the Medway. The "Hermes" broke down badly, and her breakdown was one of the circumstances which led him to distrust and dislike the Belleville boilers. There was no more ardent advocate of the change in the boiler installation of the "Hermes" than himself. He was astonished the hon. Gentleman should use the "Hermes" as a stick to beat him with. He believed that no wiser step had been taken than to put a better class of boiler into that ship. To say that the money had been wasted was to entirely mislead the Committee. The hon. Member had done great service in the House, and was capable of doing more, and he was largely in agreement with him on many matters; but no good purpose was served by these exaggerations and mis-statements. He was prepared to take his stand on this, that in case after case the hon. Member had made statements to the Committee which were absolutely incorrect. He knew these attacks would recur, but he might be blamed if he allowed the hon. Member's exaggerations, of which he was exceedingly conscious, to pass unnoticed. If the hon. Member would ever accept any advice from him, he would moderate his transports and would endeavour to confine his great knowledge and ability to subjects he had followed out more accurately than those to which he had referred. If he did so he would continue to be an ornament to the debates of the House, instead of, as he thought he had been in this case, a detriment.

SIR WILLIAM ALLAN said the hon. Gentleman had accused him of exaggeration. He only took his stand on the figures given to him in the statement published by the Admiralty itself. In the Appropriation Account the "Hermes," the "Medusa," and the "Medea" were lumped

together, and a total sum of money was set against the three. There was no exaggeration on his part. It would not pay him to exaggerate. He knew the hon. Gentleman was omniscient and knew all things. Why, he might command the Channel Fleet. Let him now bring the hon. Gentleman to his senses. As to the "Enchantress," what did Messrs. A. & J. Inglis say? They said that from Mr. Forster's statement any business man would infer that all the Estimates were based on a certain definite specification and design, whereas each firm submitted their own designs and specifications, embodying their conception of the requirements of the Admiralty. He had only quoted the Admiralty's own way of doing business. The Admiralty never asked the firms to tender on one specification alike.

* MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said the hon. Gentleman was quite wrong. All the firms were invited to tender on a definite specification.

SIR WILLIAM ALLAN said that what the hon. Gentleman called a specification was not a specification at all. He had had more specifications of ships and engines through his hands than the hon. Gentleman. That was only an outline. If Messrs. A. and J. Inglis had been asked to tender for a 3,000 tons ship, he questioned whether their tender would have been more than that of Messrs. Harland and Wolff. He repelled the insinuation that he exaggerated. He did nothing of the kind. The exaggerations were the hon. Gentleman's, who was sitting there as a barrister for the defence of the Admiralty. The hon. Gentleman mentioned the Royal yacht. There was an expense connected with that vessel which ought to be accounted for. If it was not mentioned in the Estimates it ought to be. The hon. Gentleman had called in question what had been said about the consumption of coal on the "Spartiate." He should like to see the diagrams from the engine-room showing what the boat had been doing. The vessel did not go at more than ten knots. She took forty-three days to go to Hong Kong, a distance of 9,600 miles. There was no use holding up the "Spartiate"

Mr. Arnold-Forster.

as a low-consumption boat. He could give the Committee the opinions of Admirals on the whole thing. He supposed the hon. Gentleman thought he had scored off him, but he had not. It was all very well for the hon. Gentleman to come down to the House with a sort of righteous indignation. That was what he was paid for, but facts were facts.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER asked whether the hon. Member could substantiate the statement that the consumption of coal in certain ships was double that in others

*SIR WILLIAM ALLAN asked what the "Europa" burned going to Australia, and the "Good Hope" going to the Cape. What did the "Hyacinth," the "Ocean," and the "Glory" burn? He asked the hon. Member to compare the consumption of coal with the indicated horse-power.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The hon. Member does exaggerate grossly. He says they burn double. He is entirely wrong.

*SIR WILLIAM ALLAN said that was an easy way to try to shut up a Member, but the day had gone by for minimising facts, more especially with the Navy, the first line of defence. He was surprised that he should be accused of exaggeration. What interest had he in this beyond a desire to see that the Navy, the first line of defence, was capable of doing its work at all times? He took their own figures; and the day had gone past for standing at that box and accusing him of exaggerating. It would not do. Ministers must stand up there and tell the truth. They must let the country know the reason of the increase of their repairs bill. Why was their "Terrible" at Glasgow, their "Canopus" at Laird's, and other boats scattered all over the country? The hon. Gentleman is paid to minimise and hide everything, and not tell the real facts of the case. While he had the honour to be in that House he would vote against that hiding of the truth. The Secretary

to the Admiralty had not told the Committee why they took Babcock and Wilcox's boilers without any experience. Were the Admiralty to spend the nation's money without being called in question? He would call them in question every time it was necessary in the interest of the Navy, and while they got ships that could neither steam safely nor well.

*SIR J. COLOMB said the hon. Member for Gateshead showed the true characteristic of the British Navy, for he did not know when he was beaten, and the Secretary to the Admiralty adopted in the debate the principle in naval policy of offensive defence. Perhaps the hon. Gentleman would say whether the progress made up to 1st April with regard to the six battleships and eleven armoured cruisers, and so on, which, according to the First Lord's statement, were to be completed this year was satisfactory. Was the progress made during the past few weeks up to what was anticipated? He thought it would be very interesting to know the precise nature of the experiments which were being made in regard to the storage to prevent the deterioration of coal stored all over the world. He also asked whether any further information could be given in regard to the experiments with oil fuel, and whether the smoke difficulty in connection with the use of oil fuel showed any probability of being solved? He further asked whether any information could be given as to the results of the trials of the "Velox"? He wished to know particularly in regard to the progress made with the three submarine boats included in the list of vessels which were to be completed this year. He himself believed that the submarine vessel was mainly of value for defensive purposes. Could any information be given as to whether these vessels were to take the offensive and not the defensive? It was extremely important that the submarine boat should be experimented with in order that its qualifications and efficiency might be tested. It was necessary that they should know how far these vessels were capable of being navigated in varying depths and in tortuous estuaries. Fixed military

defences and garrisons presupposed a visible attack, and therefore the nature of the work which the submarine boat would be able to perform had a very important bearing as affecting our military policy, which was costing so much on great fortifications and garrisons.

MR. MARKHAM (Nottinghamshire Mansfield), while acknowledging the past services of the hon. Member for Gateshead on the boiler question, said the Admiralty would have incurred a grave responsibility if they did not now follow the advice of the experts who were consulted. They took the best advice obtainable in the country, and the Report they received from leading engineers was unanimously in favour of the adoption of water-tube boilers in the Navy. Last autumn when he was in America he went very carefully into this question with officers and engineers of the American Navy, and they were unanimously of opinion that our Government had taken the right course in making a combination of cylindrical and water-tube boilers. The hon. Member for Gateshead stated that the coal consumption with water-tube boilers was more than double that with cylindrical boilers. His impression was that in full-speed trials between the "Hyacinth" and the "Minerva" the coal consumption was rather more economical in the "Minerva," and he hoped the Secretary to the Admiralty would give the Committee some information on that point. He could only trust that the Admiralty would pursue the course they had taken, using discretion before they adopted any particular boilers; but he was convinced that a water-tube boiler was necessary for the country.

*MR. REGINALD LUCAS said that so far as he was able to judge we were much better off in the matter of rapid ship-building than either France or the United States, but he was not quite so sure that we were as well off in that respect as Germany. There was no doubt that there had been an improvement this year. The matter was most important, and it should be remembered that a saving of time was a saving of

money. The motto should be "More haste, less waste." He thought it would be an assurance to the country if the hon. Gentleman could give the Committee some information as to the "County" class of cruisers.

*MR. KEARLEY said he thought it would not be inopportune if he took the opportunity of congratulating the Admiralty on some judicious reforms which had been carried out as the outcome of suggestions made last year. He, himself, had then stated that it would be advantageous to the Navy if ships built by private contract were completed in the contractor's yard, and not brought round to the Naval Arsenal and subjected to what was termed a process of completion. The latter process had involved a great waste of time and money. The Admiralty had accepted the suggestion, and the ships built in private yards were now completed there. He congratulated the hon. Gentleman on the good results that had accrued from that course to the taxpayers and the Navy generally. Another reform that had taken place was to send ships for repairs to contractors' yards, so as to leave the Government dockyards free for new construction. He, however, wanted to call the attention of the Committee to the basis of the arrangement between the Admiralty and the contractors. He understood that no estimate of the cost of the repairs was given by the contractors beforehand. That was quite contrary to the system which prevailed in the Government yards. An estimate was there made, and consequently the Admiralty knew what the repairs were going to cost. The working basis between the Admiralty and the contractors, he was informed, was that the contractors were permitted to take a profit of 20 per cent. for wear and tear expenses; and over and above that they were assured a clear profit of 10 per cent. That seemed to him to be rather an extravagant arrangement. It would be more economical and businesslike if the contractors were called upon to give an estimate before the repairs were undertaken, for he believed if they were given a free-hand the repairs in the long run would be very costly. He also

congratulated the Admiralty on the good progress made in expediting the output of ships and in overtaking arrears of construction since the strike. That was to be attributed largely to the ability and energy of the Controller. That gentleman had also made it his special business to turn out excessive weights from the ships, which enabled him to give greater gun-power, a thing which was much required. In regard to the work carried out in the contract yards, both as to the completion of new ships and as to repairs, the Admiralty were fortunate enough to have obtained the services of a very distinguished man, Captain Jellico, as naval assistant. It was most necessary that the professional staff at the Admiralty should be strengthened, and that men of experience, with a practical knowledge of naval needs, should be employed in superintending the building and repairs in private yards. He would remind the hon. Gentleman that at Devonport next July there would not be a single ship on the slips. Quite an exceptional state of things prevailed in that dockyard, as there was only one ship building there at the present moment. He wanted to ask the hon. Gentleman how he proposed to place his orders for new construction, because it would be rather a serious thing for the Government yards to be short of work. Another question was as to dockyard equipment, so far as regarded machinery. The hon. Gentleman last year had admitted that the equipment was by no means up-to-date, or as efficient as the Admiralty wished to make it. He believed that some additions of modern machinery had been made, much to the benefit of the yards, but there was enormous room for further improvements, both in the machinery and the haulage in the yards. Inferior methods of hauling were very costly, and it would be a most material help if tramlines were laid down throughout the whole of the main avenues in the yards, and also into the workshops.

The Government seemed to have an attachment to lighting their workshops with gas; they did not appear hardly to realise that there was such a thing as electric light. The expense of burning gas

was very high, and at this time of day every workshop in the Government establishments should be thoroughly equipped with the electric light. Then most valuable space in the Government dockyards was taken up by great quantities of rummage. It would be more economical to get rid of this rummage rather than store it, and devote the space to more useful purposes. There was no doubt that the men on the constructors' staff in the yards had not opportunities afforded to them of widening the horizon of their knowledge. He thought it would be a good thing for the Admiralty if they afforded the constructors an opportunity of seeing what was going on, not only in this country, but in other countries, where they might obtain ideas of what up-to-date methods meant. He also made the suggestion that the workmen should be invited to submit any idea of improvements in machinery. The spirit of repressing all initiative led to apathy. It was within his own knowledge that the Government had men of ideas in their employment, and if these men were encouraged to submit their ideas in any direction for adoption it would be of the utmost benefit to the service. He had heard that suggestions for improvements which had been made to the chief constructor had not been received with any great favour. It was the practice in America, as well as in most private yards in this country, to give the greatest possible encouragement to workmen to submit the ideas which occurred to them for improvements to their superiors, and that had frequently led to the development of great inventions. The Secretary to the Admiralty, who was a reformer at heart, was to be congratulated on the good work which he had done, and he submitted to him that if the suggestions which he had made were carried out, the result would not be detrimental, but beneficial, to the Admiralty.

MR. GROVES (Salford, S.) said it was quite evident that the hon. Member for Gateshead had devoted a considerable amount of time to special matters connected with the Navy, although it was difficult sometimes to discriminate between the point where the

hon. Member for Gateshead was naturally carried away by his enthusiastic temperament and the real facts of the case. While he would be the last man in the House to depreciate the enormous amount of good and earnest work which the Secretary to the Admiralty had done, yet he thought the hon. Gentleman might have imparted less heat into the answer he gave to the hon. Member for Gateshead. He wished to ask the hon. Member whether the consumption of coal in the "Minerva" and the "Hyacinth" was identical, and whether the complement of stokers was the same on both ships. They knew that in trials a considerable addition was often made to the complement of the lower deck from the seamen class. Before he sat down he wished to congratulate the Secretary to the Admiralty on the enormous advances which had been made at the Admiralty under his administration.

MR. GODDARD (Ipswich) said that anyone who suggested economy in connection with the Navy, laid himself open to criticism, if not to condemnation; but there was one kind of economy which might, with great advantage to the finances of the country, be put into practice without in any way interfering with the efficiency or strength of the Navy. The method of transferring surpluses from one Vote to another was often the cause of considerable extravagance. In connection with the Shipbuilding Vote and the last Appropriation Account, the Public Accounts Committee found that on an original Estimate of £13,802,000, and a Supplementary Estimate of £191,500, there was a surplus of £346,405. But the total amount surrendered on the whole of the Navy accounts was only £94,184, so that, roughly, £250,000, deliberately voted by Parliament for the purposes of shipbuilding had been spent on other Naval Votes altogether. Such a system, he thought, was not conducive to economy. Misapprehension, too, was caused by the form in which the accounts were rendered; they were not sufficiently clear to be properly understood by the ordinary observer. For instance, in the last Appropriation Account on Vote 8, Section 2, there was a deficiency of £16,662. That was

a small sum on a very large Vote. But when the figures were examined there was an immense variation. Under different sub-heads there were deficits amounting to £149,500; on four sub-heads there were savings of £62,755; and there was an excess of appropriations in aid over the Estimate of £70,164; so that the variation, instead of being £16,662, was really £282,497. That was one of the reasons why a more economical working of the Shipbuilding Vote could not be shown. Too often the Estimates were altogether wrong, and even after they had been revised they were exceeded. When once a ship had been begun, there was no means of stopping it; they were obliged to pass the revised Estimates because the ship had to be completed. The Admiralty ought to take steps to see that their Estimates more nearly approximated to the actual cost of the ships. He was not an advocate of any unwise reduction in the expenditure on the Navy, but he was a strong advocate of true economy, and when an estimate for the building of a ship was presented, he thought it ought to be adhered to as nearly as possible, and that when a certain sum of money had been voted for shipbuilding purposes, it was an unwise step to allow any surplus to be used for totally different objects.

*MR. RUNCIMAN understood that the Admiralty were making experiments in the use of oil fuel, and he suggested they should be cautious so as to be able to drop it, if necessary, without great expense. The supply of oil fuel was in extremely few hands. A large number of wells in the Far East had recently been acquired by an American trust, and one of the largest lines, which had been practically the pioneer in the use of oil fuel, had been obliged to lay up a large number of their vessels in consequence of their supply of oil being so much restricted by this trust. He hoped, therefore, that the Admiralty, before they committed themselves to the use of oil fuel in any of their ships, would be sure they had sufficient supplies, to prevent any irrevocable mistake being made. Although he could not endorse in detail all the hon. Member for Gateshead had said, there were matters in

his speech on which further inquiries were desirable. Had the Secretary considered how badly the ships of the Navy compared in point of consumption of coal with the ideal set before Mercantile Marine engineers of 1 lb. per i.h.p. per hour? An exact analogy between the Merchant Service and the Navy in this respect was, of course, impossible, but of the vessels added last year the "Russell's" consumption worked out at 2·09 lb. per i.h.p. per hour, the "Exmouth's" at 2·13, which was more than double the ideal of the Merchant Service. Only one vessel came anywhere near the Merchant Service minimum, and it would be interesting if the hon. Gentleman could give some explanation of the fact. One could not help seeing that behind the powerful denunciations of the hon. Member for Gateshead there was a great deal of truth. One of the things that made those who were watching the trials of His Majesty's ships anxious was the fact that a vessel seldom went on a trial without having a serious breakdown. Whatever might be the cause of that, it ought to be cured sooner or later. He suggested that it was due to the fact that the naval architect invariably put too much pressure on the engine builder, with the result that he had been compelled to lower the engine weights below the point of safety. That was very poor economy, and it did not tend to the efficiency of the various vessels. He hoped that under the *régime* of Mr. Phillip Watts, whose appointment to the Admiralty the whole country greeted with satisfaction and confidence, this state of things would be altered. With regard to the suggestion of the hon. Member for Devonport, he might mention that Germany last year sent a Commission to all the large private shipbuilding yards in the United Kingdom and the United States to acquire information for use in their own service. Without altogether following the German model, he thought that perhaps the Admiralty might take a hint from Germany in that respect.

MR. DUKE (Plymouth) said it had been stated that the Admiralty had no plans at present for laying down any

new ships at Devonport Dockyard. Up to the present the shipbuilding there had been carried on satisfactorily, the ships having been completed mostly within the programme time and in some cases under the estimate. Unless a new ship was laid down when the "King Edward VII." was launched, the very extensive plant at Devonport would be idle, except for repairs, a result which would be looked at with some apprehension by the people of the district. He desired to ask, therefore, whether there was any prospect of a ship being laid down at Devonport within any reasonable period after the completion of the one now being built.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said he did not agree with the hon. Member for Ipswich that any substantial economy could be effected by the plan he proposed, that every allocation for the Navy should be stereotyped, and that if it were found impossible to apply the money to the particular purpose named it should go back to the Exchequer. That would be a very undesirable result. It was the considered opinion of many Parliaments that the Admiralty should be allowed to apply money which was found not to be applicable to one purpose to another, provided that the sanction of the Treasury was given. That sanction was always asked for, and he believed invariably obtained. They could not in practice carry out these allocations to their final conclusion with absolute certainty. They could not prophesy a war in China, or a strike, or the breakdown of a particular contractor.

His hon. friend the Member for South Salford had reproached him for using perhaps too much heat in answering his hon. friend the Member for Gateshead. He regretted that he should think so, but perhaps his hon. friend hardly felt as he did how serious it was that misstatements of this kind should be made in the House of Commons. Statements which had not the slightest foundation, when made in that House, would be regarded as having some substance; and if he had shown undue heat he regretted it, but it must be set down to his zeal for the Service. He believed his hon. friend would himself speak with some heat, if he were face to face with

statements such as those with which he had to deal. To take one example—the hon. Member for Gateshead declared that £2,200,000 had been paid by the Admiralty to a French firm in respect of certain boilers. There was not the slightest foundation for that statement. Apart from the royalties, of which the hon. Member had spoken separately, not one single brass farthing had been paid by the Admiralty to any French firm in respect of any of these boilers. The statement in itself was, of course, absurd, but he knew that it would be disseminated all over the country, and that it would come back to him as an accepted article of belief. Statements of this kind were calculated to do much harm, and he could not accept them without demur. In reply to the question of the hon. Member for Dewsbury in regard to oil fuel, he could assure him that the Admiralty were fully aware of the grounds for proceeding with great caution in the matter. It was a fascinating, but a very difficult subject, and the circumstances which the hon. Member had brought to their notice were not unknown to the Admiralty. The questions with regard to the sources from which oil could be supplied were important indeed. They were now continuing their experiments in the use of oil fuel, and they had been, on the whole, a success. Both in regard to the efficiency of oil as compared with coal and the diminution of smoke, there had undoubtedly been progress. But the hon. Member might reassure himself that there was no danger of the Admiralty's committing themselves so far in the matter of oil as to make it impossible to withdraw. Should the use of oil be found, for one reason or another—and there might be many reasons—to be undesirable they would be able to resume the use of coal, not only in ships in general, but in the ships fitted for oil purposes; and if at any time there should be a breakdown in the installation in any ship they would be able at once to resort to the use of coal. He did not propose to go further into the question of submarines beyond saying that the Admiralty were satisfied with the progress which had been made with the boats made at Barrow and now being tested at Portsmouth. He had been asked for some reassurance on the important question of the rate of shipbuilding. He

Mr. Arnold-Forster,

fully admitted that that was a very important question which the Committee of the House of Commons had not only a right, but almost a duty, to press on the Admiralty. He was glad to say that they were very sanguine that the difficulties which had been so serious in the past were not likely to recur in the future. On the contrary, so far from there being any undue delay anticipated, they believed that the delays which they thought would be inevitable in the case of the ships of the "County" class, postponed owing to alterations in the armour and difficulties in reaching a decision as to the type of boiler, would be overcome, and that in some cases there would be no final delay in the delivery of the ships. The hon. Member for Devonport had alluded to the great services of the present Controller, both in furthering the rapidity and construction in the dockyards and in initiating and conducting reforms in the matter of weights carried on our ships. He believed a great deal was to be gained by a reduction of weights, which were involved in the carrying on board ship of non-essential articles, and he was certain that the inquiry and the execution of any work which might result from it could not be entrusted to better hands than those of the present Controller of the Navy.

The hon. Members for Plymouth and Devonport had asked him a question with regard to a matter which affected that port very closely—viz., whether it was proposed to lay down any new ships at Keyham or Devonport this year. He had to say that the Admiralty did not intend to do so. The whole scheme of shipbuilding for the Navy had to be very carefully considered, and the allocation of ships to dockyard or contract establishments was decided by what were believed to be the general interests of the Navy. But he could reassure the hon. Members in one respect, for if they would consult the Navy Estimates they would find that the provision for these dockyards was not only not diminished but was increased in the ensuing year. The Admiralty would find ample work for the whole of the establishment of Keyham and Devonport dockyards, and

though he would never pledge himself to the principle that the Admiralty were not entitled, in the interests of the public service, at any time to discharge men from the dockyards, in this case, he was glad to say, there appeared to be no necessity for any discharges such as the hon. Member feared. The hon. Member had called his attention to the question of the machinery in the dockyards; that was a very important matter indeed, and one which had engaged the attention of the Admiralty very closely. He did not think hon. Members realised how much had already been done, or what large sums had been spent during the last few years in improving the machinery of the dockyards. There had been, speaking from his own experience, extending over a period of twenty years, almost a revolution in regard to the machinery in the dockyards, although there remained a large margin to be made up. But he was very sanguine that before many months they would be in a position to tell the House that they were able to contemplate the entire re-creation of the dockyards as efficient naval establishments. He had seen enough of the manufacture of ships to know that the truest economy lay in the efficiency and perfection of their machinery. They were contemplating the introduction of electrical installation in all the dockyards, which they believed would enormously tend to economy by the centralisation of their sources of power; they would obtain the convenience of electric light coupled with the economy that would be derived from the power of transmitting weights from one place to another by electric traction.

He had been asked whether they were taking adequate steps to control their new departure in the matter of completing and repairing ships by contract in the contract yards. This he could say, that whatever might be the ultimate result of the experiment, —and at present they had not had sufficient experience to justify them in forming an opinion—it had relieved them from a congestion of the dockyards, it had enabled them to do work that could not have been contemplated under any other circumstances; and, as far as they had been able at present to investigate, the work was being turned out in a manner

that would prove very satisfactory to the comfort and health of the officers and men of the ships. With regard to the question of cost, these were perhaps too early days to form a definite opinion; but at any rate he could say that the prices of repairing ships in the contract yards had been such as not to deter them from continuing the experiment. Weighing in the balance the advantages gained and the cost, they were convinced that they would gain considerably by continuing this experiment. The hon. Member for Dewsbury made some remarks, with which he had great sympathy, with regard to the question of the engine machinery of our ships. He thought the hon. Member had perhaps exaggerated a little in regard to the amount of coal consumed in relation to horse-power, although he knew the hon. Member spoke as an expert. He thought, however, that although 1 lb. might be the ideal, 1·4 lbs. was nearer the actual minimum consumption in merchant steamers. He thought the hon. Member must be aware that the circumstances did not allow them to predicate the same results from a marine engine for a warship as in the case of a mercantile marine. He would point out, however, that there had been a very considerable reduction in the coal consumption on the ships as they were running now. He confessed he should like to see a greater return to the longer stroke and the larger engine, if the circumstances of marine construction would allow it. He had great confidence in the resource of the Director of Naval Construction, and believed that whatever engineering science was capable of accomplishing in this direction would be accomplished. But, as the hon. Member knew, the stress put upon the engines in the engine-room of a modern man-of-war was tremendous, and it was astounding what efficiency there was in the engines of a warship, considering the enormous task they had to perform in a limited space.

With regard to the suggestion of the hon. Member for Devonport that our dockyard officials should visit home and foreign dockyard establishments more frequently, he would say that very little went on in the great engineering establishments which, in one way or another, was not brought under the

notice of those who were concerned with naval construction. He believed a great deal was to be got from the initiative and ingenuity of those employed in engineering work, and it was not a new idea to him that they should ask those thus engaged to contribute their ideas from time to time. He did not want hon. Members to think that the scientific departments of the Admiralty in these matters were ill-equipped, which he knew they were not, or that they were non-receptive of suggestions. He believed that in regard to all the matters raised in the course of the debate there was a considerable amount of real progress. He had been asked a question with regard to the coal consumption of the water-tube and the cylindrical boilers. It was perfectly impossible for him to give the coal consumption of the very large number of ships, over 500, unequally divided between these two systems, but he happened to have before him the coal consumption of two ships that recently ran out to Gibraltar under precisely the same conditions of speed—the “Hyacinth” and the “Minerva.” The “Hyacinth” and the “Minerva” ran out under 7,000 horse-power from Plymouth to Gibraltar. The coal consumption of the “Hyacinth” was 2·10 lb. per indicated horse-power, and of the “Minerva” 1·97 lb. per indicated horse power. There was, therefore, a very slight difference, but the advantage was in favour of the cylindrical boiler.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said he had rarely heard a more fruitful and useful discussion on the Navy than they had had that night, or a more ample answer than that just supplied by the hon. Gentleman. He wished to refer to the appropriation of money voted for the Admiralty for one purpose to another purpose. He looked on this as a serious abuse, and as involving an entire departure from the system of finance laid down by the Act of 1866. It had been done in the War Office, and, to his knowledge, from experience gained on the Public Accounts Committee, they had been deprived of the power of tracing millions. As to the use of oil fuel, which he brought to the attention of the House as long ago as 1893, he had a suspicion that those concerned in

the experiments had not tried to succeed. He had always held the firm conviction that the use of oil on board ship would be of enormous advantage, especially in the case of torpedo-destroyers, for they would be able to get rid of the smoke and would not require stokers. But with their experiments the Admiralty had gone on, year after year, failing, while the mercantile marine had gone on, year after year, succeeding. If they could not get the oil in this country, he should admit that that was a serious reason against using it. But we had large quantities of shale in this country stretching from sea to sea. It began at King's Lynn, where there were 600 feet of it, and reached to Portland. He did not know whether the whole of the shale at King's Lynn was oil-producing, but large portions of it were. He should like to know whether the Admiralty had made experiments with some of it.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Yes.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said he was glad to hear that. It showed that the hon. Gentleman was not inaccessible to good ideas. He thought there had been some slackness in adopting the turbine. It was no longer an experiment. The hon. Member for Dumbarton had constructed three vessels which had been an unqualified success. The turbine was a beautiful engine, and had a most smooth motion. He thought turbines might be fitted to large vessels as well as destroyers.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: We are fitting them to a cruiser and to a destroyer.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said he was glad to hear that. He trusted that the question of fitting them to battleships would be considered. The advantages were enormous, and it was much easier to get them below the water-line.

*SIR WILLIAM ALLAN said the French battleships which he mentioned earlier in the debate as having multi-tubular boilers were the “Democratic,” the “Justice,” and the “Vérité.” There

were also two first-class cruisers. With regard to the £2,200,000, in October, 1898, Belleville boilers were ordered for forty-one ships, representing 577,700 indicated horse-power. Taking the average, that represented sixty ships boilered and to be boilered, the price being from £2 10s. to £2 12s. per indicated horse-power. If the Secretary to the Admiralty would multiply that he would arrive at the total he had given.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said he was not good at sums, but he knew that not one penny of the sum referred to had gone abroad, but that all the boilers were made by British makers, which made a very great difference. The hon. Gentleman led the House to believe that this money had been paid to a French firm, but there was no foundation whatever for that statement. With regard to the French battleships and cruisers, his information was contrary to that obtained by the hon. Member, but these vessels had not been begun. When they were begun they might receive a different kind of boiler. It had only just been decided by the French Chamber that the vessels should be proceeded with.

MR. CREAN thought that in many ways the Admiralty could effect economy, and at the same time maintain efficiency. Within the last few days he had received a communication from the only southern port in Ireland capable of executing any work for the Government, and that information was to the effect that one of the ships there had been ordered off to a dockyard in another part of Ireland which was already congested with work. He thought this was a great injustice to

the district he represented, for at the port he referred to warships had been repaired to the satisfaction of the Admiralty, and it was a great hardship that those vessels should be taken away from that port, and sent long distances by sea to dockyards which did not want the work. The transfer of this warship from Cork Harbour to Belfast was an extraordinary state of things. He was not speaking as the advocate for any private firm, but he thought it would be to the advantage of the Admiralty to have auxiliary docks in this part of Ireland to execute their own work. If the Admiralty would encourage dockyards which were capable and willing to execute repairs, and give such dockyards in Ireland a fair share of the money allocated for this work, it would be to the advantage of this country in the end. The dockyard to which he referred was for many years derelict until this English firm took it up. He understood that this Government work was done by schedule, and therefore he was not asking for any preferential treatment. Not only was this particular dockyard capable of executing Admiralty work, but he complained that the quantity of work given to this firm was of such a niggardly character that it was not worth having. There was no complaint of the inefficiency of work done by this firm, and he hoped the Secretary to the Admiralty would consider these facts and not treat them differently to other dockyards. The Government were now initiating a new policy to try and keep the Irish peasantry at home, and they should at least try and help other industries and see that Ireland had fair play in the gigantic race that was going on in the commercial world. He hoped that in

future they would receive fair play, and that a fair proportion of work would be given to them. Ireland contributed its fair share to the taxation of the United Kingdom, and the colonies could not compare with Ireland in regard to the amount of money they were contributing towards the upkeep of the Navy. Therefore, he thought they ought to get a fair proportion of that money back in their own country. He asked the Admiralty not to take vessels out of Cork harbour and send them to Devonport and Liverpool.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY said he wished to correct a mistake which appeared to have been made by the hon. Member for King's Lynn in regard to liquid fuel. He knew that within the last few years the Admiralty, under the energetic guidance of Lord Selborne, had been dealing with this question with energy and with every possible skill. His hon. friend had stated that the Mercantile Marine had been using liquid fuel with success, and that was absolutely true. He wished to point out, however, that the conditions under which vessels in the Mercantile Marine were worked were entirely different to vessels in the Navy. In the Mercantile Marine considerations of weight and space were of almost no importance, or at any rate that consideration was considerably less than in the crowded machinery room of a warship. There was three times the quantity of space in the vessels of the Mercantile Marine as compared with battleships and destroyers. On account of the confined space these difficulties had arisen. He believed that the experiments the Admiralty were making were in the right direction, and

Mr. Crean.

they had now gone far towards solving the difficulties. Speaking from practical experience upon this question of liquid fuel, he thought the Admiralty were doing the country a great service and advancing the cause of science, and very shortly they would overcome the difficulties. He did not think they deserved the censure which his hon. friend had passed upon them. The vessels in the mercantile service had followed the first experiments made under the care of the Admiralty in regard to the use of turbine engines. The chief difficulty was that they were enormously wasteful in coal consumption, and he thought it would be found that their wastefulness would stand very much in their way; nevertheless, for vessels where speed and economy of weight and machinery were of first importance, the use of turbines was an enormous advance. Upon these points of liquid fuel and the use of turbines, he thought the Admiralty were showing the greatest possible progressiveness, and their enlightened policy deserved the appreciation of the House.

CAPTAIN DONELAN said he represented a constituency which included a considerable area of Cork Harbour, and he wished to support the claim made by his hon. friend on behalf of the South of Ireland in regard to the Admiralty work to private yards. He considered that warships ought to be sent over to Ireland, provided that the work could be done as cheaply and satisfactorily as in English dockyards. With reference to this particular dockyard, neither his hon. friend nor himself had the slightest personal interest in it. They made this claim solely on behalf of the South of Ireland, which possessed a very well-equipped private yard; he

knew that any small work which had been given to this private company had been carried out very satisfactorily. An opportunity now arose of sending work to private firms, not under contract but at scheduled prices. Why should this dock not be given some share of the work? He thought that the claim was a very reasonable one. He had not the least objection to Belfast getting any amount of work, but he claimed that the South of Ireland was entitled to a share of Admiralty work. The private firm to which he alluded had expended a considerable sum of money in the development of this dockyard and they were paying about £1,500 a week in wages. That amount of money spent in a poor district in Ireland was a very important matter, and he thought this firm were entitled to some encouragement for being plucky enough to sink such a large amount of money in a dockyard in Ireland. He hoped the Secretary to the Admiralty would give this matter his favourable consideration.

MR. MARKHAM asked what was the consumption per indicated horse-power guaranteed in these turbines which had been fitted in the torpedo destroyer he had mentioned.

MR. REGINALD LUCAS asked for some information about the "County" class of vessels.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.) said that upon former occasions Irish representatives had thought it their duty to call attention to the claims of Ireland upon this question, and they had succeeded in getting some small recognition of the fact that a small share of the enormous amount spent

upon the Navy should be expended in some parts of Ireland. They had succeeded in getting something, and perhaps should be thankful for small mercies. But the question raised by his hon. friend with reference to the unfair treatment meted out to the Passage Docks was an entirely different matter. He found there was an increase of £576,000 for repairs; and it seemed to him very singular that the year in which the estimates jumped up to that extent should be the very year in which the Government sent work away from Cork Harbour. They had no interest in the Passage Docks or in the particular company owning them, except a public interest. The Company had sunk a very large amount of capital, and had given considerable employment; and their work, on their own showing, was as good as could be obtained at any other yard. In the circumstances it was a very unfair proceeding on the part of the Admiralty to send this ship to be repaired at Belfast. The Passage Docks was on the Admiralty list, was thoroughly well equipped, the management was enterprising and active, and claimed that they were in a position to do the work at the same price as any other private yard. That being so, he was puzzled to understand the action taken by the Admiralty. A short time ago the Passage Docks Company undertook work of a very difficult and costly character on the east coast of Africa. A large ship was burned nearly to the water's edge. The company sent out a crew, brought the hulk back, and repaired it so well that it was classed A1 at Lloyds and sold for a large sum. A company which could do that could certainly repair a Government ship; and he thought he

was amply justified in making a protest and asking the Admiralty to reconsider the matter.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said he did not think there was any reason for alarm with regard to the ships of the "County" class. He did not know to what his hon. friend referred, unless it was the failure of some of the ships to attain the high speed of twenty-three knots on their trials. They had attained a very high speed, but the Admiralty were not satisfied, and he believed that by changing the screws a speed of twenty-three knots would eventually be obtained. Apart from that the ships had given satisfaction. In reply to the hon. Member for North East Cork, he thought the hon. Member did not feel as much surprise as he would have the Committee believe. He himself was very familiar with the character of the yard referred to, as he had caused inquiries to be made into its capabilities. A certain amount of work had been given to the yard. Of course, it was practically a new yard; but the Admiralty were sufficiently satisfied with the work done to be able to inform the Company, as they did a few days ago, that the capabilities of the yard were understood, and that its claims for receiving Admiralty work would be considered. The hon. Gentleman might spare himself the trouble of applying any pressure, because, as long as he had anything to do with the Admiralty, the distribution of the work would depend on only one consideration—namely, what was best in the interests of the Navy. There was no unwillingness, on the contrary there was a disposition, to take every opportunity that the peculiarities of the yard would allow, to make use of it. The

Mr. Flynn,

Admiralty were very glad that the yard was there, but it must not expect to obtain all at once the amount of Admiralty work which the older yards obtained. With reference to the question asked by the hon. Member for the Mansfield Division, the "Velox" was the only boat fitted with reciprocating and turbine engines. The consumption of coal on the "Velox" was at first very formidable, but it had been now reduced to more satisfactory proportions, and it was hoped that it would be reduced still further. He could not give particulars with respect to the other two turbine vessels, as they were still under construction.

MR EDMUND ROBERTSON said they had had a long and very exacting day, and he would suggest that the Vote be now taken, and that Progress be reported.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said he had no objection; but he thought it was understood that, as they had been discussing the two Votes together they would, as a corollary, vote on them together. He could not possibly pledge himself to have a discussion on Section 3.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON said he quite understood that.

Resolution to be reported upon Monday next; Committee to sit again to-morrow.

ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made, and Question, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Sir Alexander Acland-Hood.*),

Put and agreed to.

Adjourned at ten minutes before
Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, 15th May, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Jewish Colonisation Association Bill [H.L.] Report from His Majesty's Attorney-General received, and ordered to lie on the Table.

South-Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill [H.L.] Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Dudley, Stourbridge, and District Tramways Bill [H.L.] Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Worthing Corporation Tramways Bill [H.L.] Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Derby Gas Bill [H.L.] Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition thereto having been withdrawn; read, and ordered to lie on the Table: The orders made on 23rd March last and 28th April last discharged; and Bill committed.

Great Central Railway Bill. Read 2^a, and committed: The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Sittingbourne District Gas Bill. Read 2^a, and committed.

Great Northern and City Railway Bill. Read 3^a, and passed.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill. Brought from the Commons.

Cork Harbour Bill; Coventry Electric Tramways Bill; Gorleston and Southtown Gas Bill; Hyde Corporation Bill; Nelson Corporation Bill; Seaforth and Sefton Junction Railway Bill. Brought from the Commons; read 1^a, and referred to the Examiners.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill. Read 1^a; to be printed and referred to the Examiners. (No. 73.)

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON ACT, 1898.

Amendment of Section 113 of the Statutes of the University of London. Laid before the House [pursuant to Act], and to be printed. (No. 70.)

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND).

Rules and programme of examinations for 1904. Laid before the House [pursuant to Act], and ordered to lie on the Table.

NEW BILLS.

ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSIONERS BILL [H.L.]

A Bill to provide for the appointment of an additional Church Estates Commissioner—was presented by the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury; read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a on Monday next. (No. 71.)

UNION OF BENEFICES ACT, 1860, AMENDMENT BILL [H.L.]

A Bill for extending the operation of and amending the Union of Benefices Act, 1860, and for the disposal of unnecessary chapels of ease—was presented by the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury; read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a on Tuesday next. (No. 72.)

EDUCATION ACT, 1902.

*LORD HENEAGE: My Lords, I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether he is aware that doubts exist as to the position of owners and trustees of non-provided schools under the Act of 1902; and whether they will continue to be the legal owners of the sites and buildings by virtue of doing the repairs, other than wear and tear, or whether such sites and buildings will in course of time lapse to the local authority by right of occupation, as no rent can be paid under the Act; and further, whether to avoid the latter possibility, it is necessary for owners and trustees to enter into an agreement for a nominal rent with the foundation managers. I placed this question on the Paper in order to get an authoritative statement from the noble Marquess on

this subject. Your Lordships will remember that under Clause 7 of the Education Act of last year it was enacted that—

“The managers of the school shall provide the school-house free of charge, except for the teachers house (if any), to the local education authority for use as a public elementary school, and shall out of funds provided by them keep the school-house in good repair and make such alterations and improvements in the buildings as may be reasonably required by the local authority.”

I do not profess to allude to the “wear and tear” proviso, as I confess I do not clearly understand it. But I ask, what is the position of an owner or of trustees under this clause? In whom is the freehold of the site and the buildings vested? I should have thought that if the owner carried out the landlord's and tenant's repairs under the Act, he would naturally continue to be the legal proprietor of the school. But that does not seem so certain. Lawyers disagree on this point as they do on many others. It is held by some lawyers that as no rent is to be paid for the use of the schoolrooms the latter will lapse to the local authorities after a term of years, and it has been suggested that it is necessary for owners and trustees to enter into agreements with themselves or their representatives, as foundation managers, to let the schoolrooms for a nominal rent, or together with the school-houses; and then the foundation managers would provide the schools for the local authority free of rent under the Act. I cannot see what difference this will make with regard to ownership, and it seems rather a colourable procedure, because either the managers or the local authority are the persons in legal occupation. If the former—the managers—they are only in the same position as the owner or trustees would be, and the fact of taking a shilling out of one pocket and putting it into the other does not seem to me to make the slightest difference with regard to the legal position. If the local authority is held to be in occupation of the school, then the managers are in exactly the same position in regard to the freehold after a certain term of years as the owner would be. If there is, as I think there is, some technical legal difficulty with regard to this question, I cannot help suggest-

Lord Heneage.

ing that it would be wise to repeal the “wear and tear” proviso and to allow a moderate rent instead, which would, in my opinion, simplify the whole matter and save a deal of correspondence and much trouble and expense in the future.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (The MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY): My Lords, I am not at all sorry that my noble friend has put this question. It is quite possible that the views he holds as to the manner in which certain parts of the Education Act can or cannot be construed may be held very widely, and, therefore, I am glad of the opportunity of stating what are the opinions of the Board of Education on the points of a practical character which are raised in the Question of my noble friend. As regards trustees of school premises, the Board of Education do not consider that any person or body using the premises for the purpose of the trust can acquire a title as against the trustees. As regards private owners of school premises, the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack, on December 13, 1902,[†] referring to Questions previously asked by the Duke of Northumberland and the Earl of Portsmouth, on December 10, stated that—

“Any difficulty that might arise would be entirely met by the managers themselves being called upon by the owner of the school to pay the rent to him.”

The Board of Education have advised private owners to execute agreements letting the school premises for use as a public elementary school at a nominal or substantial rent, and giving directions for the appointment and continuance of a body of foundation managers, who would, together with the two additional managers appointed by the local education authority and minor local authority, have the use of the premises for the purposes of a public elementary school. In such circumstances, the Board do not see how either the managers, who hold under the agreement, or the local authority, who merely have the obligation to maintain the school and make good wear and tear, could acquire a title as against the owner. In relation to the local education authority the managers are responsible for doing substantial

[†] See (4) *Debates*, cxvi., 1063.

repairs, but the question whether the managers or the owner shall ultimately bear the cost of such repairs is a question which concerns only themselves. In order to avoid any possible difficulty it is, in the opinion of the Board, very desirable that the owner should execute a written agreement, clearly defining the conditions of the tenancy by the managers and giving such directions relating to the management as would render an order under Section 11 of the Act unnecessary. I may add that there is nothing in the Act to prevent rent being paid to the owners of a voluntary school by managers or otherwise, so long as such rent is not paid by the local education authority.

House adjourned at twenty minutes before Five o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 15th May, 1903.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

London United Tramways Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply Bill (King's consent signified). Bill read the third time, and passed.

New Hunstanton Improvement Bill (King's consent signified). Bill read the third time, and passed.

Crystal Palace District Gas Bill; Ebbw Vale Water and Improvement Bill; Leigh Corporation Bill. As amended, considered. To be read the third time.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill. Read a second time, and committed.

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 16). Bill to confirm a Provisional

Order of the Local Government Board relating to the counties of London and Surrey. Ordered to be brought in by Mr. Grant Lawson and Mr. Walter Long.

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 16) Bill "To confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board relating to the counties of London and Surrey," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. (Bill 262.)

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have passed a Bill intituled, "An act to empower the Corporation of Birmingham to work tramways and to construct an additional tramway; and to confer further powers on them in regard to streets, buildings, and sewers, and the health, local government, and improvement of the city; and for other purposes." (Birmingham Corporation Bill [Lords]).

Birmingham Corporation Bill [Lords].—Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP No. 4.)

Mr. KEARLEY reported from the Committee on Group No. 4 of Railway Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, they had adjourned until Friday next, at Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

PETITIONS.

BURGH POLICE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Borrowstounness, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

COAL MINES REGULATION BILL.

Petition from the Mining Association of Great Britain, against; to lie upon the Table.

COAL MINES REGULATION BILL.

Petitions in favour: from Bridgwater; Bispam Hall; George; Nantmelyn; British Rhonda; Sutton Heath; Dullas; Aberdare; Merthyr; Hetty

Shenkin; Fforchaman; Ammanford (No. 1); Scuborwen; Cwmaman; Padell y Bulch; Bwlfa; Darran; Blaenant; Treaman; Blaengwawr; Tunnel; Aberaman; Penlan; Cwmneol; Werfa; New Watnall; Rutherglen; Underwood; and, Primrose Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING LAW (COMPENSATION FOR NON-RENEWAL) BILL.

Petition from Southport, against; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Petition from Kirkwall, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

LONDON EDUCATION BILL.

Petition from Westminster, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

MARRIAGE LAWS.

Petition from Rochester, for inquiry by a Royal Commission; to lie upon the Table.

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL.

Petitions in favour: from Leadgate; Sutton Mill; Larkhall; Eccles; Reigate; Normanton; Windhill; Slough; Strat-haven; Epsom; Cwmbran; Stacksteads; Hebden Bridge; Chepstow; Grantham; St. Helens; Bridgwater; Ringley Kearsley; Trecynon; Stainland; Brighouse; Perth; Grange Moor; Ryhope; Todmorden; Oswaldtwistle; Bury St. Edmunds; Whitefield; Lepton; Brentwood; Cwmburla; London; Seaham Harbour; Churchtown; Haswell; Compstall; Great Rocks; and, Ellesmere; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF ADULTERATED BUTTER BILL.

Petition from Kensington, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

SHEEP SCAB BILL.

Petition from Cupar, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

SOLICITORS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Haddington, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE DISPUTES BILL.

Petitions in favour: from Bridgwater; Sutton Heath; Ammanford (No. 1); and Penlan Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Return presented, relative thereto (ordered 17th December, 1902.—*Mr. Bryce*); to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 162.)

PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS WARNED.

Return presented, relative thereto (ordered 29th April. — *Sir Francis Powell*); to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 163.)

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON ACT, 1898.

Copy presented, of Amendment of Section 113 of the Statutes of the University of London [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 164.)

ILLICIT DISTILLATION.

Return presented, relative thereto (ordered 31st March.—*Mr. O'Mara*); to lie upon the Table.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE OBSERVATORY.

Copy presented, of Report of the Astronomer to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty for the year 1902 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

FLEETS (GREAT BRITAIN AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES).

Return presented, relative thereto (ordered 26th March; *Sir Charles Dilke*); to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 165.)

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1889 (ORDINANCE).

Copy presented, of University Court Ordinance No. VIII. (Glasgow, No. 3) (Foundation of Professorship of Geology, and for other purposes) [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 166.)

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House:—

BURGHCLERE (HANTS) (CHARITY).

Return relative thereto (ordered 28th April.—*Mr. Channing*).

EAST INDIA (LIABILITY FOR INCREASE IN BRITISH SOLDIERS' PAY).

Address for "Return of the correspondence between the Secretary of State for India, the Government of India and the War Office, with reference to the increase of pay of the British soldier; and the arbitration of the Lord Chief Justice as to the proportion of the cost of it that should fall upon India."—(*Sir Charles Dilke*).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Trade and Navigation Accounts,
April 1903—Explanation of Items.

COLONEL DENNY (Kilmarnock Burghs): To ask the President of the Board of Trade, if he will say to what telegraphic cables and apparatus an import under Subsection (d), Section 3, page 4, Trade and Navigation Accounts, April 1903, amounting for the four months ending 30th April to £25,639, refers; also the ships (new), Sub-section (f), amounting to £14,810.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour*.) I have no information as to the nature of the imports included in Section (d), Class III., page 4, of the Trade and Navigation Accounts for April last beyond the description given on the entries, viz.: "Telegraphic Cable or Apparatus." The total imports in question were made up as follows:—From Denmark, £22; from Germany, £2,570; from Holland, £3,570; from Belgium, £12,945; from France, £6,532; Total £25,639. As regards the imports of "Ships (new)" a reference to pages 80–81 shows that the description is "Ships and Boats." The imports consisted for the most part of barges, as well as electric launches, skiffs, and a steam tug.

Calcutta Customs Service—Overtime Allowances.

SIR SEYMOUR KING (Hull, Central): To ask the Secretary of State

for India whether his attention has been directed to the fact that by a provisional order of the Accountant-General of Bengal of 10th June, 1901, the members of the Calcutta Customs Preventive Service were deprived of 25 per cent. of their overtime earnings, and that to an appeal to the Viceroy by 117 of the officers no reply was accorded, but the collector stated that if an average equal to that of the two preceding years was not realised by the officers the money deducted would be returned, but that this has not been done; and, if so, will he state what steps are contemplated to remedy this alleged grievance.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton*.) The general question of regulating payments for overtime work in the Customs Department in Calcutta and other Indian ports has for some time past been under the consideration of the Government of India. It was decided at one time to restrict such allowances to three-fourths of the fee receipts, on the ground that the officials had no claim to receive the whole of the fees charged by the Government to the public in respect of overtime work. It has, however, now been decided that whatever fees are levied shall in future be paid in full to the Customs staff, the scale of fees being kept as low as possible in order to relieve merchants and ship-owners, so far as may be practicable, of charges respecting which complaints have been made. In giving effect to the new rules the Government of India will, no doubt, consider whether they should in any respect have retrospective effect.

Insufficient Addresses of Postal Packets.

MR. M'KENNA (Monmouthshire, N.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether his attention has been called to the case in which a parcel of books dispatched from London some time in April last, and addressed to D. H. Dafis, Trepir, Abergafeni, is alleged by the postal authorities to be insufficiently addressed, and has not been delivered by them; whether he is aware that letters and other communications similarly addressed are constantly delivered; and, if so, will he state what is the reason for the present refusal to deliver the parcel of books.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) I will make inquiry into the case referred to by the hon. Member. I assume that by Abergafeni is meant Abergavenny. There is no post town with the former title.

Ireland—Registration of Titles—Searches.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, if he can state the number of verified personal searches made for local registration of title purposes under The Local Registration of Title (Ireland) Act, 1891, and also the number of common searches ordered in the Registry of Deeds, in Ireland for the same purpose since the date of the order of 14th December, 1892 to 1st March, 1903.

(*Answered by Mr. Atkinson.*) Information on these points is not officially recorded, and to ascertain it would entail an expenditure of time and labour which would be wholly incommensurate with results. I cannot, therefore, undertake to impose on the Department the preparation of a Return on the subject.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, if he will explain why the order of the right hon. Judge Monroe, dated 14th December, 1892, giving solicitors in Ireland the option of having personal unofficial searches made in lieu of official common searches for local registration of title purposes under the Act of 1891 has been disregarded by the Registrar of Titles in Ireland; and if he will take steps to give solicitors the facilities hitherto enjoyed under this order.

(*Answered by Mr. Atkinson.*) The hon. Member has been misinformed. The order of December, 1892, did not confer on solicitors any such right of option. It vested in the Registrar of Titles a discretion to accept verified searches in lieu of common searches by persons accustomed to make personal searches, but was in no way binding upon the Registrar. Common searches made by trained officials are as expeditious as, and certainly more reliable than, unofficial searches made in many cases by persons,

including boys, whose qualifications for searching the Registrar has no means of judging. Upon the consolidation in 1896 of the rules under the Registration of Title Act the original rule as to common searches was restored, and no reference was made to the order of December, 1892. That order was framed to meet an exceptional state of circumstances of temporary duration, which have since disappeared.

COAL MINES REGULATION BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order for Second Reading read.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) said this country was somewhat behind in labour legislation, and although there had been an accumulation of promises on the part of the Government during the last three years, there had been very little labour legislation since the passing of the Factories and Workshops Act in 1901. Since that time the Government had allowed the House to carry a Resolution in favour of legislation for shops, had admitted the need for further legislation as to truck, had promised to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, and to extend it to seamen by a separate Bill. After the Commission had reported he supposed there would be legislation on the subject which was discussed by the House a few days ago—the responsibility of the funds of trade unions, the law of conspiracy and picketing. But with regard to mining regulations we were very heavily in arrear. The Secretary of State would not deny that there had been a Bill relating to metalliferous mines ready for introduction for many years. In 1896, when the last Bill was carried on coal mines regulation, clauses of the Bill, to which the right hon. Member for East Fife attached the greatest importance, had to be left out on the ground of time. The Under Secretary would not deny that successive Secretaries of State had pledged themselves to the abolition of arbitration as regarded the making of special rules in coal mines, in order to bring the law more in accordance with the law relating to factories and workshops. This Bill, in various forms, had been before the House on

many occasions, and he now moved the Second Reading at the request of the hon. Member for Mansfield, who desired it to be moved as a Bill presented by the great majority of miners to this House. The hon. Member for the Mansfield Division desired this Bill to be put before the House in that way, and it was for that purpose it was now introduced by himself. They did not commit themselves to every word in the Bill, which was an omnibus Bill containing a number of diverse provisions, but there would be very few Members of the House who would not be in favour of some of the provisions, although they would not be in favour of others. There were some provisions to which he attached far greater importance than to others. The first five clauses of the Bill had a double purpose. In the first place, they abolished the present system of arbitration for special rules, and in the second, they introduced a new system in its place. It was quite possible there might be a more universal concurrence in the abolition than in the new scheme which was proposed by the Bill, but, personally, he thought he could put reasons before the House why it should be adopted.

The rules for coal pits were at the present moment formed, nominally, separately for each pit, and were settled by arbitration. That was the same system as that which existed in the factories and workshops up to the passing of the Act of 1901—a system almost universally condemned, and which was abolished by this House with universal consent. The system could still be seen in work even under the present Factory Acts, because, with regard to the use of lead in potting, an exception was made until the termination of some existing arbitrations for the making of rules for the use of lead, and everybody who had followed the subject knew what delays and obstruction had taken place in consequence. That system was virtually the same as that which existed in the coal pits, and after the declarations which had been made by the right hon. Member for West Monmouth and the right hon. Member for East Fife, he felt sure the Home Secretary would not defend the continued existence of such a system. Mr. Ratcliffe Ellis, a high authority in this matter, had

sent out a notice with regard to this Bill. In the first part of the notice Mr. Ellis referred to the question of arbitration, and had assumed that the desire of this Bill was to change the rules. That was not so. The desire was not to change the rules but the way in which the rules were made. It was said that the miners of Durham and Northumberland were satisfied with the rules, but those rules were made on the plan advocated in the Bill. They were made at a conference between the two sides and the Home Office. That was the system they desired to introduce. They had no desire to change the rules except where the miners and masters and the Home Office agreed they should be changed. But Mr. Ellis gave himself away in the conclusion of this notice because he said the coalowner would be deprived of an effective control of the rules. So he ought to be. A coalowner should not have effective control over the rules any more than a manufacturer. These rules ought to be established on some system which would secure equality to the men in the discussion of them, and they should be controlled by the Home Office and by Parliament.

With the exception of those who spoke for the Mining Association of Great Britain, there would be a general concurrence in the desire to change the existing system, though there might be many differences of opinion with regard to the plan proposed. That plan, which was contained in the first five clauses, was a plan for setting up a Board for each of the mining districts, under the inspectors. Those Boards, on which both masters and men would be represented would draw up a general code for each district, to which might be added special rules drawn for particular pits. It might not suit all districts because of the present distribution of the districts. Of course, the rules would have to be different in the case of a highly dangerous and a perfectly safe district, and there was a difficulty in bringing mines of two kinds into one district and making one rule for both. Here he desired to make them an admission which it was only fair to make, and that was that to a certain

point they had constituted a certain recognition of the organised position of the men by Parliament. That recognition was in accordance with the whole trend of modern labour legislation. He, personally, was opposed to going anything like so far as France had gone in the way of State recognition of trades unions as the only means by which the State could recognise the men, still less would he go as far as New South Wales had gone, where trades unionism was compulsory, but the amount of recognition which existed in this Bill could be defended by arguments going very far short of anything like that. Under this Bill they only recognised what already existed in the best districts at the present time.

He thought the opposition to the Bill would concentrate on the two small Clauses 6 and 7, but those clauses were only one-thirtieth part of the Bill. The Bill contained a multitude of conditions most important to safety besides those. Clause 6 was a new clause this year. When they discussed the Employment Clause of this Bill, which in the previous year was separated from the Bill, as were the Check-Weighing Clauses—when they discussed the Employment Clauses as a separate Bill with the age of twenty-one instead of eighteen—it was contended by several hon. Members that eighteen would more accurately carry out the instructions which the miners gave to their representatives in this House, and, therefore, the clause in the Bill now contained eighteen instead of twenty-one as the age. *Primâ facie* there was a stronger reason for limiting hours in the interest of the safety of young persons than of old persons employed in a mine. In France, ever since 1893, there had been a rigid eight hours rule with regard to boys under sixteen years of age employed in coal mines. So that France was already in front of us in this matter. That was so not only in regard to coal mines, but in much legislation relating to factories and workshops also. Foreign nations were beginning to take the first place, and lead in the paths in which they followed us in the past. They were not in a position, when discussing this question last year,

to give the full or available figures in support of their contention; they had only the figures of the fatal accidents. The committee on accidents had since that time gone into the matter, and had stated that the proportion of fatal accidents was a fair index to the number of non-fatal accidents. That was a fact which called for the attention of the House. They were years in which no great explosions involving any considerable loss of life took place. There was not a single accident in any district in which more than sixteen persons were killed by an explosion. There was a complete absence of great calamities, and yet, in those very three years, fatal accidents were always something like 1100 a year—and in the same proportion to the total number employed. The fact that there was no decrease was a serious one in itself, because with the increased appliances for safety and increased care in enforcing legislation there ought to be a decrease of accidents in the coal trade, as there was in almost every other trade. And just as the Government claimed credit for having decreased the number of fatal accidents in most other classes of employment, so they were called upon to act by the fact that they were unable to decrease the number of deaths in that particular trade.

When they came to non-fatal accidents, of course the official statistics were useless. Failing these, they had done their best to prepare non-official statistics, which would bear investigation because they were obtained from responsible bodies. The figures which were most useful were those of the Miners' Permanent Relief Fund, and the funds assimilated to them in various parts of the country. Whether in the Miners' Permanent Relief Fund or in schemes under the Compensation Act they had carefully prepared details for about half the miners in the country. There was no special reason to suppose that the half they had differed from the half they had not. The hon. Member for Mid Durham knew that in Northumberland and Durham all persons, without exception, who were employed were in the Permanent Relief Fund. The same could not be said of Yorkshire, but it was the case in portions of the

Sir Charles Dilke.

Midlands, and therefore they might take the Fund as a fair test. Giving the numbers of this Fund, nearly one half of the deaths—say 460, the disablements worked out for the same districts in the same year—1902—at 42,000. In the Forest of Dean, which was a safe district, and where, therefore, the smaller accidents were the more numerous in proportion to the fatal accidents, of course the proportion was much higher. “Disablements” meant disablement for a week at least, which was the Permanent Relief Fund test, whereas under the Workmen’s Compensation Act it was a fortnight. Based on the figures he had quoted, the disablements among miners would total 100,000 in the year, and that was, he confessed, an appalling fact. He would leave his hon. friend the Member for the Ilkeston Division to enter on a detailed examination of the figures relating to deaths between sixteen and eighteen years of age, but as regarded the deaths below sixteen he would undertake to say that there was a higher proportion than obtained among the total number employed.

There was a valuable volume published last year by Dr. Oliver, of Newcastle, the highest authority on dangerous employments, and in it was a part by Dr. Tatham on “Danger in Coal Mines.” These were the words in which the writer summed up his views on this question—

“Miners are a temperate body of men; their mortality . . . from alcoholism is less than a third . . . of that of occupied males generally. . . . The excessive mortality of colliers under twenty years of age may be accounted for by the fact that from 40 to 50 per cent. of the total deaths are due to violence caused by the wagons and tubs. . . . This form of accident falls mainly to the lot of the young and less experienced colliers.”

And as it was the case that there was a higher mortality among boys under sixteen than among adults and among all classes, so he ventured to assert that there was undoubtedly a higher proportion of disablements as well as deaths. His own belief was that no fewer than from 8,000 to 10,000 boys under sixteen were disabled every year in our coal mines, and if hon. Members would think of their own sons, and would extend to the community at large such measures of safety as could

be safely employed for the protection of these boys, he was sure they would feel that they were doing their duty as Members of Parliament and at the same time accomplishing a good day’s work for the country at large. Last year they had some controversy with the representatives for Durham as to the number of boys employed on long hours. They knew of course the total number of young persons employed underground at all ages, but they did not know exactly the number on long hours. He ventured last year to say that in the Northern counties—the counties which alone were opposed to legislation of that character—there were 25,000 young persons under twenty years of age working ten hours a day below ground. That was to say, five days of ten hours in one week and fifty-four hours in the alternate week. That was a very large number to be so employed, and his hon. friend and his colleagues had frequently admitted to the House that there was some ground for a change in the present system, although they appeared to be unable to agree as to exactly what change should be made. They did at one time support a proposal for reducing the fifty-four hours to forty-eight hours, and even if that was their present view, and if they were not prepared to go the whole extent proposed in Clause 6 of the Bill, he submitted that from that point of view a good case was made out for sending the Bill to a Committee in order that that question might be considered. It was admitted that the figures as to accidents were no guide as to numbers: the standard of severity governing the notification of accidents in mines was vague and allowed much latitude. The publication of non-fatal accidents in the *Labour Gazette* had been discontinued, as the figures were misleading. But he thought they had proved that day that the Permanent Relief Fund figures supported the contention put forward a year ago that the proportion of accidents was higher among boys, and was in fact terribly large. Mr. Ratcliffe Ellis, in his comments on the Bill, had suggested the old argument that they ought not to pass their clause limiting hours in the case of those under eighteen, because it would indirectly introduce a universal eight hours system for all

classes, and that it would therefore have the same effect as the Eight Hours Bill. He could not fully admit that, and he would give two arguments in support of the contrary view. It had not proved to be the case in France, neither had it been the case in this country where, although the boys could not work beyond fifty-four hours a week, the men did in many cases.

MR. JOHN WILSON (Durham, Mid): Perhaps the right hon. Baronet will correct that. The men do not all work ten hours; very few do.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said they could not prove how many worked the ten hours, but it was not denied that a proportion did, and that was sufficient to bear out his argument that the clause did not necessarily involve the reduction of the whole to the same standard. He would next pass to Clause 7, upon which there was a great deal of difference of opinion. Personally he was in favour of it, but some of his hon. friends who supported the Bill were not. This also was a safety clause for young persons. It was based on the fact that young persons, when they first began to work in a mine, did not understand lamps, ventilation, and roofing, and were therefore a source of danger to their fellow-employees, and to the whole pit. The Mining Association of Great Britain claimed that the provision, which they had opposed in 1887, sufficiently secured the safety of those involved. General Rule 39 provided that—

"No person shall work . . . alone . . . until he has had two years' experience . . . under supervision."

Now that general rule was fiercely opposed by the Mining Association of Great Britain in 1887, and it was in fact always the case in factory and mining legislation, that the opponents fought fiercely some particular provision and declared it to be monstrous in their circulars, and then as soon as it was passed treated it as the palladium of the liberties of the British subject and paraded it as a reason why no further advance should be made. But it was a well-known fact that this General Rule 39 was constantly evaded, and he was, he confessed, a little hurt that

the Mining Association of Great Britain had, after opposing it, now put it forward as a sufficient security. What occurred now was that uninstructed people were expected to instruct one another, and he submitted that there were strong arguments in favour of some such clause which would stop a hole admitted to exist in the law and would provide safety for the workers. If the Bill went into Committee he should not be surprised, however, after what passed in this House last year, at that clause being attacked. As regarded Clauses 6 and 7, they had been declared by the Mining Association of Great Britain, not to be limited to coal or iron-stone, but to apply to all "employment of every description below ground under all circumstances." That, if true, would be fatal to this clause, because it would be outside the scope and title of the Bill. The word "Mine" had the same meaning as in the principal Act, and a mine under this Bill was the same as a mine under the Coal Mines Regulation Act. The wages part of this Bill he could dismiss briefly, because those clauses were almost word for word the same as those in the Bill of 1895, which were dropped in the Bill of 1896 on the ground of want of time, and not because they were objected to. Clause 10 was intended for the Cleveland district in a sense, but it was a source of disappointment there, and a necessary source of disappointment. They could not go beyond the scope and title of the Bill, and they could not deal with those mines which were not subject to the Coal Mines Regulation Act. Clauses 11 and 12 were mainly Scottish clauses, and were passed to meet the difficulties which had arisen in Scotland. The only other matters worth notice at the present stage were those which had been subjected to fierce attack.

In Clause 23, which was the long safety clause, general rules were provided for in Sub-section 2, paragraph 1, and some of the words there were perhaps sufficiently important to explain. Those words applied to firemen, and although it was alleged in the circulars addressed to hon. Members that the present inspection of mines was sufficient, judging from much of the evidence they had reason to think that it was a perfunctory examination, and those words

Sir Charles Dilke.

were intended to make it a more satisfactory examination. The words contained a principle which was found in the legislation of several states of the United States, where it had been found most useful. Paragraph 9 of Clause 23 dealt with the certificate of competency for enginemen engaged in winding, and this had been agreed to by the Miners' Federation. Paragraph 17 had been very much attacked, and it astonished some hon. Members because they did not understand the existing law. On the Motion of one of the hon. Members for Durham, the words were put into the law in 1887. The words of the existing law stipulated that these men should have at least two years' experience of such work. The modification they now proposed had been attacked in some of the circulars, and he should be prepared to modify these words, although he attached much importance to this Amendment. In conclusion, he wished to say he believed the Government admitted the need for improved conditions of safety in coal mines, or at least he should be very much astonished if they did not make that admission. Even the opponents of portions of this Bill had repeatedly stated that they were not satisfied with the existing conditions as regarded young persons, and that they ought to make special provision for young persons employed below ground. Other countries had done this, and were in advance of this country, and he thought the House of Commons ought to be disposed to regard with indulgence what, after all, were the men's proposals, partly concurred in by the masters, for dealing with this great question of safety in mines. These proposals did not come from agitators, but from men who were a hereditary class, with as close a connection with the trade as any master could possibly have, because coal-miners were bound to their employment and were partners in the prosperity of the trade. Coming from that class the House should not think that any proposal which was disapproved by an employer here and there was necessarily bad, but they should look upon these as the men's proposals, and coming from a class who were not likely to have any desire to interfere with this industry. He appealed to the House on the

ground of the protection of young persons against the dangers which were represented by the appalling total of calamities which he had stated to the House.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM (Glamorganshire Rhondda) said it would be necessary for him to call attention to what had been hitherto the practice in making these rules, especially in the district with which he was connected. Hon. Members, it would be admitted, knew the requirements of their own districts better than anybody else, and perhaps they would allow him to say that he knew something about the requirements of his own district. The Mining Association of Great Britain had issued a pamphlet which would have been very useful indeed had it not been that some of the statements contained in it were very inaccurate. He supposed he should be within his rights in combating some of the statements put forth. It was a well-established practice that special rules should be enacted in special mining districts, as particular arrangements might be necessary to prevent accidents, and to provide for the safety and proper discipline of the persons employed. In case of questions of efficiency and sufficiency of the rules upon which they could not agree, they were settled by arbitration, and in that arbitration the owner on the one hand and the Secretary of the Association on the other, appointed arbitrators, and they could appoint an umpire to decide between them. The only limit upon them was that the umpire should not be employed in the management, or have any interest in the particular mine, to which the arbitration related. Nevertheless he might be the owner of a colliery, or the director or manager of another colliery in the very same district, knowing all the time that the special rules he enacted would apply to the districts in which he was interested. That was an unfair and dangerous method of procedure. This Bill proposed an entirely new method in each district. It established a District Coal Mines Board, the main object of which would be to obtain the services of men thoroughly disinterested, and not connected with the district. He wished to

point out, however, that one of the partners to the concern under the present method was left out of consideration in these rules. The man who placed his capital in the concern had a voice in making the rules, but the workman who trusted his life and limbs, and all, in the concern, had no right, by law, to have a voice in the making of those rules. In some cases in his district the workmen had been asked by their employers to meet them in the presence of the inspector of the district to discuss these rules, and as long as they agreed they were considered jolly good fellows, but the moment they disagreed, and any rule had to be settled by arbitration, the workmen had the door closed against them. Under these circumstances, a number of most important rules had been enacted, but the plan had failed altogether.

Some years ago the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Fife, drafted a large number of special rules, and the employers objected to them, and arbitrators were appointed, one by the employers and the other by the Home Office. This method was not a safe one for the men; hence the necessity for a new method by which they could have the aid of the ablest men outside their district who were entirely disinterested. In the year 1896 the country was up in arms upon this subject. Leading articles appeared in the London and Provincial Press, and the Government changed the machinery for making these special rules. But the change was so meagre and ineffective that, from his place in the House, he predicted that the House would meet many times before anything was done under the new plan. In the district he came from nothing was done until the year 1902; that was six years after the passing of the Bill. And why? Because of the strenuous opposition which the mine-owners offered to the rules. Therefore he pleaded for a new method of procedure. Without wishing to recriminate, he desired to call attention to a certain place where an explosion took place last year, and where a number of persons were killed. At the inquest evidence was submitted proving the mine to be very fiery, gas being found in several parts of the

workings every day. It was also proved that the air current in this particular mine was not sufficiently strong to ventilate it, and it was shown that the ventilating fan was too small. Furthermore, it was shown that the Chief Inspector of Mines, on three occasions, had called the attention of the general manager to the ventilation, and other conditions of a dangerous character. He was glad one of the proprietors admitted the truth of everything he had said.

MR. MARKHAM (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield): I do not admit the truth of it at all.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM said this was undisputed evidence given at the coroner's inquest. But what they were astonished at was that the other mine-owners and mining engineers in that very district did not consider these conditions dangerous to the men. They said that to allow men to work where there was a cap of gas varying in the lamp from a quarter of an inch to half an inch was not a dangerous condition. If there was anything more scandalous than that in mining operations he did not know.

MR. MARKHAM: The largest cap found in the pit was only an eighth of an inch, not a quarter of an inch.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM said that was not his point. It was, however, an admission of one of the owners that there was a cap found of an eighth of an inch. His point was that the managers and mining engineers in that very same district said in evidence that to have a cap of a quarter of an inch to half an inch was not a dangerous condition. He said it was, and his point was that these gentlemen were not the proper people to make rules for this dangerous industry. He wanted to have some proper Board constituted where they would have one man at least who was independent and able to make rules for this dangerous industry. He had tried to make it clear that in the district of which he was speaking, at least the present mode of making special rules was not a safe one, and not one that

Mr. William Abraham.

should be allowed to go on any further. Men who had been brought up in mines, as some hon. Members had been, knew the dangers of the work, and had seen the distress resulting from accidents. He knew that Gentlemen on both sides of the House sympathised with the workers and their families, but being in the mine was quite a different thing from hearing about it. A Commission made inquiry as to these dangerous coal mines so far back as 1886. He called the attention of the House to the fact that the Commission reported that—

“If marsh gas, in a nearly pure state, enter the atmosphere of a mine, the proportion necessary to produce an explosive mixture will be so rapidly attained that the presence of the gas, as indicated by the formation of a ‘cap’ or ‘aureole’ on the flame of a safety lamp may escape notice.”

It would be seen from this that there was the possibility of a dangerous explosive mixture without a warning cap of any dimensions on the flame of the lamp. Could anyone say after that, that if gas in the air current showed an eighth of an inch in the lamp it was not dangerous? The Report also said—

“More recently Professors Kreischer and Winkler have made similar experiments in carefully determined mixtures of air and artificially prepared marsh gas, with five different safety lamps, two burning benzine, two burning rape oil, and one burning a mixture of rape oil and petroleum. From the results obtained it appears that the height of the cap varies considerably for the same gas mixture with the form of the lamp and with the illuminant employed. With the lamp most analogous to the lantern of Mr. Galloway, heights of cap are recorded greatly in excess, in some cases nearly double, of those observed by him.”

To-day, in South Wales, the same lamp was used, and for any mining engineer to say that a half-inch cap in the lamp was not a dangerous indication was a most dishonest expression and an unsafe one for the mining community.

There was more evidence of that kind he should like to call the Home Secretary's attention to. It was given in 1896 with regard to these lamps. These facts were brought before the present Home Secretary, and he promised that something would be done. He did not know what had been done. Let it be understood that he was not mentioning these facts for the purpose of recrimination or getting

any capital out of the statement, but simply for the purpose of obtaining increased safety for the district which was so dear to him.

He should like to say a word on the question of inspection. If inspection was to be of real value the inspection itself should be real. Was not that a fair proposition? Personally, he had nothing to say against the present staff of inspectors. In South Wales, he admitted, they had good men who did their work as well as it was possible for them to do it, but his point was that they were totally inadequate in number for the work to be done. What the promoters of the Bill proposed in Clause 18 was this—

“In every district an inspector shall make a complete examination of every mine, and every part thereof, at least once in every six months.”

Was it unreasonable to ask that in mines where hundreds of men were working every day, and whose lives and limbs were dependent upon the conditions of the work, the inspection should be made thoroughly once in six months? The way they proposed to carry that out was provided for in Clause 19 of the Bill in these words—

(1) “In every mining district as defined in this Act, the Secretary of State shall appoint assistant inspectors so that there shall be an inspector for every 10,000 persons employed above or below ground in connection with mines in the district.

(2) “In the appointment of assistant inspectors preference shall be given to persons having practical knowledge of the working of mines, and especially to persons who hold certificates of competency under the principal Act.”

He was glad to be able to testify that there were to-day scores of young men who, though working at the face, held a manager's certificate of competency. It was said as against this proposal that it was unnecessary. But he would point out that it was admitted that the present staff was entirely insufficient to do the work asked from them. The present staff of inspectors could not possibly carry out the requirements of the Mines Regulations Act, and hence they asked for a staff of assistant inspectors. The objectors to the Bill professed to be afraid that the inspector would relieve the colliery manager of his responsibility. That was an old,

worn-out tale. A mine-owner would not have a manager of that kind very long. They said also that the inspector would have to make suggestions which, when carried out, might prove unsuccessful, and that that would place upon him a responsibility which he would not desire to incur. Of what good was an inspector at all when he went to a colliery if he was not to have the right of making suggestions, and what was the good of an inspector if he was not willing to accept the responsibility of his position? The objection was frivolous. They said also that the cost would be enormous. What was the cost to this House? When they had spent so many millions to kill Blacks, why should they object to spend a few thousands to keep Whites alive? They were simply asking the House for an increased staff of sub-inspectors, practical colliery men, who had gone through the mill, and who had obtained a manager's certificate of competence. That was the man the employer himself would trust to do his work for him, and he would know where to go. It was said that it would be necessary to send an official with the inspector. That would not be necessary with these men. Let one of them go into any mine in the kingdom once and he would know his way afterwards. If men were selected with a knowledge of the districts it would not be necessary to increase the cost.

He begged the House to allow the Bill to be read a second time, and the points on which they disagreed could be dealt with in Committee. He thought he had proved his case that there should be a new method of making new special rules. He had a word to say in regard to the check-weighers. He thought that the attack which had been made on them was very harsh and cruel indeed, and he was rather surprised to see the number of his hon. friends who were members of the Mine Owners' Association defending the statement in the pamphlet. It was said under the principal Act that

"The check-weigher should not be entitled in any way, either at the mine or away from it, to impede or interrupt the working of the mine, or interfere in any way with the workmen."

Of course he could not interfere in any way unless he was at the mine. But what they wanted was to insert "im-

properly" or "unjustifiably" before "interfere." What was desired was that the check-weigher should not be turned away if he did things that circumstances justified him in so doing. A member of this House, the hon. Member for West Durham, made an *ex parte* appeal to the Divisional Court, and the facts of the case were as follows: Joseph White was appointed a check-weigher at the South Hetton Colliery. It must be remembered that the check-weigher was appointed by the workmen of the colliery, paid by them, and could be dismissed by them. White was at the same time secretary to the Lodge of the South Durham Miners' Association. There was a dispute pending between the Colliery Company and the men as to the hours of labour. The old hours were eight hours a day for a certain class of work. The Company were desirous of increasing the hours of labour. The men held a meeting and refused to agree to the increased number of hours. Some ten men, who had not been present at the meeting, the next day went to the pit, and being uncertain as to the hours of labour, they went to check-weigher White, who was at the pithead, and asked him whether the Lodge had passed a resolution forbidding the men to work more than eight hours a day; and he informed them that the Lodge had passed such a resolution. Observe, the men asked for the information; the check-weigher did not offer it. Yet that was the reason why the man was dismissed by the Colliery Company, and that decision was confirmed by the Divisional Court. Here was a man who had been placed in that position, in charge of the weighing machine, because he possessed intelligence a little above that of the generality of the men, but by that decision this man, in this free England of ours, was tied down to his environment. His situation was taken from him, he was reduced to the level of a dumb creature, to have no more animation than the machine he stood by. Was that a position for any intelligent Englishman to be in? No! remove him and replace him by an American automatic weighing machine. He thought when such trifling matters as that were used to discharge honest, good citizens, it was time for the House to interfere. He

Mr. William Abraham.

should be ever grateful to the House for the patient hearing given to him and his one appeal now, was that though hon. Members might disagree upon minute details in the Bill, for the district which he came from it was a question of life and death. They wanted some method of making special rules for the district, and they knew that they were applicable to it, and that the lives of men would be safe in working under them in the mines.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

COLONEL PILKINGTON (Lancashire, Newton) moved that the Bill be read that day six months. He said that, generally speaking, legislation with regard to coal mines was at present very complete, very severe, very exacting, and excellent in every way. It did not seem to him that it could be truthfully said in regard to mining, although it might be said with regard to several matters connected with other departments of social life, that there was any deficiency of legislation. As a matter of fact numerous Acts had been passed by Parliament, and the last Act was passed in 1896. A very great deal had been said about safety. He thought that, generally speaking, in regard to the question of safety of employment in mines, the United Kingdom, as compared with other countries in the world, had a remarkably good record. He did not mean to say that no alterations were ever necessary. But while occasional changes were required, they should be careful not to injure the wages of the workpeople or limit the possibilities of work, and not to injure the interest of the large amount of capital which was bound up in the coal trade. To say things in Parliament which gave the general impression that there was neglect, cruelty, and a want of sympathy with the miners who carried on the work of the great collieries, on the part of employers, or a want of care—he thought it was a great pity to bring such general charges. They knew there would always be here and there acts of mischance, and there would always be a minority who continually required bringing up to the mark. But these general statements of neglect ought not to be made. The returns as to safety showed that such general charges were without foundation.

For the ten years, 1873 to 1882, the annual mortality from accidents in mines was 2·24 per thousand persons employed, and per million tons of mineral raised. In the ten years beginning 1883 and ending 1892, the figures fell from 2·24 to 1·81 per thousand persons employed, and per million tons raised. During the nine years ending 1901—he had not got the other figures—the corresponding figure was 1·36. Those figures showed a vast improvement. Of course one was sorry that there should be an average of even one per thousand killed; one would, in fact, like to see accidents entirely eliminated from mines; but looking to the character of the industry he thought the figures he had quoted disclosed a state of things which was very creditable to the Legislature, to the capitalists engaged in the industry, and to the workpeople who were employed in the mines. From his point of view it seemed that a Bill so extensive as this under the general circumstances to which he had alluded—a Bill of twenty-eight Clauses and sixteen pages dealing with the great mining industry—ought to be a Government measure. He would remind hon. Members opposite and the House, that a Royal Commission was inquiring into the coal resources of the country, and he urged that it was really desirable that unless some very strong reason could be shown for a change in the law, the House ought to await the Report of that Commission. An hon. Member opposite laughed. But it was quite clear—it was a matter of common sense—that these provisions would affect the future of the coal trade. The past of the coal trade had been connected with shallow coal and moderately deep coal, but there were provisions in this Bill which he believed would prevent the getting of the deep coal. He especially referred to Clause 18, to which he proposed to allude later. Some of the clauses of the Bill did not take into consideration the splendid way in which the collieries of the United Kingdom were managed, and that, with new collieries equipped with very large pits, splendid engines, improved ventilation, coal would be obtained from a much greater depth, in which, probably, the aid of electricity would be obtained as motive power.

He would like to refer to the question of the rules. The present rules were made to a great extent, indeed he might say altogether, by the Home Secretary. The Home Secretary had the right to object to any special rules proposed by a colliery owner and to propose any special rules himself. If in either case the special rules were not accepted, then establishment or otherwise had to be decided by arbitration. The right hon. Baronet (the Member for the Forest of Dean) said the rules would not be altered, but he thought if that was so the question arose whether the rules were good or bad. The rules had, been very carefully made, and in most cases they were very good. It appeared to him that instead of the Home Office they were going to have district boards, and these district boards were to make rules for mines in the district. At present the rules were carefully made for each colliery, and in many cases one colliery differed very much from other collieries in the same district. The new districts board was to have a chairman "who is not and has never been the owner, agent, or manager of a mine, or a director of a company owning a mine, or a miner's agent, or employed in or about a mine." What knowledge could such a person have of mining conditions? And he was to be the chairman! Why the chairman of any great public company, if he was any good, ought to know more about the company than anybody else. He wondered what the London and North Western Railway Company would have done many years ago if it had had at its head a person such as was to be chairman of the districts board. The second member of the districts board was to be practically a colliery proprietor, and the third was to be a person who is, or had been employed in or about a mine, and had not been an owner, practically a man who had had experience of the work. This board was to have very great powers. It would have the power to bring before it any person, to compel the production of books, papers and documents, make special rules, and

under the Act the districts board shall have all the powers of an inspector under the principal Act."

He thought that if this board was to take the place of the inspector it would be a very disastrous business so far as the working of the mines was concerned, where workmen and employers of labour were now working for the common good. The powers of inspection given to the districts board were very drastic. They were able to enter and inspect, or to authorise any person to enter and inspect any mine or premises, the power to summon and examine and to require answers to inquiries, the power to require the production of all books and papers and documents. The districts board would have full discretion as to the course to be followed in any proceedings before them, and an order might be made by the districts board under this section for the payment of costs, and such an order may be enforced by any Court of summary jurisdiction. The districts board would also have power to fine any person—no matter who he might be—who "without reasonable excuse" failed to comply with a summons or requisition of the board, or impeded the board in the execution of its duty, he would be liable to a fine of £10. This was a sort of new Court of Justice, with all the powers of a Court of Law and able to exert such a wide authority that it really seemed useless for directors of colliery companies holding any more meetings. He could not conceive how a number of such eminently clever men as those whose names were at the back of the Bill could have produced such an extraordinary string of suggestions and proposals. He noticed that Sir Charles Dilke said they did not wish to change the rules. But if they did not want to change the rules what was the meaning of the provision that all existing special rules are to be repealed from the date on which the special rules for the district come into operation? If that was to be the case the districts board would have power to repeal all the rules. Suggestions were made by the right hon. Baronet that they wanted something like the Factory and Workshop Bill—a provision by which the same agency should be placed in the new mines regulations as was in the Factory Act passed a session or two ago.

"For the purposes of and incidental to the drawing up or amendment of special rules

Colonel Pilkington.

* **SIR CHARLES DILKE**: That is not exactly what I said, what I said was that the argument for getting rid of the existing system was the same as that which prevailed when the House unanimously got rid of the existing system as regards factories and workshops. I did not suggest that main principles established by this Bill were exactly similar to those under the Factory and Workshop Act.

COLONEL PILKINGTON: I did not exactly state that was the effect of my right hon. friend's statement, but I did assume that he would be content with the provision of the Factory and Workshop Act.

* **SIR CHARLES DILKE**: I thought that would be infinitely better than the present conditions. I prefer the plan in this Bill, but I think the Factory and Workshop Act would be preferable to the existing law.

COLONEL PILKINGTON said he thanked the right hon. Baronet for his correction. He noted that he still said he thought the Factory Act would be more satisfactory than the existing conditions. Under the Factory Act the Secretary of State practically did the whole thing. If he found any difficulty then he appointed an arbitrator. The arbitrator held a full inquiry, and the result of that inquiry was laid on the Table of both Houses of Parliament. He did not think there was very much difference between that procedure and that under the existing Act. There was a little difference, and he believed that colliery proprietors would probably just as soon have one as the other.

¶ The next very serious matter was the question of employment with which the right hon. Baronet dealt at considerable length. But with regard to the question of the safety of young people, it seemed to him that those who last joined, the youngest people in the pit, the most inexperienced, would be always more liable to accident than those who were experienced. Whether they made the age sixteen or whether they made it eighteen, they would find that for the first few years the new comers would be subject to the most accidents. He would suppose that the men up to thirty-five ought to be the ones who would be least liable to

accident. They knew most about the work, and had had most experience, and should be the part of the working population of the mine among whom the average of accidents of all kinds was lowest. That was only reasonable, and therefore he did not see that the figures given by the right hon. Baronet were very convincing. With regard to Clause 6 of the Bill, which enacted that no person under the age of eighteen should work for more than eight hours a day—that was practically enacting an eight hours day. It was well known that in collieries and workshops all the workpeople worked together. They constituted a great machine for the production of certain articles, and, as a rule, the young people and the adult must work at the same time and in the same manner, and it seemed to him that to suggest that the collieries could be carried on with the young people under eighteen knocking off and the rest going on, was to attempt to hide the fact that the eight-hours principle was embodied in the Bill. All practical people, whether they wished to pass an Eight Hours Bill or whether they did not, must see at once that an attempt to enact that a large number of the people in a pit under eighteen were to work eight hours, and the rest as they pleased, would simply end in all working eight hours only. Then with regard to the other proposal—that no one who has not been in a pit up to the age of eighteen shall be allowed to work in any mine below ground—that seemed to him to be absolutely unworkable. There were numbers of men connected with collieries, people who were hewing the coal, engaged down below at all times, people engaged with engines and machinery—and as electrical machinery increased there would be more and more of these employed—and to pass such an Act as this would have the effect of confining those who were qualified to work in collieries to a very limited class, and would, in his opinion, involve a very grave disaster on the country. He hoped that neither of those proposals would be passed. They would cripple the industry and do no good. They were first of all opposed to any young person going into the mines, and they were opposed

to anybody going down after the age of eighteen. He thought Clause 7 was very injurious. It was not well thought out, as he should have thought it would have been, by the numerous framers of the Bill whose names were upon the back of it.

Another part of the Bill to which he should like to call the attention of the House was Clause 11, which dealt with check-weighers. The section of the principal Act to which objection was taken by the hon. Member for Rhondda Valley was Sub-section 4 of Clause 13, which provided that—

“If the owner, agent, or manager of the mines desires the removal of a check-weigher on the ground that the check-weigher has impeded or interrupted the working of the mine, or interfered with the weighing, or with any of the workmen, or with the management of the mine, or has, at the mine, to the detriment of the owner, agent, or manager, done anything beyond taking such account, determining such deductions, or giving such information as aforesaid, he may complain to a Court of summary jurisdiction, which, if of opinion that the owner, agent, or manager, shows sufficient *prima facie* ground for the removal of the check-weigher, shall call on the check-weigher to show cause against his removal.”

He could not understand for what reason that clause was objected to. The magistrates' Court was one of the most practical and most fair Courts, and why was it objected to? The check-weigher was appointed for a simple purpose. He had nothing to do except check the weight of coal. He was in an important position, but stood at the pit so that every workman passed close to him. He would be in a position of very great power if he were given any other powers except those of checking the weight of coal. He was put there because it was thought fair, and no doubt it was absolutely right, that the checking by the owners of the mine ought to be checked by someone on behalf of the workmen. The Act of Parliament provided that he was to do that and nothing else. What was now proposed under this Bill? It was proposed that, instead of the regulation now in force, if a check-weigher improperly impeded or interrupted the working of the mine, or improperly interfered with the weighing or with any of the workmen, or with the management of the mine, or did anything to the detriment of the

owner, agent, or manager, he was to be taken before the magistrates and would be fined forty shillings. He contended that they must keep this official free from all impurity, and from all temptation. Now he was to be allowed to “properly” interfere with the carrying on of the mine. If he was allowed to do that and “properly” to make suggestions and do anything he liked, what was to be the result? If his action was questioned, it would have to be proved before the magistrates that he had acted improperly. The check-weigher was in a peculiar position. He was the representative of the workmen, but on the employers ground, and therefore he had nothing to do with the management except check-weighing the coal properly. He was to be fined forty shillings if he acted improperly, but still remained at the mine. That was an impossible situation. The man was put there for a particular purpose, yet it was proposed that he should be allowed to do anything that in his judgment was proper. It would lead to his not discharging his duty as a check-weigher properly. It was quite obvious that the Legislature must preserve the usefulness of the man, and his authority, integrity and impartiality as a check-weigher, for all the coal in the country was checked by him at the top. If they allowed the magistrates to decide what was proper for him to do, they might decide that he could do anything he liked. Surely if the magistrates could not decide whether he should be removed, it ought to be decided by some tribunal, the Home Office or some other, but his (Colonel Pilkington's) contention was that they ought to preserve the man in his present impartial position of a check-weigher. To allow him to do anything he liked would be to frustrate the intention held by the promoters of the idea in this matter years ago. He trusted the House would never lend its permission to anything so foolish as to make it impossible for the man to discharge his duty as a check-weigher. Such an enactment as that proposed would be utterly injurious to the industry, to the workmen, to the owners, and to everybody concerned. If any change was made, if they did not like the magistrates

Colonel Pilkington.

let them have the Home Office or some tribunal set up by the Home Office to decide whether or not the man was doing his duty.

Clause 15 of the proposed Bill was the most extraordinary clause in the Bill. Some of the Members whose names appeared on the back of the Bill knew something about the coal industry, and how they could put in such a clause he could not understand. Other Members whose names were on the Bill did not know so much about coal, and it was excusable that their sympathy for the men's ideas as to safety underground should have led them to insert the clause. There was danger underground, and he thought it very likely that if this clause was enforced, the danger would not be decreased at all, while the expenses would most probably be increased. The clause provided—

“Where a seam extends for more than one mile, there shall be at least two shafts or outlets in every mile with which every seam for the time being at work in the mine shall have a communication; provided that the senior inspector for a district shall have power to exempt any mine in his district from this requirement, if, in his opinion, the mine is either non-fiery, practically worked out, or worked under a mountain or under the sea.”

A good pair of pits could easily work a mile in every direction, and on the level this could with safety be extended to one and a half miles, and on the dip or deep to two miles or more. There were, in fact, pits which were working over two miles because it was easy to ventilate workings on the deep of the pits. He should like to point this out, that the new way of working from the deep was downhill, and that all new pits would be worked on the deep. The proposal of the Bill would be terribly expensive. In working a coalfield it was difficult to lay down a law. Mines were not generally square, they might have faults, and there might be corners, and to insist on having only one mile between the pits would mean abandoning vast areas of coal, because they could not get at the coal as the expense would be too great, whereas by judicious placing of the shafts with regard to the safety of the workmen and the economy of working, the waste could be avoided. In a coalfield covering an area of four by three miles, with installation of mining machinery and modern appliances, if they were bound to have

a pair of pits for every mile, they would probably come to having eight pairs of pits against two, and even the eight could not get out of the corners. In a large area it practically came to one colliery for every square mile. The cost of a pair of pits with sidings, winding appliances, and shops, was £300,000. In the area he had named they would have to put down, under the Bill, seven additional pairs of pits, and the cost, with the shops, sidings, and offices, with winding engines and the various things they had to keep, would be £1,000,000 instead of £300,000. Not only would it so increase the cost from £300,000 to £1,000,000, but there was another great drawback. Around every pair of pits they had to leave a large area of coal to support those buildings. It was generally taken that an area of 500 yards each way must be left to support the pits in that way. That would be an enormous amount to contemplate if they multiplied it by seven. How could they work all these, what he might term relief pits, covering these great areas? It would be almost impossible to work them except at a great loss. Again, for each of the pits they had to have railway sidings and boilers and all that sort of thing. The agricultural land would be wasted and broken up, simply because of an extraordinary idea. It had also to be remembered that in many cases the surface of the mine belonged to different people, and that raised another difficulty. Oftentimes a large landed proprietor arranged for the pits to be at a certain place where they would be least unsightly, and reduced, as far as possible, the surface to be used for colliery purposes. When all these things were considered, he thought it was obvious that, even if the figure he had given were largely discounted, this multiplication of pits and the restrictions on getting coal would terribly hamper mining operations, and greatly influence common-sense men against investing money in collieries. No one would object to it if it was shown that to have a pair of pits to every square mile would contribute to safety. With large pits, good machinery, and new appliances, he believed the safest way was to bring as much coal as possible from one pit. Let them see that the appliances were good,

and that the roads, levels and draught were all first rate. His Majesty's inspectors of mines, who were very able men, watched all these things and kept everything straight; and consequently he really failed to see how hon. Members could have devised such a proposal as was contained in the Bill. By hampering the industry with this additional cost, with the depreciation of interest on capital, with the shortening of hours, and with other restrictions, it was very likely they would increase the cost of coal-getting by 50 per cent. Moreover, they were hampering the workmen.

He did not believe the workpeople desired this Bill at all; they did not care a straw about it. As a matter of fact, there was an impression in many quarters that the Government frequently interfered by new legislation for very little reason. If things were right and necessary, by all means let them be done, but the change proposed by this Bill was against the interest of the workmen, the employers, and the country at large. Why should workmen be prevented from taking home a good lot of money? And why should things be done which were certain to prevent the investment of capital? Hon. Members on the other side did not know what putting down a lot of capital meant. Colliery-owners might put down £300,000 capital, and have to wait seven or eight years before they got a sixpence back, and possibly

ever get anything at all. He knew of one colliery, not four miles from where he lived, where more than £100,000 had been spent, and they were only at the water still. At least another £200,000 would have to be spent, and even then it was not certain whether there would be any return. But there was one thing they ought all to remember, and that was the immense infliction these proposals would cause on the users. Coal was the life-blood of all our industries, railways, and steamers; it was the comfort of every home in the United Kingdom; and greatly to increase the price of coal would be a very serious matter. Such a Bill ought to be brought in only by the Government, who, through their inspectors, knew most about the subject. Instead of that, this Bill was brought in by Members, most of whom knew nothing about the coal

industry. He therefore hoped that when the division was taken the House would throw out the Bill by a large majority. He begged to move that the Bill be read a second time this day six months.

*SIR THOMAS WRIGHTSON (St. Pancras, E.) in seconding the Amendment said that in a matter of such complexity as the regulation of mines in this country the Act of 1887, which had really served the purpose for which it was introduced, ought not to be lightly thrown aside by the efforts of private Members. The present Bill contained many proposals, some in the nature of Amendments to the Act of 1887, and others of an entirely new character. One was struck by the absence from the back of the Bill of the names of north-country Members, particularly those of the hon. Members for Morpeth and the Wansbeck Division of Northumberland.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE explained that when the Bill was first introduced the names of the two hon. Members to whom the hon. Baronet referred appeared on the back of the Bill, but they were withdrawn when it was decided to insert Clause 6.

*SIR THOMAS WRIGHTSON said the Act of 1887 had been loyally observed in the North of England, and it had acted well with regard to both employers and employed, because it was drawn on business lines which appealed to the hard common sense of the men of the north. That Act laid down general rules for the management of mines, but it also provided that in special cases special rules should be enacted by the local authorities named in the Act. Those special rules were necessary because of the enormous variations in the conditions of the different collieries, and, very properly, they were to be drafted by the men who were most likely to know about the mines concerned. The enactment was safeguarded by the provision that the rules so drawn up should be exposed for fourteen days for the inspection of the men employed, who were invited to inform the Government inspector for the district of any objection to the rules. The rules were then sent to the inspector for examination and criticism, and finally they went to the

Home Office. This process was followed until every difficulty had been threshed out. There was also a provision for the rules being submitted to arbitration, if necessary, but the fact that there had been hardly a case of reference to arbitration showed that the Act had worked with the greatest smoothness. Such an arrangement was infinitely more business-like than the proposal of the present Bill. In drawing up the special rules it was certain there would be differences of opinion between the representatives of the men and the representatives of the master, and the person who in the present Bill was to settle these differences was absolutely specified to be altogether disqualified for so doing so far as experience, interest, or knowledge of the requirements of the mining industry was concerned, in short, his special qualification for the post was to be the fact that he had no qualification at all. The eight hours question had come prominently forward in connection with this matter, and that was doubtless a reason why the Members from the north did not appear as approvers of the Bill, the eight hours movement not being liked in the north. One of the main arguments put forward in support of an eight hours day was that working for longer hours injured the health of the workers. In that connection he was well content to rest on the evidence afforded by the history of the coal trade in the north of England. Northumberland was the oldest coal-mining district in the country, but so far from there having been any depreciation in the health of the people, the reverse was the case. A finer race of miners, either intellectually or physically, could not be found in the country. He was afraid the Bill must be classed among the attempts to restrict the output of labour in this country, a restriction which was driving our trade away, and one which was not to be found in America, by whom we were being surpassed in the race of commerce. Trade unionists in America confined themselves strictly to their proper function of seeing that each man had his fair share in wage of the advantages of commerce and trade. They were not allowed to interfere with the output of

labour, and each man recognised it as his duty, as well as his interest, to turn out the maximum amount possible. The House should hesitate before hurriedly supporting a Bill of this kind. If anything required to be done it should be done by a measure brought in on the responsibility of the Government, and not by private Members' proposals which might have a disastrous effect on the future of the country by largely increasing the cost of production. He begged to second the Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Colonel Pilkington.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

MR. BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield) said that in 1887 exactly the same arguments were put forward as had been used by the mover and seconder of the Amendment to-day, but even then there was no responsible coal-owner who ventured to say that the Bill would increase the cost of coal by 50 per cent. That was one of the wildest statements he had ever heard in the House of Commons. The first duty of a colliery proprietor was the protection of the life and limb of his workmen, and not the consideration of the severe competition he had to face. The Act of 1887 had been of untold benefit to the miners of the country, but further protection was necessary. In support of that statement he would quote figures from the last annual Report of the Miners' Permanent Relief Fund, which had a membership of 9,868. Last year there were twelve fatal accidents, twenty-eight permanent injuries, and 1,682 minor accidents, or a total of 1,722 accidents to the 9,868 members of the fund. That meant that one in six suffered an accident every year, or that in six years the whole of the members would meet with an accident more or less serious. Surely that was a sufficient argument in favour of the matter being dealt with. Colliery proprietors in his part of the country did not look at the Act of 1887 in the narrow spirit of the Lancashire proprietors. They had

worked heartily and loyally with the inspectors and the miners' representatives, and they all agreed that the safety of the men was the first consideration. He would like to see the Government support the Bill and bring in their own Amendments. The measure could not pass exactly as it stood, but as a colliery owner, responsible for the lives and welfare of the people in his employ, he was not prepared to vote against the Second Reading of the Bill. If it were sent upstairs, and the Government gave their assistance, he believed the Bill could be made into a workable measure which would be the means of saving many lives, and preventing a great amount of misery. The present was a most favourable opportunity for taking this step, as there was no dispute between the men and the owners as to wages, or between the owners and the inspectors; they could therefore all join together in the work, and he hoped the Government would take advantage of the opportunity.

*MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) said it was proposed so to amend the law as to compel colliery proprietors to provide facilities to enable the check-weigher properly to perform his duties. A case was recently tried in the Scotch Courts against a colliery owner for refusing to supply a desk on which the check-weigher might rest his slate. The place allotted to the check-weigher had a defective roof, through which the rain came and erased the markings off his slate. The Court decided that under the Act of 1887 the owner was not compelled to make provision in the manner desired. In the bulk of cases, however, the employers provided the check-weigher with facilities for the proper discharge of his duties, and this particular clause of the Bill simply proposed to compel the worst employers to conform to the custom of the better employers. The question of the deputy check-weigher was also important. The Mines Inspector in the West of Scotland had ruled that when the check-weigher was absent from his duties the employer was at liberty to prevent a deputy taking his place. The clause proposed to empower the men to appoint a deputy who should act in the event of the unavoidable absence of the

check-weigher. Another point was as to the payment of the check-weighers. Under the Act of 1887 the men were compelled to contribute their quota to the check-weigher's wages, and a device had been adopted in some parts of Scotland by which to get quit of a check-weigher if the management so desired. Instead of letting separate working places to each individual workman, a colliery was divided into sections, and each section let to a contractor. The contractor would employ ten, twenty, or thirty men, but all the coal raised was booked in the name of the contractor, who paid his own quota to the check-weigher's fund, but refused to pay for the number of men employed by him. The check-weigher's fund was thus depleted, and the men had to be got rid of. The Bill proposed to put these contractors under an obligation to pay the quota of each man employed by him who was paid by weight or measure. With reference to the dismissal of the check-weigher, he frankly admitted the wording of the clause was liable to misinterpretation. At present the check-weigher was elected by ballot, but if a handful of men passed a resolution that the check-weigher should be dismissed the management might take that as a mandate to remove him. The clause proposed that as he was elected by ballot the check-weigher should also be dismissed by ballot, but it did not propose that the Court should have no power to dismiss him for default of duty.

Objection had been taken to the proposed method of drawing up special rules, and much had been said about the desirability of leaving matters where they now rested—mainly in the hands of the Home Office. On this point the employers themselves did not seem to be in agreement, for in the statement issued by the Mining Association of Great Britain there appeared these words—

“The power which the Bill proposes to confer on the Home Secretary practically to make special rules, is unreasonable and objectionable. The coal-owner would not be relieved in any way from the great responsibility attaching to the management, while he would be deprived of any effective control over the regulations upon which depend the discipline and safety of his mine.”

What did the clause propose? At present the men had no say in the framing of the special rules, although they might object to them after they

Mr. Bailely.

had been framed. The Bill proposed that before the rules were submitted to the Home Secretary they should be discussed by a representative of the men and a representative of the employer, presided over by an impartial person, so that both sides might be heard, and the best possible code of working rules obtained. It was true that the employers must retain effective control over their own mines, but the Mines Regulation Act specially provided that the men should have a say in objecting to the rules after they were framed by the management, and, as the workmen had to obey the rules equally with the management, the contention of the promoters of the Bill was that they equally with the management should have a say in framing the rules. They were certainly more interested in the safety of the mine than the management could possibly be, because their lives and limbs were at stake. If the workmen had an effective voice in the framing of the rules the rules might be less of a dragoon-ing type, but in their working and practical application they would tend quite as much to the safety of the mines. He trusted the House would not be misled into believing that this was a new power which was being sought, because it was already in use in connection with another dangerous trade, and as mining was a dangerous trade they were now seeking to apply it to mining. So far as the North of England was concerned, the effect of this clause need not be to interfere seriously with existing arrangements. Where only one shift was worked what possible objections could there be to limiting the hours to eight per day. The facts on both sides had been so liberally set forth that no one could doubt that the limitation to eight per day would not mean a reduction of output, whilst it would tend to the safety of those employed. Young people under eighteen were more subject to accidents than those of more experience. If that were so, surely they were entitled to special protection. After a certain number of hours, in the case of young people, a feeling of lassitude and weariness affected the senses, and a person so affected was more liable to accident than if the hours were shorter. As a matter of safety they asked that their labour

should be limited to eight out of the twenty-four hours. On the score of safety there was a powerful case to be made out for the clause which prohibited men over eighteen years of age from beginning work in a mine for the first time. The experience necessary could only be acquired by those who entered the mines as youths, and instinctively learned what steps to take to protect themselves against danger. On the ground of safety he trusted the House would not be misled by the argument put forward in regard to a probable increase in the cost of production. The coal trade had expanded and grown to an extent which was never anticipated at the passing of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, and yet the same predictions were made then in regard to increased cost of production. It had been proved that the better regulations produced more economical working of the mines, and he trusted the House would allow this Bill to pass its Second Reading.

*COLONEL BLUNDELL (Lancashire, Ince) said it should not be forgotten that when a man went down the pit a great deal of his time was taken up going to and fro. Supposing a man was eight hours in a pit he would spend on an average an hour and a half going to and fro, and therefore he would spend about thirty-nine hours actually at work. Supposing a man worked nine and a half hours in a pit for five days. He would work for forty hours as opposed to thirty-nine, and he would have the end of the week for his own pleasure. He did not object to a man working eight hours a day, but what right had a man to say to another who wanted to work five days instead of six days, "you shall work six and have less to spend at the end of the week." He wondered how it would be possible to apply the same principle as is applied to mines in this Bill to railway companies. The public understand railways. What would be thought of the proposal to place such a Board as is proposed in this Bill between the Directors of a railway and the Home Office. The mines were just as dangerous as railways, and to bring forward such a measure as this instead of leaving it to the Government was not taking the proper course. When the

Government dealt with this question everybody was consulted, including the workmen, employers and inspectors, by the Home Office. They had now an excellent Act which was working well, and if any changes were wanted—and possibly some improvements could be introduced—the Government should bring forward a measure. He recommended everybody to vote against this Bill because this was a measure which ought not to be brought forward by a private Member.

MR. JOHN WILSON said if hon. Gentlemen opposite were sincere in what they had said they were anxious that the Government should deal with this question. Every one of them had enforced upon the Government the necessity of taking this matter in hand rather than allow it to be dealt with by private Members. His first duty was to offer a necessary apology for his two colleagues, the hon. Member for Morpeth and the hon. Member for Wansbeck, who were away not from any desire to hide themselves behind a subterfuge, but on account of business which they could not avoid. There were two very important questions in this Bill which were not dealt with in the Bill of 1896. That Bill did not contain the provision in regard to the working hours of those under eighteen years of age. The right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean was a very skilful debater, and he could give a plausible character to anything he took in hand. If he would allow him to say so he thought this character as a politician had very few equals. Upon these questions he had had many debates with the right hon. Baronet and they had always been friendly, and he believed that his regard for the safety of the miners was as sincere as could possibly exist in the mind of any man. He had pointed out before that if the right hon. Baronet's knowledge of this question was a little larger, and if he knew the ramifications and divergences of the different districts, he might have some little more toleration for the barbarians in the North than he had got at present. He assured the right hon. Gentleman that his words in regard to the Durham and Northumberland miners' attitude to the Bill were blunted, so far as he was concerned,

Colonel Blundell.

when he thought of his great desire to promote everything that tended to the welfare of the working classes. There was no man in this House or out of it who more regretted than he did that this Bill was so complex and complicated. He should have liked that the Bill had been more purely and specifically for the welfare of the miners, because in that case it would have the support of the North of England. He never minced words, and he said it was the open and avowed intention of the promoters of the Bill when they introduced the provisions in regard to the employment of boys under eighteen, to cause difficulty in the North of England, and thus complication had arisen. The reason why the present provisions were brought in was the purely sentimental idea that they should deal with the hours for boys under eighteen years of age. It was for the purpose of seeing what the hon. Member for Morpeth and he himself would do with regard to the shortening of the hours of these boys. It would have been better if the matter had not been complicated in this way, but it was thought that they would be driven into a dilemma, and that they durst not express themselves against the shortening of the hours for these boys. The 6th Clause of the Bill dealt with the hours for boys under eighteen. He wanted to say that that in itself involved a serious complication and a great injustice to the boys. He would take himself as an example. When he was sixteen years and nine months old he commenced to do the arduous work of a coal getter in a mine. He was considered to be a man in adaptability, energy, and strength. There were men of twenty and twenty-one employed at the same work as himself when he commenced to hew coal, and so far as adaptability and strength were concerned they were far beneath him, but if what was proposed by this Bill had been law at that time he would have had to go out after eight hours' work, and the others, who were older, although they required an eight-hours day more than himself, would have been allowed to stay in the mine. They had in the North of England always considered these questions from the point of view of expediency, having in view the peculiar

needs and circumstances of their own district. The hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil did not know the conditions of the work in Durham and Northumberland. It was impossible to work two shifts of boys and two shifts of men and get the short hours the men had got now.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: The Durham Miners' Association at its annual meeting last year by a practically unanimous resolution declared for an eight-hours day for all underground workers.

MR. JOHN WILSON said his hon. friend was always ready to correct him. He just made the remark for the purpose of drawing him out, and therefore he was a master of debate. It was quite true that they passed a resolution that they should "seek" an eight-hours day. It was merely the word "seek" that was used. He would say now what he had said before, that as soon as the Durham men asked for State interference with the hours of labour, he as their secretary and paid Member of Parliament would give his vote in that direction, but he would not be ashamed to tell them that the misfortune would be theirs. At the Labour Commission the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil was asked this question—

"Suppose you have got men who are fairly well organised, and who have considered the subject very fully and come to the conclusion that an Eight Hours Bill would be very injurious to them, would you enforce an Act of this kind upon them regardless of their wishes and opinions?"

His answer, given in the shortest and most emphatic manner, was—

"I would not."

The miners in the North of England simply asked to be left to themselves. The fight hon. Gentleman the Member for Forest of Dean quoted some figures to show the proportion of accidents to workers below eighteen and above that age. He would ask the right hon. Gentleman, if they were chargeable to the long hours the boys worked, who was to blame? He would supply the answer. This House in 1894 enacted that if any district had a bare majority of men in favour of shorter hours they could adopt them. If these accidents

were the result of long hours, why did the men not take advantage of the option given in 1894? The right hon. Gentleman spoke of the accidents over the whole country and not of those in the North of England especially. If these accidents were the result of long hours, those to blame were those who might, but would not, put in operation the option this House afforded them in 1894.

Clause 7 of the Bill provided for the prohibition of employment below ground of a person over eighteen not so employed before. He looked at this question purely from the working men's point of view. He would not look at it as a case of costs. He agreed with the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil as to the case of cost. He believed it was raised too often, and as in the case of the boy crying "Wolf" it lost its effect. Knowing what a mine was, and every grade of labour in it, he would point out what the effect of this clause would be. Let him take a village in which the whole occupation was mining. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Forest of Dean admitted that miners were an hereditary class. Let it be supposed that a father and mother had the desire to keep their boy out of the pit, and they burdened themselves by sending him to learn another trade. So long as the father was at work they could do without him, but suppose that the father got killed or permanently disabled, and the boy was wanted at home to work, by this embargo he would be prevented from going to the trade of his father, because they had placed a hedge around the mine, and said that if he was not in before eighteen he was to be prevented from going to the employment which was hereditary according to the right hon. Gentleman. He would put another case. There were in connection with the pit a class known as "hangers on" or something of that kind. Boys worked at this inferior labour until they were eighteen, nineteen, or twenty, and then they went down to work in the mine, but if this prohibition became law these young men would be prevented from doing so. The Act of 1887 said that a man must work two years, not alone, but under the supervision of an expert miner. He was only

sorry that miners could not stand shoulder to shoulder on this question.

Referring to the question of special rules, the hon. Member said that the miners in the North of England, when the Act was passed in 1897, had exactly what the Act required. Meetings of employers and employed were held with the Government inspector in attendance, and rules were agreed to *in toto*. By way of friendly criticism of the proposal in this Bill, he would suggest that there should be a committee in each district of so many employers and workmen and the Government inspector, and that these men, all with technical knowledge, should be allowed to frame special rules for their district. He instanced Durham as a typical case. It was divided into two Government inspectors' districts, one attached to Northumberland and the other to Cleveland, and if the Bill were passed in its present form they might have in Durham two different sets of special rules framed on the dictum of the Chairman of the Board. But the Chairman was to have been neither a workman nor a manager, and what did he know about special rules, and how could he decide between two experts? What was wanted was a committee representative of both parties. The employers had brought this and other Amendments upon themselves. There were many Amendments proposed in the Bill which would never have been heard of if the men had been fairly treated. The county of Durham was divided into three different districts, and different sets of rules were framed by the employers and workmen unitedly, to meet the conditions of mines which were fiery and dangerous, and those which were non-fiery and non-dangerous. Why should the workmen not have as much right to frame special rules as the employers? A man's life was worth more to him than money in his pocket, and if they put against the money of the capitalist the life and limb of the workman, then, without using disparaging words, both men were equal. There was nothing outrageous in that. He agreed with his hon. friend the Member for Merthyr Tydvil that they had an even better right.

Mr. John Wilson.

With regard to the check-weighmen question, he believed that the Bill as drafted did not meet their objection to the present state of the law, and in view of the fact that in the North of England a year ago a check-weighman was tried for intimidation in respect of certain action he took in the street during a strike, it was necessary that a clearer definition should be given of the way in which he might interfere with the workmen. He would suggest to the framers of the Bill that they should amend it by prohibiting female labour about the mines, the employment of women and girls in that way being one of the foulest blots on the mining industry at the present time. There were 5,129 women working in connection with the mines of this country. In Scotland there were 1,745; in Lancashire 2,332; and in the Midland counties 218. [An Hon. Member: How many in Durham?] There were none in Durham. Better occupation was found there for women and children. In South Wales there were 450. The Bill of 1887 contained a most curious provision. His hon. friend the Member for Morpeth moved an Amendment to the effect that no woman should be allowed to push a skip or tram around the pithead. A skip or tram contained fourteen or fifteen cwt., and nothing could be more dangerous to a mother, or prospective mother, than that at a peculiar period of her life she should be allowed to push a weight like that. The Government at that time would not accept the Amendment, but they put this in the Act—that no boy, girl, or woman should be allowed to push a railway wagon. If the bone of contention in regard to the employment of persons under eighteen were dropped, he was sure every miners' leader in the country would be found willing to work in unison upon this Bill.

*SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston) cordially echoed the wish of his hon. friend that all the miners' leaders should work together for the purpose of passing this or some similar measure, and he hoped the hon. Member would agree to the Second Reading of this Bill, so that in Committee he might move the

Amendment he had suggested with regard to female labour. His chief reason for supporting this measure was that it aimed at a great object which they all ought to have at heart—the promotion of greater safety in the conduct of a highly important industry which affected some 800,000 workers. The hon. Member who moved the rejection of the Bill quoted figures for the ten years from 1883 onwards to show that the safety of mines was increasing, but if he took the figures of the past three years he would find that we were not going forward, but backward, in this respect. The number of deaths per 1,000 in 1898 was 1·27; in 1899, 1·27; in 1900, 1·28; and in 1901, 1·38. He thought that increase justified further consideration of the conditions of life in mines. This measure might be described as an omnibus Bill. It contained many provisions which had been objected to in part, but a great many hon. Members who were opposed to the Bill as it stood would like to see it taken hold of by the Government so that by the introduction of Amendments it might be put into the legislative form which would confer great benefits on an important industry.

The provision, in regard to special rules, which had been so much criticised in the course of the debate, was only an endeavour to bring the mining industry into line with other industries. That was surely a reasonable purpose. The principle underlying the formation of the proposed Board was the principle on which every Minister of the Crown was appointed to look after a public department. He was put there as an impartial person to look after public business with the assistance of experts, and that was all that was in the minds of those who drew up the scheme. He did not say that it was the best scheme that could be devised, but it was a reasonable one. If there was no greater objection than had been stated it could be amended in Committee. He himself believed that these special rules and regulations should in future be drawn up in some other method than that at present existing, which was costly, cumbersome, and fruitful of delay. A method was wanted to bring the workmen

into a fair share of the control which they had not under the present régime. This would not interfere with the supremacy of the Home Office. Few people knew quite how dangerous the mining calling was. The number of accidents spread over the country was a very serious drain on the mining army. There were no statistics which would afford accurate information as to the number of accidents in the pits, but if reference was made to the reports of the Miners' Relief Societies, which showed the amount of money paid to their members who were injured in the course of their calling, a very good practical test was found. Over the whole country, according to the figures of these reports, there were probably over 100,000 mining accidents in the course of the year. About one man in six employed in the mining industry in the United Kingdom was injured every year. That was an enormous proportion, and ought to make the House anxious to take the earliest opportunity of introducing some amendments in the law as it now stood. In the county which he represented the accident rate was still higher. One man in every five and a half was injured, while in Lancashire the ratio was one in five. When he himself began to take an interest in this matter in connection with the awful sacrifice of young life which went on in the pits year after year, he brought before the attention of the House the case of a boy who had been working in a pit in Warwickshire, and had been killed. The boy was only seventeen years of age, and he had been at work for over twelve hours at the time of his death. For a growing lad of seventeen to be working for twelve hours at a stretch, and no food for seven hours, was a condition of labour which must inevitably bring about accidents. In another case in South Wales, a boy sixteen years of age was killed when he had been seventeen hours at work at a colliery. That was a scandal, and such instances ought to be brought before the House in order to educate public opinion on this important matter. It had been stated that the county of Durham was particularly free from accidents. He believed it was fairly so, but he found

that in Durham and Newcastle district forty-five boys under twenty years of age had been killed in the pits during 1901, and that nine of these were entered as thirteen years of age. That was a piteous tale of death and sacrifice of young life on the altar of a great industry which they knew to be prosperous and lucrative. He wanted to refer specially to the case of a boy who was killed in 1901 by falling off a truck at 3.15 in the morning. That boy started work at 8.20, and had been at work for seven hours. On the previous day he had started work at six in the morning, and worked up till three in the afternoon, and returned to work at 8.20 the same evening, and was killed at 3.15 the following morning. Out of twenty-one consecutive hours that boy had been working sixteen. Every man with a grain of sympathy in his constitution ought to do something to put an end to these long hours of labour and this terrible sacrifice of young life. Last year there were more than forty deaths of young persons between twelve and fourteen years of age engaged in mines, over fifty deaths of boys between fourteen and sixteen, and over 100 deaths of boys between sixteen and twenty. That was too big a price to pay for the success of any industry. The death-rate of boys under fourteen was between three and four times greater than the death-rate of older persons. He was bound to say in studying these statistics that they proved the necessity for this much-criticised clause which provided that persons under eighteen years of age were not to work for more than eight hours a day. Prolonged labour lessened the alertness of young persons in avoiding danger. It not only was injurious to their physique, but to their intelligence and quickness, and made them more liable to accident. His hon. friend the Member for Durham had spoken of himself as having been engaged at the face when sixteen years and nine months of age for more than eight hours a day; but if his hon. friend required to return to work in the mines now, he would not have to work even eight hours a day, for the men in Northumberland and Durham worked less than that. It was only the unfortunate

boys who had to work these long hours which produced this appalling catalogue of accidents. He found from recent statistics that there was no improvement of the matter in the current year, for there were seventy-four deaths of boys under sixteen, and seventy-one deaths between sixteen and eighteen.

There were other points in connection with the Bill to which he might refer. With regard to the clause which restricted the labour of persons over eighteen years of age, and did not allow them to go into the pits unless they had been engaged in connection with mines before that age, he thought, although it had excited unfavourable criticism, that it would be useful, and reduce the causes of danger in the pits. Every calling and profession endeavoured to make rules for the benefit of its members, and the working miners were entitled to do so also. Hundreds of agricultural labourers, attracted by the high wages, flooded the pits in good times with unskilled labour, and, being unaccustomed to the work, they added to the risks to which all the men in the pits were exposed. It was only reasonable that men should be trained for this work, not only to make them better workmen, but also to make it safe for other miners to associate with them in the mines. It was also advantageous from an economic point of view, because if the men had no training, they were more wasteful "getters" and produced much more "slack." On the whole, he believed that the Bill, possibly amended in Committee, in some respects, would add to the safety of the men carrying on this great industry, and would prevent an enormous sacrifice of youthful life. He commended the Bill to the favourable consideration of the House, which, he hoped, would give it a Second Reading.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. COCHRANE, Ayrshire, N.) said that when he had addressed the House on previous occasions he had spoken only with a sense of responsibility to his own constituents; but, now that he was speaking with official responsibility he craved the indulgence of the House, and he hoped that anything that he had to say

Sir Walter Foster.

in criticising the Bill would not be taken amiss. He should endeavour to explain the Bill, not as an expert, as some hon. Members opposite were who had spent most of their lives in the mines, but as one who had taken some trouble to make himself familiar with what was the real meaning of the Bill now before the House. The Bill had on its back the names of many hon. Members who were entitled to the utmost respect as leaders of the working classes in this country. But the House would give due weight to the fact that the two hon. Members for Northumberland and Durham had withdrawn their names. The Bill covered a very wide field. It had swept up all the Bills which had been introduced from time to time, and numberless debates had taken place on these very subjects. The Bill was indeed complex and complicated. It was a Bill of many clauses, each of which contained a principle of vital interest to this great industry. Of these various clauses some were good, some were bad, and some were indifferent. The first clauses dealt with the special rules. Under the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1887, about forty general rules were established for the whole of the coal mines, and, in addition, special rules could be proposed either by the Secretary of State or by the employer. If the special rules were objected to either by the Secretary of State or by the employer they must be submitted to arbitration. Special rules had been established in many cases, and, on the whole, they had worked remarkably well. But under this system difficulties might arise, and they might have endless arbitrations. That, undoubtedly, was a drawback. A different principle had been adopted in regard to factories and workshops under the Factories and Workshops Act of 1891, and also in regard to coal mines under the Explosives

Act. That principle was that the Secretary of State should make the rules himself after having made a careful local inquiry. That was a system which was far preferable to the one proposed in this Bill. These rules, when they were made, were not of local but of general application. The proposal in the Bill was that a board should be established in each district, composed of three members, representing the employer, the workmen, and the Secretary of State. All the special rules of the district were to be swept out of existence, and the board were to frame a fresh set of rules within six months. Then the board were to sit on indefinitely, and would be entitled to draw pay from the Treasury. They also had an indefinite power of incurring expenses, which must also be paid by the Treasury. That was an expensive arrangement, and would not give any benefit that was not derived from the present system. This board would have no real power, because, having arranged the special rules, they must submit them to the Secretary of State, who had power to alter them. Why should not the Secretary of State have power in the first instance to make an inquiry by means of his inspector, who was always willing to meet the employers and employed and hear their views before reporting to the Secretary of State? This board would have power to examine witnesses on oath, and to call for all the books of every employer in the district, and also for the books of the trade unions. That was a power which the House would be reluctant to grant to any board of arbitration. There was nothing in these proposals which would make the framing of special rules easier than it was under the present system, or under any system the Government would be willing to agree to.

They were indebted to the hon. Member for Durham for giving them an insight

into the introduction in this Bill of the clauses relating to the hours of labour. The hon. Member told them that this proposal was started in order to force the hands of the Durham and Northumberland miners on the eight hours question. He thought that was hardly a fair or ingenuous way of dealing with this great question. The hon. Member opposite had told the House that he was in favour of restricting the hours of labour because he thought that would produce fewer accidents, and he gave the House some figures, but they hardly bore out the information which he had officially. The death-rate in 1901 for all underground workers below sixteen years of age was 1·19 and above that age 1·49 per 1,000. For fatal accidents the figures were for boys 1·21, and for men 1·24 per 1,000. The figures for the past year were not yet published, but on the whole the statistics showed that the fatal accidents in their mines were steadily decreasing. The hon. Gentleman was not alone in deploring the deaths either among the young or the old which occurred in our mines; and he was sure the hon. Gentleman would give credit to the Department for which he was speaking in its desire that all means of safety should be provided in order to reduce the number of accidents which they all deplored. But he doubted very much whether the hon. Member could make out a case for the proposal in the Bill on that ground. He was himself in the past, and intended to be in the future, a supporter of an eight-hours day for miners, but he was not going to support it in a Bill of that kind, which, as the right hon. Gentleman himself admitted, was an omnibus Bill, devoted to many other subjects. He would not support an eight hours day for miners brought

Mr. Cochrane.

in by a sort of side wind. He would only support it after full discussion, and on a direct vote, not when it was introduced disguised in boy's clothing.

Now the clause which he understood was the cause of the Members for Durham and Northumberland withdrawing from the Bill was the seventh, and certainly it was a most extraordinary clause to introduce into such a Bill. It was a clause which prohibited practically the employment below ground of a person over eighteen years not so employed before. It was true that the hewers were generally hereditary and worked from an early age underground under the supervision of their parents. But there were underground others besides the hewers. There were road menders, engine drivers, electricians, and others, and were all these men to be prevented from going down into the pit if they had not served there before they were eighteen years of age? It was perfectly monstrous. How long must a person be in a pit before he was eighteen, before he was qualified? Would a week be a sufficient qualification? It was hardly necessary to seriously criticise such a proposal. The real object of it was to make a close corporation of the coal mines. It was an attempt to place the whole power in the hands of a limited class, and that, if carried out, would be disastrous not only to the coal mines, but also to the men themselves. He was rather astonished to see such a proposal in this Bill at all. He listened to the debate last year, and heard the hon. Member for the West Riding of Yorkshire declare that he withdrew the clause. Why? Because he knew perfectly well it would wreck the Bill if he

attempted to discuss it. More than that, when the hon. Member was challenged by his right hon. friend the then Home Secretary, now the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether the withdrawal was to be temporary or permanent, the hon Member said—

"I said absolutely the clause would be dropped."

The Home Secretary said, "For the present," and the hon. Member replied, "No, no." He was, therefore, rather surprised to see that the hon. Member who had withdrawn the clause in that manner had put his name on a Bill containing an exactly similar clause. He was not, however, surprised that the hon. Members for Durham and Northumberland should have refused to have lot or part in a clause which was formally withdrawn on behalf of the Labour Members last session. Probably no more indefensible proposition was ever submitted; and there were solid reasons why the House should vote against it.

The next point dealt with was the check-weighers. They were appointed to check the weight of the coal in the interests of the workmen. They had special duties and special privileges. The check-weigher was a kind of arbitrator between masters and men, and therefore it was obvious that such a man ought to be appointed by ballot by all the men and receive wages from all. Such a man should not abuse the privileges granted to him, and he certainly ought not to be appointed by a section of the men who might assemble in a hole-and-corner meeting and appoint a check-weigher to the whole of the men. Under the Bill, however, a

check-weigher might be appointed by a section, either unionists or non-unionists. No doubt the provisions for check-weighers under the Act of 1887 were difficult to construe, and were not altogether satisfactory; but mutual forbearance and good sense had practically overcome the difficulties, not altogether, but to a large extent. He did not, however, think that the difficulties would be in any way diminished by the proposals in the Bill. He frankly admitted that some of them were reasonable. For instance, the proposal of the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil that there should be power to appoint deputies was worthy of consideration. As regarded the question of shelter he did not think that there were many cases in which an employer denied reasonable shelter to a check-weigher. That would be monstrous; and he thought steps should be taken to remove the grievance if it existed.

Now he came to a part of the Bill which had not been fully dealt with except by the hon. Member for the Newton Division. Under the Bill it was proposed that there should be two shafts in every mile unless worked under a mountain or the sea, a sign of moderation on the part of hon. Members which he hardly expected. The hon. Member for the Rhondda Division described the conditions existing in a mine which appeared, according to the hon. Member, to be controlled by the hon. Member for the Mansfield Division, who was the promoter of this Bill, although he did not take part in the debate. According to the hon. Member, that mine was in a most fiery and dangerous condition, although repeated applications had been made to put it

in a proper condition. He assumed that the mine was situated in Wales, which was a mountainous country; and, therefore, the provision in the Bill would probably not apply to it. He said, however, not on his own authority, but on the authority of persons qualified to express an opinion, that a multiplicity of shafts did not improve ventilation, and that it was far better to have two big shafts which admitted a large volume of air than a number of small shafts. No argument had been adduced to show that extra shafts were needed in the interests of safety. What, however, would be the additional expense? Taking a rough estimate of 250 extra shafts at £40,000 apiece, there would be an expenditure of about £10,000,000. He could not, therefore, understand what the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil meant when he said that this would "add a few coppers" to the expense of working the mines of the country.

The reporting of accidents was alluded to. In some respects the regulations as to the reporting of accidents might be improved. The present rule required reports of serious accidents, and the expression "serious" was rather vague and had been variously interpreted: some conscientious employers included accidents of a comparatively trivial character, and others, taking an opposite course, did not make what might really be called serious accidents the subject of report. In the results the statistics were apt to be fallacious, and it would be well, perhaps, to measure the nature of the accident by the period of disablement. The Bill proposed that the term should be a week, but fourteen days would be preferable, and would be in accord with the provision in the Workmen's

Mr. Cochrane.

Compensation Act. In the clauses dealing with examinations of mines by inspectors the proposal was that there should be one inspector for every 10,000 men employed. At present there were twelve chief inspectors and twenty-six assistant inspectors, and there were no serious complaints of want of inspection. The total cost borne on the Estimates was £30,000, and the proposal in the Bill would double that amount, and would not, he thought, add to efficiency. He might continue his criticisms indefinitely; but, summarising his objections, he said this was not one Bill but a compound of many Bills, each containing different proposals, some of which were bad and others good. The proposals as to shafts, inspectors, and boards for rules would increase cost without increasing efficiency. The restrictions upon employment in Clauses 6 and 7 would interfere with freedom of labour, would make workers in mines a close corporation introducing protection in its worst and most undesirable form. Some of the proposals, such as those in relation to check-weighers, accident inquiries, and hooks and catches, were good, and worthy of consideration, but he would not stay to pick out the plums. The arguments against the Bill were weighty and solid, and he should have no hesitation in voting against it. So far as the Government were concerned, he was authorised to say that they treated the Bill as they had treated similar Bills—they left it entirely to the opinion of the House. But, for his own part, having given it full consideration, he did not hesitate to give his vote against the Second Reading.

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 144; Noes, 183. (Division List, No. 84.)

AYES.

Abrahams, W. (*Cork, N.E.*)
 Allan, Sir William (*Gateshead*)
 Allen, Chas. P. (*Glos., Stroud*)
 Atherley-Jones, L.
 Austin, Sir John
 Barlow, John Emmott
 Barran, Rowland Hirst
 Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
 Bell, Richard
 Bignold, Arthur
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Bryce, Rt. Hn. James
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Caldwell, James
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Condon, Thomas Joseph
 Craig, R. Hunter (*Lanark*)
 Crean, Eugene
 Cremer, William Randal
 Crombie, John William
 Cullinan, J.
 Davies, Alfied (*Cardiff*)
 Davies, M. Vaughan (*Cardiff*)
 Delany, William
 Devlin Chas. Ramsay (*Galway*)
 Dewar, John A. (*Inverness-sh.*)
 Dilke, Rt. Hn. Sir Charles
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
 Duffy, William J.
 Dunn, Sir William
 Elibank, Master of
 Emmott, Alfred
 Evans, Saml. T. (*Glamorgan*)
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert
 Ferguson, R. C. Munro (*Leith*)
 Ffrench, Peter
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Flavin, Michael Joseph
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*)
 Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Gilhooly, James
 Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
 Grant, Corrie
 Haldaue, Rt. Hn. Richard B.
 Hardie, J. Keir (*Merthyr Tydvil*)

Harwood, George
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick G.
 Hay, Hn. Claude George
 Hayden, John Patrick
 Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale
 Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur D.
 Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristol, E.*)
 Holland, Sir William Henry
 Hope, John Deans (*Fife, West*)
 Hutchinson, Dr. Chas. Fredk.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (*Morley*)
 Jones, David Brynmor (*Sw'nsea*)
 Joyce, Michael
 Lambert, George
 Langley, Batty
 Lawrence, Sir Joseph (*Monm'th*)
 Lawson, Sir Wilfred (*Cornwall*)
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Leamy, Edmund
 Leese, Sir Joseph F. (*Accrington*)
 Leng, Sir John
 Levy, Maurice
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lough, Thomas
 Lowther, C. (*Cumb. Eskdale*)
 London, W.
 MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
 M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*)
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 M'Laren, Sir Charles Benj.
 Markham, Arthur Basil
 Mellor, Rt. Hon. J. William
 Mooney, John J.
 Morley, Charles (*Breconshire*)
 Moss, Samuel
 Murphy, John
 Newnes, Sir George
 Nolan, Joseph (*Louth, S.*)
 Norman, Henry
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 O'Brien, James F. X. (*Cork*)
 O'Brien, K. (*Tipperary, Mid*)
 O'Brien, Patrick (*Kilkenny*)
 O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)
 O'Connor, T. P. (*Liverpool*)
 O'Dowd, John
 Partington, Oswald
 Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
 Perks, Robert William
 Philipps, John Wynford

Pickard, Benjamin
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Price, Robert John
 Rattigan, Sir William Henry
 Rea, Russell
 Redmond, Jn. E. (*Waterford*)
 Redmond, William (*Clare*)
 Reid, Sir R. Threshie (*Dumfries*)
 Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
 Robertson, Edmund (*Dundee*)
 Roe, Sir Thomas
 Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
 Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
 Rose, Charles Day
 Russell, T. W.
 Rutherford, W. W. (*Liverpool*)
 Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
 Samuel, S. M. (*Whitechapel*)
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Shackleton, David James
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Shipman, Dr. John G.
 Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
 Sloan, Thomas Henry
 Soares, Ernest J.
 Sullivan, Donal
 Taylor, Theo. C. (*Radcliffe*)
 Thomas, A. (*Cardiff, E.*)
 Thomas, Sir A. (*Glamorgan, E.*)
 Thomas, David Alfred (*Merthyr*)
 Thomas, J. A. (*Glam., Gower*)
 Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
 Tomkinson, James
 Ure, Alexander
 Wallace, Robert
 Walton, John Lawson (*Leeds, S.*)
 Walton, Joseph (*Barnsley*)
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Wason, Eugene (*Clackmannan*)
 Webb, Colonel William George
 Whiteley, George (*York, W. R.*)
 Wilson, H. J. (*York, W. R.*)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (*Hudders'ld*)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES :—

Mr. Jacoby and Mr.
 William Abraham (*Rhon-*
dda)

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
 Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
 Allsopp, Hon. George
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Anstruther, H. T.
 Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
 Arrol, Sir William
 Atkinson, Rt. Hn. John
 Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
 Bagot, Capt. Joceline Fitz Roy
 Balcarres, Lord
 Baldwin, Alfred
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Man'r*)
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. Gerald W. (*Leeds*)
 Banbury, Sir Frederick George
 Barry, Sir Francis T. (*Windsor*)

Bartley, Sir George C. T.
 Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Beckett, Ernest William
 Bigwood, James
 Bill, Charles
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bond, Edward
 Bowles, T. Gibson (*King's Lynn*)
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
 Brown, Sir Alex. H. (*Shropsh.*)
 Burdett-Coutts, W.
 Carew, James Laurence
 Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
 Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)

Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hn. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Churchill, Winston Spencer
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coddington, Sir William
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Craig, Charles Curtis (*Antrim, S.*)
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Cross, Alexander (*Glasgow*)
 Crossley, Sir Savile
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles

Dickinson, Robert Edmond
 Dickson, Charles Scott
 Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
 Dorington, Rt. Hn. Sir John E.
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
 Doxford, Sir William Theodore
 Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
 Edwards, Frank
 Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Faber, Edmund B. (*Hants, W.*)
 Faber, George Denison (*York*)
 Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (*Manc'r*)
 Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
 Fisher, William Hayes
 FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose
 Forster, Henry William
 Foster, Philip S. (*Warwick S. W.*)
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (*City of Ldn.*)
 Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (*St. Albans*)
 Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nrn*)
 Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Greene, Sir E. W. (*Bry Sedm'nds*)
 Greene, Henry D. (*Shrewsbury*)
 Gunter, Sir Robert
 Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Ld. G. (*Midx*)
 Hamilton, Marq. of L'nd'nderry
 Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashfd*)
 Harris, Frederick Leverton
 Heath, Arthur Howard (*Hanley*)
 Heath, James (*Staffords. N. W.*)
 Helder, Augustus
 Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
 Hickman, Sir Alfred
 Hoare, Sir Samuel
 Hogg, Lindsay
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Houlst, Joseph
 Houston, Robert Paterson
 Howard, J. (*Midd. Tottenham*)
 Hudson, George Bickersteth
 Hutton, John (*Yorks. N. R.*)
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred

Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
 Johnstone, Heywood
 Joicey, Sir James
 Knowles, Lees
 Lambton, Hn. Fredk. Wm.
 Laurie, Lieut.-General
 Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks, NR*)
 Lee, A. H. (*Hants, Fareham*)
 Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
 Long, Col. Charles W. (*Evesham*)
 Lonsdale, John Brownlee
 Lowther, Rt. Hn. James (*Kent*)
 Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*)
 Lucas, Reginald J. (*Portsmouth*)
 Macdonna, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (*Liverpool*)
 Maconochie, A. W.
 McArthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
 McIver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Manners, Lord Cecil
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Maxwell, Rt. Hn. Sir H. E. (*Wig n*)
 Milvain, Thomas
 Mitchell, William (*Burnley*)
 Molesworth, Sir Lewis
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 More, Robt. Jasper (*Shropshire*)
 Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
 Mowbray, Sir Rbt. Gray C.
 Muntz, Sir Philip A.
 Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 O'Neill, Hn. Robert Torrens
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 Palmer, Sir C. M. (*Durham*)
 Parker, Sir Gilbert
 Pease, H. Pike (*Darlington*)
 Peel, Hn. Wm. Rbt. Wellesley
 Penn, John
 Percy, Earl
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Plummer, Walter R.
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pretymann, Ernest George

Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Rankin, Sir James
 Reckitt, Harold James
 Reid, James (*Greenock*)
 Remnant, Jas. Farquharson
 Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
 Ridley, Hn. M. W. (*Stalybridge*)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
 Robinson, Brooke
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
 Sadler, Col. Saml. Alexander
 Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
 Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
 Spear, John Ward
 Stanley, Edw. Jas. (*Somerset*)
 Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (*Oxford Univ*)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. E. M.
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H. (*Sheffield*)
 Walker, Col. William Hall
 Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir W. H.
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (*Taunton*)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Rt. Hn. J. Powell. (*Birm*)
 Williams, Colonel R. (*Dorset*)
 Wilson John (*Glasgow*)
 Wilson-Todd, W. H. (*Yorks.*)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Verburgh, Robert Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Colonel Pilkington and
 Sir Thomas Wrightson.

Words added.

Main Question, as amended, put, and
 agreed to.

Second Reading put off for six months.

HALL-MARKING OF FOREIGN PLATE (No. 2) BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid)
 objected.

MR. STUART WORTLEY (Sheffield,
 Hallam): The hon. Gentleman is taking
 a most undemocratic course in objecting.

MR. CALDWELL: The hon. Gentle-
 man has no right to make that observation.

Second Reading deferred till Monday
 next.

BRITISH AND IRISH MEAT PRO- TECTION BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

MR. CAUSTON (Southwark, W.)
 objected.

MR. ALFRED DAVIES (Carmarthen
 Boroughs) appealed to his hon. friend
 to withdraw his objection. The Bill had
 the approval of the late Mr. Hanbury,
 and it had only one object, and that was
 to prevent foreign and colonial meat
 being sold as British and Irish meat.

Second Reading deferred till Monday
 next.

Adjourned at twenty minutes
 before Six o'clock till Mon-
 day next.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, May 18th, 1903.

MILITARY MANŒUVRES ACT, 1897.

His Majesty's Answer to the Address of Monday last delivered by the Lord Steward (*E. Pembroke and Montgomery*), and read as follows: "I have received your humble Address praying me to make the Order in Council under the Military Manœuvres Act, 1897. I will comply with your request."

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with:—

Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) [H.L.]; Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2) [H.L.]; Water Orders Confirmation [H.L.].

And the Certificates that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with:—

Electric Lighting Provisional Order No. 1); Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2); Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3); Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 4); Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4); Scarborough Gas; Market Drayton Gas; Commercial Gas.

And the Certificate that no further Standing Orders are applicable to the following Bill:—

Land Drainage Provisional Order.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

Manchester Corporation Bill [H.L.] (Petition for additional Provision).

Gosport, Fareham, and Cosham Tramways Bill [H.L.] (Petition for additional Provision).

Examiner's Certificates of non-compliance with the Standing Orders referred to the Standing Orders Committee on Tuesday the 26th instant.

VOL. CXXII. [FOURTH SERIES.]

Bangor Corporation Bill [H.L.] (Petition for additional Provision). The order of Tuesday last referring the Examiner's Certificate of non-compliance with the Standing Orders to the Standing Orders Committee to-morrow discharged, and said Certificate referred to the Standing Orders Committee on Tuesday the 26th instant.

London County Council (General Powers) Bill. Read 2^a and committed; the Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Shepshed Urban District Gas Bill [H.L.]. Read 3^a; Amendments made; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

Belfast Water Bill [H.L.]. Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Stoke Newington Borough Council Bill. Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

London United Tramways Bill, Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply Bill, New Hunstanton Improvement Bill. Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; and referred to the Examiners.

Hastings Tramways (Extension) Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Pontypridd Urban District Council Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Land Drainage Provisional Order Bill. Read 2^a (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House to-morrow.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Papers relating to the resignation of the Director of Special Inquiries and Reports.

CAPE COLONY (OBSERVATORY).

Report of His Majesty's Astronomer at the Cape of Good Hope to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, for the year 1902.

ARMY.

General Annual Return of the British Army for 1902.

Return showing peace establishment and effective strength of the Troops at present in the United Kingdom belonging to the First, Second, Third, and Fourth Army Corps.

TRADE REPORTS.

I. Annual Series—No. 2979. Russia (Batoum); No. 2980. Turkey (Trebizond); No. 2981. Turkey (Tripoli); No. 2982. Germany (Baden).

II. Miscellaneous Series—No. 590. Persia (Trade and General Condition of the City and Province of Kermanshah).

SOUTH AFRICA.

Statement of the Estimated Financial Position of the Transvaal and Orange River Colony.

MINES AND QUARRIES (GENERAL REPORT AND STATISTICS FOR 1902: PART I. DISTRICT STATISTICS).

Statistics of the persons employed, output, and accidents at mines and quarries in the United Kingdom, arranged according to the inspection districts.

Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table.

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1889.

University Court Ordinance, No. VIII. (Glasgow, No. 3). Foundation of professorship of geology; and for other purposes. Laid before the House [pursuant to Act], and to be printed. (No. 74.)

UNIVERSITIES OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ACT, 1877.

Statutes made by the Governing Body of King's College, Cambridge, amending the statutes of the College.

Statutes made by the Governing Body of Trinity College, Cambridge, on 31st May, 1902, amending the statutes of the college.

Statutes made by the Governing Body of Wadham College, Oxford, on 6th February, 1903, amending Clause 1 of Statute VI. of the College statutes.

Statutes made by the Governing Body of Exeter College, Oxford, on 12th December, 1902, amending Statutes III. and XV. of the statutes of the college.

Laid before the House [pursuant to Act] and to be printed. (No. 75.)

POLLING DISTRICTS.

(County of Lancaster.) Order made by the County Council of the county of Lancaster altering certain polling districts in the Lancaster and Newton Parliamentary Divisions.

(West Riding of the County of York.) Order made by the County Council of the West Riding of the county of York altering certain polling districts in the Elland and Shipley Parliamentary Divisions.

Laid before the House [pursuant to Act,] and ordered to lie on the Table.

NEW BILLS.

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894, AMENDMENT BILL [H.L.].

A Bill to amend the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894 was presented by the Lord Muskerry; read 1^a; and to be printed. (No. 76.)

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY COUNCILS) BILL [H.L.].

A Bill to make further provision with respect to the arrangement of Polling Districts for the election of County Councillors was presented by the Lord Ribblesdale; read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a to-morrow. (No. 77.)

BETTING BILL [H.L.]

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

LORD DAVEY: My Lords, this Bill has been prepared to carry into effect the recommendations contained in the Report of the Select Committee which was appointed two years ago on the Motion of my right rev. friend the Bishop of Hereford. The reference to that Committee was—

“To inquire into the increasing of public betting amongst all classes, and whether any legislative measures are possible and expedient for checking the abuses occasioned thereby.”

The Committee, after hearing much evidence, were of opinion that betting is generally prevalent in the United Kingdom, and that the practice of betting has

increased considerably of late years, especially amongst the working classes, whilst, on the other hand, the habit of making large bets, which used at one time to be the fashion amongst owners and breeders of horses, has greatly diminished. Betting (they say) is not confined to horse racing, but is also prevalent at athletic meetings and football matches. I think your Lordships, particularly those of you who are acquainted with the large manufacturing towns in the North of England, will agree with the Committee that betting has become much more prevalent in recent years, especially amongst the working classes. It is not only the men, but the women and children also who are addicted to this practice, and they bet upon everything which is capable of being betted upon. I remember being told, when I was connected with a north-country town, a story which impressed me very much. There was a temporary slackness of work and a good deal of distress in the town. A relief fund was started by the Mayor, and an office opened. I cannot personally vouch for the statement, but I was told that a woman who had applied at the office and received half-a-crown was known to have gone straight off and put it on a horse.

I am not going to waste your Lordships' time by stale platitudes on the demoralisation caused by the habit of betting when carried to excess, and when it becomes the occupation of a man's life, nor will I expatiate on the way in which the habit saps the energy of a man for regular industry or legitimate work. What is a much more serious consequence, and a matter which should engage the attention of the Legislature, is that the habit of betting, to the extent to which it now prevails, has been the fruitful parent of crime. Evidence was given before the Committee that the thefts which sometimes come to light committed by Post Office clerks and letter carriers, were in most cases directly traceable to their having indulged in betting. The principal point which was made before us was the increase in the crime of embezzlement. The evidence on that was really remarkable. Mr. Horace Smith, a metropolitan police magistrate of fourteen years experience, on being asked what his opinion

was about the increase of crime in general during that period, said—

"My impression would be—of course, my experience is limited to certain areas—that crime has decreased generally very much, and particularly crimes of violence and drunkenness; but, on the other hand, that crimes of fraud and embezzlement are on the increase."

In answer to a further question he said—

"Where the crime is one of embezzlement, or fraud akin to embezzlement, after the case is over, not as part of the case, but after the case is over, I almost invariably find that betting has been at the bottom of the crime."

And he expressed the opinion that practically nine-tenths of the crimes of embezzlement were either directly or indirectly traceable to that source. That evidence was confirmed by another metropolitan police magistrate—Sir Albert de Rutzen, who has had twenty-five years experience in that capacity—and by other witnesses from various parts of the country.

The most prevalent and the most mischievous form of betting is street betting. The smaller class of bookmakers who haunt the streets will take money from whoever they can; they waylay workmen as they enter and leave the factories, and it is said that, when the workmen are away from home, they even go from door to door of the workmen's houses, and persuade, incite, and induce the women to make bets with them. They have also been known to take coppers from children in the streets, and one case was mentioned of a child of apparently not more than six years of age being seen to give his copper to a well-known member of the bookmaking fraternity. I do not want to weary your Lordships by reading much of the evidence which was given before the Committee, but I should like to call attention to the evidence of one witness. He was asked to confine himself to what he had actually seen, and he told the Committee that on 5th June last year he took the opportunity of going to St. Giles-in-the-Fields, Bloomsbury, accompanied by a retired bookmaker. He noticed a young bookmaker, of about twenty-five years of age, take coppers from a boy of apparently twelve years of age. Then he noticed two more boys, who may have been fourteen or fifteen years of age, hand him coppers, and he spoke of having

seen various small sums of this kind received. But in case that evidence should be thought to come from a suspected source—it was the evidence of Mr. Hawke, the Secretary of the Anti-Gambling League—I have the unimpeachable testimony of Mr. Spruce, who is himself a bookmaker and betting agent, that street betting has very much increased within the last ten years, and he expressed the opinion that it will still further increase. Colonel Fludyer, Chairman of Tattersall's Committee, said, in his evidence before the Committee—

“Although I have very little to do with street betting, yet I know that in all the great towns it goes on, and, letting alone its demoralising effect on the labouring classes, I look upon it as a public nuisance which should be suppressed.”

Mr. Peacock, Chief Constable of Manchester, spoke of street betting being carried on amongst artisans, and especially by young men and lads; and Mr. Shannon, superintendent of the Lambeth Division of Police, gave evidence upon the prevalence of street betting in his area. He said—

“Of course, it is a working-class neighbourhood, and a great number of bookmakers use that district. They place themselves in busy thoroughfares between 1 and 2—thoroughfares that the workmen pass through—or outside large factories during the same hours, and bet to a very extensive nature. We have received many complaints of this street betting—for instance, a wife complains of her husband spending all her money, and her children starving; a mother complains of her son, and we had one complaint where the schoolmaster complained of his children being late at school through being employed by their parents to go and back horses with the bookmaker, who stood close to the school.”

It is said that these children do not bet themselves but are sent by their parents to put the money on; but it appears to me to be equally bad whether the children bet themselves or whether they are used as messengers for their parents for the purpose of making bets. We do not allow children to fetch their parents' beer from the public house, and I think it is equally demoralising and equally shocking that children of the tender age I have described should be allowed to become the intermediaries for carrying on this system of betting. Mr. Robert Knight, a magistrate of the City and County of Newcastle, stated that—

“Betting generally is largely on the increase; especially is this noticeable amongst

Lord Davey.

young men and women. Between the hours of 11.55 and 3.15 a bookmaker was recently seen to take 236 bets from men, women, and children in South Shields. This was sworn to in Court by a policeman.”

Similar evidence was given by magistrates and superintendents of police in Glasgow. Street betting is at present unlawful; but all the magistrates and police officers who gave evidence before the Committee agreed that the penalties to which people who carry on the trade of a bookmaker in the streets are exposed, are utterly insufficient and altogether inadequate to check the practice.

The way in which street betting is at present hit is by means of by-laws, of which there are two classes. One class of by-laws is made under the Municipal Act and treats the offence as one of obstruction. This offence, however, requires the assemblage of three persons, and betting is generally confined to two. There is another kind of by-law—it is now being largely introduced—which treats betting as an offence *per se*. But I believe there is no case in which a larger penalty than £10 can be imposed for street betting, and in most cases it is only a fine of £5 that can be imposed. The bookmakers make very light of a penalty of £5; they pay it cheerfully and go on their way rejoicing. Mr. Horace Smith, whose evidence I have already referred to, said—

“At present it is almost a farce fining these gentlemen £5. They simply bow and smile and pay the £5 and go away with the rest of the money in their pocket and begin again. It is absolutely futile and produces, in my opinion, a very bad impression. The law is simply derided and made fun of by these persons.”

He then mentioned the case of one bookmaker who offered him £5 for the poor box in addition to his £5 fine. Mr. Shannon, the Lambeth Police Superintendent, mentioned a case in which a man had been fined the maximum penalty of £5 sixteen times in one year and on three days successively. It is perfectly clear that at present the means of stopping what the law treats as an offence are utterly inadequate and ineffectual, and calculated to bring the law into contempt.

The Legislature, I think, must do one of two things. Either it must treat street betting as no offence at all, or, if it is to be considered an offence, some effectual means must be taken to prevent its recurrence. It appears to me that there is a very strong case indeed for

legislation. The operation of the Bill extends to—

“Any person exercising the business of a bookmaker or betting agent by betting or offering to bet with other persons, or inciting other persons to bet with him, or receiving money or other valuable things as consideration for any bet, or paying or settling any bets in any street or other public place, or any place to which the public have unrestricted access.”

The penalties proposed by the Bill are those recommended by the Committee, and which were recommended by a very experienced police magistrate, who is now dead, Sir Franklin Lushington—a fine of £10 for the first offence, £20 for the second offence, and £50 or imprisonment for six months without the option of a fine for a third offence, on indictment, or a fine of £30 or three months imprisonment without the option of a fine, on summary conviction. I am not prepared to say that even those penalties will be found sufficient, but this I regard as an honest, and, I think, a moderate attempt to provide an effectual remedy for what the law now treats as an offence, although the existing penalties are found insufficient for the purpose of preventing it. I ought to say, with regard to Clause 4, that it is carefully confined to any person carrying on the business of betting, and it is not open to a criticism which was suggested to me, that two friends walking along the street might be overheard by a policeman to make a bet with each other and be run in for that offence. It is not that which is aimed at, nor do I think that such a contingency could by any possibility arise under this clause if the Bill passes into law.

There is another clause relating to this, to which I ought to call your Lordships' attention. I refer to the clause rendering persons who are guilty of this offence in the streets, liable to be arrested at once—instead of being merely summoned to appear before the magistrate—and liable to be searched. That was very strongly recommended by the witnesses who gave evidence before the Committee, and it is recommended in the Report of the Committee. I am aware that some exception has been taken to the expression in that clause that any person so offending “shall be deemed to be a rogue and a vagabond” within the meaning of the Act of George

IV. The expression has been introduced for the purpose of bringing in the power of search and arrest under the Vagrant Act, and it follows closely the precedent of the Vagrant Act Amendment Act, 1873, by which any persons betting or wagering by means of any “instrument” in the streets is brought under the Vagrant Act. The whole effect of the clause is to put the person who is plying the trade of a bookmaker in a public street in the same position as the man who is gaming or getting people to bet or wager with him by means of “instruments.” The whole effect of the clause is to put the two in the same category. It introduces no new principle, but merely applies an old principle to a new case. I think it is a sound criticism that the words “or any place to which the public have unrestricted access” are too vague. I have failed myself to give a satisfactory construction to them; and in Committee, if the Bill is read a second time, I shall ask your Lordships to omit them, or, if any noble Lord places an Amendment on the Paper to that effect, I will accept it. The words “street or other public place” are intended to meet cases like those of the London parks, or the public gardens which one frequently sees in provincial towns, and which are not, strictly speaking, streets, but which for this purpose are equally public places, and it is thought that the section should be extended to them. I do not myself think that the words “or other public place” are of any extreme importance, although if they are omitted it might lead to an evasion by the offence being committed in a public place which was not technically a street. But that is quite open to reconsideration so far as I am concerned in Committee, and if your Lordships pass the Second Reading I shall be prepared to consider on its merits any suggestion of this kind which may be made.

Your Lordships are probably aware that all street betting takes place at what are called starting prices; that is to say, when a man backs a horse and pays his shilling or half-a-crown to the bookmaker, the bookmaker does not lay any particular odds against the horse, the agreement being that the bet shall be at the odds which are quoted in a particular newspaper, as the price at which the horse

stood at the time when the race commenced. I believe all street betting invariably takes place on that footing. Several witnesses who appeared before the Committee, and some gentlemen who have been kind enough to send me criticisms on the Bill during the short time that it has been before your Lordships, have said "Why not abolish the publication of starting prices? If you did that you would stop street betting." What the Committee thought, and I entirely agreed with them, was that, in the first place, it would be rather a strong measure to prohibit newspapers from publishing what is, in fact, intelligence of some interest to a great many people besides the betting fraternity. And, in the second place, we were a little sceptical, even if the publication were prohibited, as to whether it would stop street betting altogether. Some people were of opinion that men would still bet in that manner, but that there would not be the same security against disputes, and perhaps dishonesty, as there is by reference to the starting prices as published in particular newspapers. I think that is sufficient answer to the criticism that has been urged upon that head. Another alternative proposal is one of a very far-reaching character, and it is that book-makers should be licensed. There is, of course, a great deal to be said for that, because if you license people who carry on this business you can impose conditions and prohibit their carrying on their trade in the public streets, and it would be possible to revoke their licences if they infringed this condition. I assume that what is meant is, not a mere fiscal licence which anybody could obtain on payment of a fee, but a licence which is granted by some body who are able and willing to investigate the character of the licencees and to grant the licences only to persons who can stand the test of an examination into their antecedents. The members of the Committee who had had experience of the Jockey Club were all agreed that it would be impossible for the Jockey Club to undertake such a duty, and that there is no other body in England who could do so. That duty would have to be undertaken by a Department of the State. I think there would be a very strong objection amongst a large number

of people to that mode of licensing the business of betting. Moreover, if persons were licensed by a State Department to carry on that particular business, it would be impossible to retain the present law that money lost on a bet or wager is irrecoverable by action. It would be ridiculous to licence a person to carry on a trade, and then say he was not to recover by action debts which became due to him in connection with that trade, and that he was not to be sued if he became indebted to his customers.

The third proposal is one of which the noble Lord opposite, Lord Newton, is, I believe, a strong advocate—it is the adoption of the *pari mutuel* system, which is conducted by the State in France. Under this system the money is deposited at an office. You name the horse which you wish to back for a particular race and receive a ticket, and all the money which is received, subject to certain deductions, on that race is then divided between those who back the winner. It is, in fact, the same kind of business as is carried on by the sporting newspapers on the coupon system. I believe—and this, perhaps, would make it attractive to the Chancellor of the Exchequer—that a large profit is derived from the conduct of the *pari mutuel* system in France. Offices are opened in various places, and on every race course. Part of the profit goes to charity, a part to providing prizes at the various races, and a part remains to the State. The *pari mutuel* system is also known in India, but I am informed that there it is carried on by the proprietors of the racecourses, and in that case the profit made is devoted to paying the expenses of the races, providing prizes, and so forth. I think there is a good deal to be said for the *pari mutuel* system, but it is questionable whether it would tend to decrease betting. A great objection to its adoption by the State in this country is that it would be the maintenance by the State of a form of gambling, and I feel tolerably confident that in the present state of public opinion it could not be successfully carried on, for the same sort of objections would be made to the adoption in this country of the *pari mutuel* system as were made to the holding of lotteries by the State as a means of raising

revenue. The remaining part of the Bill relates to Amendments of the Acts of 1853 and 1874, but if these sections give rise to a good deal of misunderstanding, I think I ought to apologise to your Lordships for the Bill being drawn in a way in which its effect cannot be seen from merely reading the clauses, because the sections to which I am about to refer are sections amending or explaining particular sections in those Acts. It would, of course, be much better if every Bill could explain on the face of it, its own meaning; if, when you wished to amend an Act, you could reprint that Act with the Amendments which you wish to make, so that every one reading the Bill could understand it. But, unhappily, one cannot always do that, and I think it would be rather unusual for a private Member to venture to consolidate previous legislation. Your Lordships will, therefore, perhaps forgive me if, before mentioning the proposed Amendments, I explain very shortly the effect of the existing Acts.

The chief Act is the Act of 1853, which is called a Betting Act, but strictly it is a Betting House Act. It does not prohibit betting; it does not, as I understand it, even prohibit the trade of a professional bookmaker or betting agent. What it does is to make it unlawful for people to keep a betting house or advertise a betting house. By Section 3 of the Act of 1853 any man who owns, occupies, or uses a house, office or place for the purpose of betting with persons resorting thereto is liable to penalties. Your Lordships will observe that that section only applies to betting houses in this country and aims only at betting "with persons resorting thereto." It has been held, and it is the accepted construction of the Act, that "persons resorting thereto" means persons physically walking into the house, office, or place, and does not include persons corresponding either by telegram or by letter with the office. This Bill proposes to amend Section 3 to make the words "resorting thereto" include "applying by the agency of another person, by letter, telegram, or other means of correspondence." I cannot help thinking that that must be right, because it seems to me ridiculous to suggest that an

office into which people may walk and make their bets is a nuisance, and the keeping of it a misdemeanour, when a similar office, into which people do not walk to make their bets, but make them by letter or other means of correspondence, is not a nuisance. If it be right as a matter of public policy, as it has been for the last fifty years, that an office shall not be kept for the purpose of betting with persons who walk into it, it must be equally contrary to public policy to keep such an office for the purpose of betting with persons who make their bets by telegram or by letter. It is utterly illogical to make any such distinction, and it is therefore proposed that the section should be amended in the way I have mentioned. I need scarcely say that this in no way affects betting by telegram or letter or otherwise with any member of the ring on a racecourse. It does not touch that in the least.

The seventh section of the Act deals with the question of advertising betting houses, but it applies only to betting houses in this country. It is therefore not illegal at present to advertise betting houses abroad or to invite persons to send their money to a house situated abroad. That, of course, is well known, and it has resulted, particularly of late years, in the keepers of betting houses carrying on their business abroad and advertising them here as carried on abroad. The favourite place appears to be Middelburg, in Holland, but they also have offices at Rotterdam and Boulogne, and they can advertise safely their offices at either of these places and invite people to send their betting correspondence there. It is now, under the system of money orders, just as easy to send money to the Continent as it was to send it to Manchester. The Act is therefore evaded by the simple process of opening an office across the Channel. It was thought that that should be corrected, and therefore it is proposed to amend the seventh section of the Act of 1853 by extending it to betting houses kept outside the United Kingdom as well as to those inside. This is done by inserting in the section the words "or without." It was found to be the case that newspapers carrying on the coupon system transferred their business across

the Channel when they found themselves liable to the penalty imposed by the Betting Act of 1853. One newspaper, known as "Sporting Luck," immediately transferred its energies to Middelburg, and people were invited to fill up the coupons and send them with the required fee to Middelburg. They carried on this business with impunity. The only effect of the Amendment proposed in this Bill is to make the Act of 1853 more efficient for the purpose for which it was intended, and to supplement it in parts where, after an experience of fifty years, it is found to be defective and capable of being easily evaded.

There is one other point connected with advertisements which I want to mention. It was very strongly pressed upon the Committee that they should prohibit all advertisements of tipsters, of people who profess to give tips on coming races, and I believe my noble friend Lord Durham took some interest in that question. That recommendation is not embodied in the present Bill, and I will explain why. In the first place, if you mean by an advertisement of a tipster an advertisement stating the place where you may obtain information and advice on payment of a small fee for the purpose of making bets, it appears to me that that is already prohibited by the amending Acts of 1874, which, I may add, extends both to the United Kingdom and abroad; but if you mean by a tipster's advertisement a prophecy that a certain horse will win and a recommendation to put your money on a certain horse for a particular race, it seems to me extremely difficult to draw any section which would not hit genuine comments on the prospects of horses in particular races, and, of course, one would not—it would be impossible if one would—desire to prohibit that form of newspaper comment and intelligence. It is a perfectly legitimate thing to discuss the prospects of different horses in a race, although it may be a very dangerous and mischievous thing to pretend to give special information which you have not got. I can only say that if this Bill is allowed a Second Reading, and

Lord Davey.

any of your Lordships desire to amend it by providing for the prohibition of the tipster's advertisements, so far as I am concerned I shall be perfectly ready to consider any such Amendment upon its merits.

Your Lordships are aware of the case recently decided in this House on the Act of 1853, known as the Kempton Park Case. That decision was to this effect, that a person using a house, office, or place and so forth, meant the person using in the sense of having some sort of occupation, and therefore it was held that betting men in the ring at Kempton Park were not using it in the sense of the Act, because they did not have any greater rights in the ring in which they carried on their business than the rest of the public who paid the necessary admission fee. That is the right construction of the Act. Whatever learned judges may have said to the contrary, and whatever noble and learned Lords in this House may have said, it has now been determined by your Lordships' House to be the correct construction of the Act, and that decision is final. This Bill does not in any way attempt to touch that decision; it does not impugn it or impeach it in the slightest degree. The racecourse and the ring are left exactly as they are now, but, my Lords, there were certain consequences probably unforeseen at the time of the Kempton Park Case, which have thrown confusion into the administration of the Act. It is found that, consistently with the principle on which the Kempton Park case was decided, you cannot now summon professional betting men who carry on their business in public houses. Previous to that decision there were a large number of cases in which it was held that it was an offence under the Act of 1853 for men to use public houses for the purpose of carrying on their betting business. We had evidence before the Committee to show that it is impossible now to prevent persons carrying on this trade in a public-house, which used to be considered forbidden by the Act. There has been only one case in which a man was summoned for carrying on his trade in a public-house,

and that was a case in which the publican had assigned a particular seat in the bar for the use of the bookmaker, so that he might, in some sense, be said to be an occupier of that seat while he was there.

The other point is with regard to athletic meetings—football and cricket matches, and the like. It used to be held that the ground used for these purposes constituted a place within the Act, and a person using it for the purpose of carrying on the business of betting might be convicted, although he was in no sense an occupier. This cannot any longer be considered the law, and we were told that the police are now powerless in this matter. The Bill proposes that owners of grounds in which sports are carried on, should be enabled to put up a notice to the effect that betting is prohibited within the area, or some part thereof, and, in that case, any person holding himself out as ready to bet will be guilty of an offence, and incur the same penalty as if he had been found betting in the streets. That is the best way the Committee could find of dealing with it. The matter will then rest with the owners and proprietors of grounds. If they wish betting to take place all over the ground, they need not put up any notice; but, if they wish that no betting should take place, or to confine it to a particular ring or enclosure, they can do so. It leaves it to the proprietor, but it enables the police, if the proprietor prohibits betting, to interfere, whereas your Lordships know how difficult it is for a proprietor of grounds of that kind who has admitted a person on payment of a fee to eject him. The proposal in this Bill will enable the police to interfere and to carry out the wishes of the proprietor. Clause 6 of the Bill extends the operation of Lord Herschell's Act with regard to money received from infants for a bet. That was recommended by the Committee, but, personally, I am rather doubtful about it. Lord Herschell's Act seemed to me to deal with rather a different matter, and the penalty imposed by that Act is extremely heavy. It will be for the consideration of your Lordships, if the Bill is read a second time, whether that clause could be retained.

I venture to say that this is a very modest Bill. The noble Duke opposite, who was kind enough to give evidence before the Committee, need not be afraid that it will interfere in any way with sport. People who really take an interest in sport and bet on the merits of the horses on the racecourse, will not be in any way interfered with by this Bill. The chief merit of this Bill seems to me to be that it introduces no new principle whatever, but goes upon the lines of existing legislation. With regard to street betting, it increases the penalties where the present penalties have been found insufficient, and the other clauses amend existing legislation which has been on the Statute-book for upwards of fifty years. I regret to find that my noble friend Lord Durham has given notice of a Motion to reject the Bill, and I am surprised that my noble friend should take such a course after presiding over the deliberations of the Committee, in which position his knowledge and experience were of so much assistance. I cannot understand my noble friend's act in attempting to slay this Bill, for he was the chief author of the Report upon which the Bill is founded. I am perfectly aware that there are some recommendations in the Report that he did not acquiesce in. I think there were only two in which he was in a minority. I would seriously ask my noble friend whether he does not think it would be better to allow this Bill to be read a second time and then bring forward, by Amendment in Committee, those points on which he disagrees and desires some alteration. The only point on which I find from the proceedings that he divided the Committee was on paragraph seventeen of his draft Report, which recommended a modification of the *pari mutuel* system for adoption. I need scarcely say that your Lordships will be perfectly ready to consider any Amendment my noble friend may put down for the purpose of introducing that into the Bill. The questions in dispute are mere matters of detail, and need in no way endanger the existence of the measure. I am afraid I have detained your Lordships an unconscionably long time, but I found it extremely difficult to explain the provisions of the Bill and the alternative proposals which have been made, without

occupying your attention for a considerable time. I apologise for detaining you at such length, and hope your Lordships will not punish me for my long speech by rejecting the Bill.

Moved, that the Bill be now read 2^a.—
(*Lord Davey*.)

*THE EARL OF DURHAM: My Lords, I rise to move that this Bill be read a second time this day six months. My noble and learned friend commenced his speech by saying that people would bet on anything. I have no doubt he gained that experience on a voyage I had the pleasure of making with him to India a few months ago. I never heard any protest from the noble Lord on that occasion against betting on the run of the ship and other matters; but when I came back to England I was astonished to find this Bill promoted by my noble friend, and was reminded of Horace—*Caelum non animum mutant qui trans mare currunt*. The noble Lord has referred to my position as Chairman of the Betting Committee, and he informed you that this Bill was founded on our Report. I beg to point out that the Report as submitted to your Lordships, and which I, as Chairman, was ordered to present to the House, differs very much from the draft Report which I had the honour of submitting to my colleagues, and that on almost every provision in the Bill which my noble friend has introduced, I opposed those suggestions and divided. I could quote one test division. It was on paragraph 11 of the Report. It was proposed by the Lord Bishop of Hereford to leave out paragraph 11 and insert the following new paragraph—

“The Committee are convinced that it is impossible altogether to suppress betting, but they feel that the inducements and temptations held out by professional betting men ought to be diminished as far as possible, and they believe that they would be greatly lessened by such measures as would restrict professional betting to the places in which the different kinds of sport are being carried on.”

There voted “contents”—Viscount Cobham, Earl of Aberdeen, Viscount Peel, Lord Bishop of Hereford. (4); and there voted “not-contents” also 4, viz., Earl of Derby, Earl of Harewood, Earl of Durham and Lord Newton. The numbers being equal it was resolved in the negative. Four noble Lords voted against restricting betting practically to

Lord Davey.

racecourses, and the whole gist of my noble friend's Bill to-night is for that purpose. I cannot understand how the noble Lords who voted with me on that occasion can support this Bill. I admit—I am very sorry that it is so—that there is a craze for betting at the present time, especially among the working-classes, but I recognise also that there is in what is called “smart society” a craze for the game of “bridge,” and I am averse to legislation for the prevention of either of these non-criminal offences. This Bill transforms what is only a human instinct into a crime, and it is impracticable in its working.

My noble friend discussed a good many irrelevant matters, if he will allow me to say so, such as the *pari mutuel* system and licensing bookmakers, with which the Bill has nothing to do, but he never pointed out how the clauses of the Bill are to be carried into effect if passed into law. I could quote witnesses who would prove, I think, to your satisfaction that this Bill is impracticable. We had various curious witnesses before the Betting Committee. My noble friend has quoted the evidence of one or two of them, and I cannot say that in considering the Report which I presented to the Committee I paid much attention to them. But I would quote to the House the class of evidence with which we wasted our time and the Government's stationery. I do not see my noble friend the Earl of Aberdeen in his place, but we had one well-meaning witness who described himself as the founder and secretary of a Young Men's Christian Association. My noble friend (Lord Aberdeen) with a look of chastened satisfaction, proceeded to put this witness through his examination. He elicited no facts whatever about betting itself, but the final question put was—

“Have you ever known any case of gambling which has resulted in disaster?”

The witness replied—

“That is so.”

He mentioned that there had been demonstrations at some of the centres of the Young Men's Christian Association against betting, and that whilst these demonstrations were on he received a very sad letter from some young fellow in Colney Hatch. He said that a large

number of men in that place were brought there by one or other of the three special forms of evil they were seeking to put down. The writer said—

“The worst thing about it is that though they have been brought in here by these evils they continue them while here,”

referring more especially to betting. This witness was asked by Lord Newton whether the letter he was referring to came from a lunatic, and he replied,

“Yes, in a time of sanity.”

Another witness announced himself as a “retired professional backer.” My noble friend is kind enough to say that I have some experience of the turf and of racing matters, but I had the greatest difficulty in making out what a retired professional backer was. I was so interested in this witness that I asked some of those much maligned bookmakers if they had ever heard of him and they said—

“Oh, yes, he used to bet once upon a time under an *alias*, but his brain having become somewhat weak, he has taken to religion and found salvation by joining the Anti-Gambling League.”

They also said—

“When he is enjoying times of sanity he again has a bet.”

This gentleman, having confessed he had not been on the racecourse and had had nothing to do with racing for many years, proceeded to inform the Committee of the iniquities committed by bookmakers. Nearly every horse which ran on the turf was, according to this gentleman, poisoned. He declared, for instance, that he was present in the club on the occasion of Orme's poisoning. Lord Newton again came to the rescue, and naturally asked the question—

“He was not poisoned in the club, was he?”

My noble friend has said very little about the clauses in this Bill, which deliberately alter the Act of 1853. I am not old enough to remember what occurred before 1853, but it is obvious that in those days a certain class of betting and gambling houses existed which had become a public nuisance because people resorted to them. They went there for the purpose of betting or gambling, and very likely created a dis-

turbance in those houses, thereby causing them to become disorderly houses, and it was for the purpose of suppressing them that the Act of 1853 was passed. My noble friend said that it was an anomaly that persons should be prevented under the Act of 1853 from physically resorting to a club for the purpose of betting, and yet be allowed to communicate and make bets by other means. What my noble friend did not do was to tell us how such communications are to be stopped.

LORD DAVEY: People sending telegrams and letters and so forth are not prohibited from sending them under this Bill. The effect of the clause is to make the person who occupies the betting house which receives orders by telephone, telegram, or in any other way liable to penalties. There is no penalty on the person who sends the message.

*THE EARL OF DURHAM: That is my point. Under this Bill any house which is inhabited by a bookmaker who receives betting messages from other persons would become a house within the Act, and the noble Lord says that the persons who send these messages are not committing a crime, but the man who receives them is. I do not think any Postmaster-General would agree that letters should be intercepted, that there should be any tampering with the work of the Post Office. My noble friend quoted Mr. Hawke. I should like to read to the House the answer given by that witness to questions put to him by Viscount Peel—

“You say in this instance of advertising tips the Post Office, to use your own words, do a very large business?—Yes.

“Do I understand you to seriously suggest as a remedy that the Government of the day should authorise the Postmaster-General to open letters which are sealed or fastened, because you have reason to suspect that those letters contain advertising tips? Do you think that is a practicable remedy?—I did not mention that proposal in connection with tipsters. Our suggestion has only gone so far as where, as in the case of, say, Stoddart and one or two others, the Post Office receives tens of thousands of registered letters—they are not always registered, but a great number of them are registered—addressed to persons whom they know, or could have no difficulty in finding out, are betting agents. In that case our suggestion was that they should have the right, which should be confined to the

Postmaster-General and his chief assistants in Scotland and Ireland, to detain the letters, and ask one or two of the parties for an explanation of the remittances if they were addressed to a betting house.

"But they would have to open them first, would they not?—They would have to open one or two of them.

"Do you not think that would create a pretty good stir in the country?—That was the opinion of the legislator under whose notice it came."

I am glad there is one anonymous legislator who understands the temper of the public. I have quoted the irresponsible opinion of Mr. Hawke, the Secretary of the Anti-Gambling League. I should like now to quote the opinion of two officers of the Post Office. Mr. J. C. Lamb, C.B., Second Secretary to the Post Office, came on behalf of the Post Office and volunteered to give us any information. He was asked—

"Can you state generally what is the attitude of your Department with reference to receiving telegrams?"

He replied—

"It is simply that of a servant of the public whose duty it is to carry out the wishes of Parliament. We think those wishes are indicated in the preamble of the Telegraph Act of 1868, which authorised the Postmaster-General to acquire and work the telegraph system of the country. The preamble makes it clear that it was in the interest of the public generally, as well as of merchants and traders, that the telegraph system was to be acquired, and unless the Department receives directions to the contrary, it must assume that 'public generally' includes those who attend race meetings."

The next question asked was—

"If Parliament directed the Post Office to make a distinction between betting telegrams and other telegrams, would it be possible to carry out such a direction?"

And the witness replied—

"It would be possible to withdraw facilities from racecourses, but the withdrawal would affect other messages besides betting messages, and in many cases it would throw such a pressure on the neighbouring post office as to interfere with the ordinary telegraph business of the town. I do not think that at the Post Office a distinction could be made between one kind of message and another. There would be a risk of serious public inconvenience and injury through the refusal or questioning of telegrams which might appear to relate to betting but which had some other object altogether. I may add that if a censorship were instituted, it would be easy for senders of betting messages to resort to a secret code and so defeat the censorship."

I do not know whether a secret code would defeat the object of my noble friend's clause or not, but another Post

Office witness was still stronger in his evidence. Sir Robert Hunter, solicitor to the Post Office, said—

"The Postmaster-General has no power whatever over any closed letter of any kind. His business is to deliver letters with proper despatch. He is expressly prohibited by law from either opening a letter or detaining it, and, further, the Postmaster-General would strongly deprecate any alteration of the law in this respect."

He was asked whether the same law with regard to lotteries applied to letters relating to betting, and he replied—

"No, it does not. The Betting Act of 1874 makes it an offence to send a letter or telegram relating to certain betting arrangements, but it has been held that the operation of that Act is confined to such bets as are mentioned in the earlier Act of 1853, that is, to bets which are made in a house or place kept for betting, by persons physically resorting thereto."

Sir Robert Hunter added that telegrams sent in relation to betting did not relate to that particular kind of betting which was made illegal by the Betting Acts. This witness was asked by the Bishop of Hereford—

"Do you say, with regard to telegrams addressed to an infant, that, under the Act, they would be stopped by the Office if it were feasible; but that, as a matter of fact, the distinction is too fine."

His reply was—

"Quite so, there is nothing on a telegram to indicate whether the addressee is an infant or not."

The Solicitor to the Post Office went so far as to say that if a telegram were addressed to a boy at Eton, Harrow, or Rugby, the Post Office would not be justified in inferring from the address that the receiver was an infant, and yet Lord Davey proposes a section which cannot be carried into effect unless by means of the Post Office. There is only one other means, viz., the employment of informers, and I look upon that as un-English, although, according to the Act of 1853 which this Bill amends, half the penalties go to the informer. There is no necessity for increasing the powers of the Act of 1853. My noble friend quoted two well-known London magistrates in defence of his argument that street betting had very largely increased, and he also quoted their opinion upon betting in general. I should like to give the opinion of Sir Albert de Rutzen and Mr. Horace

Smith on the question of betting houses, which I think is more relevant to the Bill than street betting. Sir Albert de Rutzen was asked whether he could tell the Committee anything about betting houses, and he replied—

“I think that at the present time the law is quite sufficient to deal with that matter. I think the law is sufficiently strong for all purposes required.”

He was asked—

“You mean the law with regard to betting houses?”

And he replied—

“Yes.”

The Bishop of Hereford asked—

“You think the law sufficient if carefully administered and carried out?”

And the witness replied—

“Yes.”

Mr. Horace Smith, who was asked about betting houses and gaming houses, said—

“There I agree with Sir Albert. I think the law is strong enough. It would be desirable if it were simplified and, of course, made clear.”

I cannot see that my noble friend's Bill simplifies it. Mr. Smith continued—

“That would be a very desirable thing to do because there are Gaming Houses Acts and Betting Houses Acts and Amending Acts, and there is a difficulty of definition of the Act as to what is a ‘place’ or what is not, and so on. It would be desirable, no doubt, to simplify it, but I do not there complain that the Acts are not strong enough, or that our powers as magistrates are not strong enough.”

I agree that street betting is a nuisance; so is football in the streets and many other pursuits. Mr. Smith's opinion on betting was this—

“Betting and horse racing is legal. As I say, there is nothing wrong about it in itself, or criminal, or anything of that sort.”

My noble friend, however, rather tried to make your Lordships imagine that betting is an offence under the Act of 1853.

LORD DAVEY: I expressly said it was not.

*THE EARL OF DURHAM: But the noble and learned Lord now wishes to make it one, and to turn into a crime what is only a natural instinct. As to Clause 2, I do not know whether it goes beyond extending the provisions

of the Betting Act of 1853, to places outside the United Kingdom. As to Clause 3, I can give no personal opinion upon the legal aspect of the wording of this clause; but I see no objection to further endeavouring to prevent advertisements with respect to betting. No one who has the welfare of the people at heart wishes that betting should be advertised or encouraged. What is aimed at could undoubtedly be done by a slight amendment of the Act of 1853. But Clause 4 is a most objectionable and pernicious clause. It is really an omnibus clause. My noble friend includes in the clause a provision that any person betting in a place to which the public have unrestricted access should be punished, and yet in the marginal reference to this clause it is described as “Betting in a street, etc.” This clause would really include Epsom Downs, Doncaster, the Town Moor and the Knavesmire at York. My noble friend now offers to eliminate those words. That would not make his clause quite so offensive, but it is still so very drastic and hard on people who are fond of racing, and occasionally have a bet, that I see no reason for withdrawing my opposition. Subsection 2 of Clause 4 is really most offensive. I remember my noble friend Lord Derby, during our consideration of the Report, particularly objecting to and having a division upon the question of summary arrest and search. He thought it too drastic and quite uncalled for, and I voted with him; but of course we were in a minority. A man may have on his person a betting-book in which he has not inscribed a bet for six months, yet if arrested in the street it would be used against him. It is most offensive and un-English that a man should be liable to summary arrest and search in the street, and to be treated as a rogue and a vagabond, because he has spent what is really his own money in his own way. No one can possibly object to betting by children being stopped. That is reasonable, but it hardly requires a new Betting Act. With regard to the proposal in the 6th Clause, I cannot see that it is necessary that this should be put in a Betting Act at all. In my opinion it should be an Amendment to

Lord Herschell's Act of 1892. My noble friend made a slight mistake when he said he could not quite understand why this paragraph had been put into the Report. I must remind him that he moved it himself. The remaining sections of the Bill are merely corollaries.

I would ask your Lordships to consider who are the promoters of this Bill. What public demand has there been for this Bill? I do not know whether any petitions have been presented to the House, or whether my noble friend has received letters from Colney Hatch in support of it. It is a drastic, a very offensive, and a needless Bill. Who are its promoters? It is the offspring of a body of faddists who call themselves the Anti-Gambling League, and whose sponsors are my noble friend and the right rev. Prelate the Bishop of Hereford. I think that of all the most strange species of the human race the faddist is the strangest; he is a cross between a fanatical Pharisee and a lunatic. This Bill is a typical example of the methods of faddists, which are most vexatious and tyrannical. They expect the British public to accept as a new principle that a man may not spend his own money in his own way. You cannot stop at this Bill. Sumptuary laws would logically follow. The fact is, these people think they have a mission in this world to point out to the rest of mankind the straight and narrow way to Heaven, and they consider that in order to save their own souls they are justified in mortifying other people's flesh. I am glad to see that the right rev. Prelate is not supported by many other right rev. Prelates. It is all very well for the Bishops to use the great power which the Education Act gives them to educate the children of the country, and to point out to them the folly and waste of time and money that are involved in betting, but I hope they will not come down to this House to exercise their votes in restricting the free amusements of a free people. The effect of the Bill if passed would be that not a single artisan when he went home from his daily toil, would be allowed to bet a shilling with a local bookmaker; not a miner on coming up from the grimy coalpit would be able to bet a

shilling in a public house, or public place, and not a soldier serving his country abroad would be able to send a trifle home to be put on a horse; and neither a Government official at his office, nor an employee at a railway station must send a message by agent, letter, telegram, or telephone to a betting club.

LORD DAVEY: All that the Bill seeks to do is to prevent a person keeping a house or an office for the purpose of receiving bets. The Bill will not stop betting. All it aims at doing is to stop betting in the streets.

*THE EARL OF DURHAM: It takes two to make a bet, and as long as people will bet, as long as there is any demand for bookmakers, bookmakers will exist. This Bill would seriously interfere with the amusements of the working classes and intensify the monotony of their lives; and in the name of common sense, of common justice, and of common sympathy with your fellow-countrymen, I ask your Lordships to reject it.

*THE EARL OF HAREWOOD: My Lords, I should not have ventured to obtrude any opinions of my own if I had not made up my mind to second the rejection of this Bill. It is the very last subject on which I should wish to address your Lordships, and I only do so because it was pointed out to me that having sat on the Committee, on the unanimous Report of which this Bill is supposed to be based, I should do wrong if I did not give my reasons for voting against it. My noble friend Lord Durham has already told you that although this Bill is supposed to be based on the unanimous Report of the Committee which sat to consider the question, it is not really based on a unanimous Report. There were many clauses in the Report to which I and my noble friend strongly objected, and up to the last day on which the Committee sat, not knowing the forms of your Lordships House, I was under the impression that it would be open to any Member of the Committee to present a minority Report. When I found that was not the case I was obliged to acquiesce in the Report. But that does not prevent me stating that I did not agree with all the clauses

The Earl of Durham.

in the Report. The noble and learned Lord has explained, possibly to the satisfaction of your Lordships, but not to my satisfaction, some of the clauses in this Bill which I consider vague and obnoxious to the general public. I will freely own that I think there is much that is good in this Bill. I do not share the opinion of my noble friend that the Bill was not necessary at all, or that no Bill of any sort on this subject is necessary, but I think a better and wiser Bill might have been drafted. I do not think that this Bill is one for the Second Reading of which I can vote. When I came to look over the clauses I found that there were two or three of them with which I could not possibly agree, and those comprise nearly half the Bill and are precisely the clauses which I have since been led to suppose were most obnoxious to the public. For instance, the hon. and learned Lord attempts to define the word "resort." I think he has singularly failed. The word remains to my simple understanding as vague as it was before this Bill was drafted. I do not now see how the noble and learned Lord proposes to stop betting by telegraph, letter, or telephone without annulling the regulations of the Post Office which forbid the officials instituting a system of espionage.

LORD DAVEY: I do not propose that this Bill should stop it in any way whatever. All that the Bill will do is to prevent a person keeping a house or office for the purpose of receiving bets.

*THE EARL OF HAREWOOD: Then I do not know what the noble and learned Lord has brought in his Bill for, if it does not stop betting in some form or other. Acts of Parliament when once passed sometimes bear a very wide interpretation. I, of course, bow to the vast legal experience of the noble and learned Lord, but it seems to me it will be within his experience and that of your Lordships, that Acts of Parliament have constantly been stretched when put into operation. I think this would be a dangerous clause to pass, and one which would bear a different interpretation from that which the noble Lord desires. The next provision in the Bill to which I principally objected was the sentence which the noble and learned Lord has expressed his willingness to withdraw, referring to a place to which the

public have unrestricted access; but he has left "public place" in. I am perhaps putting an extreme case, but I tremble to think of what the consequences might be, supposing, for instance, in a public place certain of your Lordships might be found making a bet. I have known noble Lords to frequent the hills at Epsom and make small bets there. They would be at once subject to arrest. The provision with regard to rogues and vagabonds is most offensive to the general public, and I do not think it would have the slightest chance of passing either your Lordships' House or the other House. There is a very significant paragraph in Clause 4 referring to "any books, cards, papers, and other articles connected with such betting." I am sometimes to be found on a public racecourse, and I always have a racecard in one pocket and sometimes a betting book in the other. I tremble to think what would happen if I were found in those circumstances, or what might happen to my noble friend, Lord Rosebery, who has achieved the highest distinction both on the racecourse and in politics, who might some day, when walking from Epsom racecourse to his residence close by, be subject to arrest and search, and committed as a rogue and vagabond, because he had a race card in one pocket and a betting book in another. Even the noble Duke the Leader of the House might find himself in such a position. It is true I am putting extreme cases, and I hope that the noble and learned Lord and the right rev. Prelate will not think that I am approaching this subject with undue levity. It is not my intention to do so, but there are cases in which a *reductio ad absurdum* is the most convincing argument. Of the clauses of this Bill relating to street betting and to betting with infants I most heartily and thoroughly approve, and if this Bill could have been drafted without the obnoxious clauses to which I have referred, clauses which I think in the long run will be impossible to enforce, I should have no hesitation in voting for the Second Reading. But, as it is, I have endeavoured to lay before your Lordships the reasons which prevent me from voting for the Second Reading.

Amendment moved, to leave out "now" and add at the end of the Motion "this day six months."—(The Earl of Durham.)

*THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD: My Lords, I rise in the hope of saying a word or two in support of this Bill which may possibly induce some of your Lordships to give your support to the Second Reading. I desire to remind your Lordships that it is the Second Reading that we are debating at this moment, and I cannot but feel that a good many of the objections which have been raised are objections of a kind which would come more naturally at the Committee stage. Before I proceed further, I would venture to say one word in reply to a remark made by Lord Durham in the course of his speech this evening. The noble Earl said that the Bishop of Hereford had very few Bishops to support him on this occasion. I think it due to the Bishops that I should answer that statement. I am not always in agreement with every Member on this Bench, but I venture to say that on this occasion—and His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury will bear me out—there is not a single Bishop who is a Member of this House who would not, had he been able to be present to-night, have voted for the Second Reading of this Bill. Your Lordships are aware that the Second Reading was put down for last Thursday. For reasons of convenience the date was changed, but I think it is right that it should be stated that at least a dozen Bishops who are not able to be here to-day would have been in their places to support the Second Reading had it been taken last Thursday. Bishops have duties which compel them to be in their dioceses in accordance with engagements, and, unfortunately for us, the change of date has had this effect—that the Bishops who had arranged to be present on Thursday are prevented by engagements from being here to-day. I am surprised at the attitude which the noble Earl who presided over the Committee has taken with regard to this question. I cannot but feel, when I look through the Bill, and remember the points in it on which we are agreed, and remember also that the noble Earl presented the Report to the House without any Minority Report.

*THE EARL OF DURHAM: It was impossible to present a Minority Report, otherwise I should certainly have done so.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD: At any rate I think I can show that the noble Earl agreed with a very large proportion of the clauses of this Bill, and therefore I cannot but feel that he has put himself in the position of that famous heathen deity who devoured his own offspring. I feel that a very simple answer to the arguments of the noble Earl may be found if we glance at the clauses of the Bill. The real meaning of the Bill has been to some extent obscured by the production of irrelevant evidence. If we look through the Bill we find that, as a matter of fact, it contains eight propositions. The first of these propositions is the one to which the noble Earl has taken strong objection—that contained in Clause 1. I will refer to that presently. The next proposition simply amounts to this, that, it being illegal to keep a betting house in the United Kingdom, it shall be made equally illegal to have an office for doing business or receiving money on behalf of a betting house situated outside. I venture to think that every one of your Lordships will agree with that. The third proposition simply declares that inasmuch as it is now illegal to advertise a betting house in the United Kingdom it should be equally illegal to advertise a betting house situated outside. On that, again, I venture to think there can hardly be two opinions. Then we come to the fourth proposition in the Bill, which has reference to street betting, and, so far as I can remember, the noble Earl was strongly in favour of the Resolution with regard to street betting. Then we come to a clause which proposes to give to the police the right of arrest and search. The police would be given the right, if they saw a bookmaker plying his trade in the street, to arrest and search him. On that there may be two opinions; but the next proposal is simply this, that it should be made specially penal to bet with an infant who is under sixteen years of age. Then we come to the proposal with reference to proprietors or persons having control of places of sport. There again I take it there is general agreement, shared in, I think, by the noble

Earl, that it is only reasonable that those persons who own or control a place of sport should be free to prohibit the bookmaker from pursuing his trade in the area under their control. As things stand at present, owners and managers of these grounds cannot prevent bookmakers from being a nuisance all over the field. There are many persons interested in English sport who desire to see it conducted without being made an instrument of the betting trade, and I trust we are all pretty well agreed with regard to that section of the Bill. Then there remains only one other proposal in the Bill, which is to extend Lord Herschell's Act with regard to infants so as to include ready money betting as well as the sending of circulars.

When I look through the eight propositions contained in the Bill, I find that the noble Earl himself agrees with six of them; that is to say, that with three-fourths of the Bill he is, I believe, in complete accord, and yet he moves the rejection of the measure on Second Reading. In my humble opinion that is hardly a reasonable course to adopt. I think, on the other hand, that it is perfectly reasonable that we should ask your Lordships, who probably agree in the main with these six proposals, to give your support to the Second Reading, and let us discuss the two remaining propositions in Committee. That, it seems to me, although I speak with due deference, would be the reasonable and natural course, and, if I may venture to say so, the sportsmanlike course. If I may be permitted I should like to revert for one moment to the clause to which the noble Earl specially objects—the clause dealing with “resort.” As the law stands at present this is the state of the case. A bookmaker, a man in the betting trade, may keep a betting house in St. James's Street, and if any one of your Lordships walks into that house to make a bet in person the keeper of that house breaks the law, but if you sit in your club and send a letter or a telegram to him he does not break the law. If the law is to remain in that condition I say it is to remain in a condition of absurdity. That state of the law cannot commend itself to the common

sense of the people at large. If it is your intention to stop the betting house in reality then you must be prepared either to support the Amendment suggested by the noble Lord opposite or to propose some other Amendment which will have the same effect. I confess that, if the law is to remain in that condition, for myself I should feel it difficult to speak of it with any respect; and I do not believe it can commend itself to your Lordships' judgment as reasonable and right that this absurd inconsistency should be allowed to remain. I think the noble Earl has entirely misconceived the effect of the Bill.

The Bill will in no way interfere with the liberty of any one of your Lordships, or any other person, who makes bets. What it will do is this. It will continue the process which in years gone by has been wisely undertaken of putting a check on the trade of betting men. I have no doubt that it would put a check on the trade, but probably nothing like the check which the trade, in a state of panic, is inclined to suppose. As I was on my way to the House this afternoon I received a printed extract from, I presume, one of the organs of the betting trade. This extract sets forth that if this Bill is allowed to pass there will be all sorts of serious consequences. We are told that horse racing will become extinct, that over 1,000,000 people will be thrown out of employment, and that as they are a class of persons who do not easily adapt themselves to other occupations all sorts of terrible results will ensue. Not content with this, it is further stated that all the racecourse companies will become bankrupt, and so on; and it would seem as if a great disaster is to fall on the English people if this modest Bill is allowed to pass. But the statement winds up with this remarkable sentence—

“With one object of the Bill all reputable men must be in sympathy—the annihilation of the irresponsible tipster.”

So you see how inconsistent these arguments against the Bill are. The Bill is based absolutely and entirely on the Report of the Committee; it does not even include all the recommendations in the Report. Nearly every reputable newspaper has declared in favour of the

Report. Judges on the Bench one after another have commended it, and magistrates in all directions have spoken in favour of it. Only on Saturday morning I received unsolicited a list of seventy-three Boards of Guardians who have lately passed resolutions in its favour. I venture to think that possibly your Lordships are not quite aware of the extent and the intensity of public feeling with regard to this curse. What is this betting trade? It is a purely parasitic trade. It serves no good purpose in the political organism. And just as your Lordships, every one of you, as sportsmen, desire to keep your sport healthy, and are very careful to keep all unwholesome and noxious parasites from your stables and kennels, so, as English citizens, you should help in this modest endeavour to check the growth of this parasite in our English society. All that this Bill does is to put a reasonable check on a trade which is exercising such a wide and mischievous influence on English life. I do not know how far your Lordships have read the evidence which was presented to us. Some quotations have been given, but I would suggest to any noble Lord who has not read it, that he should peruse the evidence given by large employers. We had one large employer of labour from Leeds who employs 1,000 engineering men. He is a sportsman and a breeder of horses himself, and he told us that he would not engage any betting man to any post in his service. We had a remarkable witness in a member of the working classes from Newcastle-on-Tyne who has been made a Justice of the Peace, and whose evidence I would wish that every Member of this House should read. But no evidence is needed. We all know the curse of which this trade is the instrument. If we are sincere in our desire to do something for the good of the people I cannot but feel that we should be ready to help forward this kind of social legislation which has done, by universal consent, so much good in times past. I have alluded to the Leeds employer. I might speak of another employer—His Majesty's Government. A good deal was made by the noble Earl of the evidence produced from the Post Office. If your Lordships look at the evidence you will find that no official in the Post Office, from top to

bottom, is allowed to bet, or if he does it is at the risk of his office. I think that is an excellent rule. I hope your Lordships will at any rate go so far as to give this Bill a Second Reading, and then in Committee the clauses can be modified, or, if necessary, rejected. Indeed, I should be grateful if the Bill could become law with only those clauses in it on which we are all agreed.

LORD NEWTON: My Lords, the interpretation which has been placed on this Bill by previous speakers is of an extremely contradictory character. But one thing I think everybody will recognise is that this is a Bill which is obviously directed against bookmakers and book-making. I gather that the noble Lord who moved the Second Reading has no objection to betting *per se*; he would be quite prepared to bet, say, with me or with the right rev. Prelate, always providing he saw a chance of winning and was likely to get his money. The objection of the noble and learned Lord is to the intermediary. One of the main objects of the Bill is to restrict betting to places where the sports themselves are carried on, and for that reason my noble friend Lord Durham is no doubt justified in describing the measure as, in a sense, a piece of class legislation. Personally, I do not take the serious objection to the Bill which has been taken by the two noble Lords who have moved and seconded its rejection. For myself I am disposed to criticise the Bill because it does not go far enough. It appears to me, if I may say so, that it is a piecemeal measure and is quite inadequate to deal with the alleged gigantic evils with regard to betting. The only form of betting and gambling which merits any consideration at all is gambling upon races, because betting which takes place on sports can be indulged in between the parties, and there is no necessity for any intermediary. Therefore, any legislation should be confined to betting on racing and racing only. I think that any impartial person who reads the evidence and the Report of the Committee must come to the conclusion that the Report is a confession that betting cannot be stopped. It is declared that "betting is not a crime in itself;" and if I were a bookmaker I should take these words as my device. If this is so, if betting cannot be stopped,

The Lord Bishop of Hereford.

and if it is not a crime, what is the obvious conclusion? That betting should be recognised, regulated, and restricted within reasonable limits. That is where the real difference of opinion arose between the Members who formed the Committee. One section showed itself in favour of recognising betting by the introduction of the system which prevails almost everywhere, except in England, under which the Government appropriates a proportion of the money invested in betting and devotes it to useful objects. A proposal in this direction was defeated by only one vote. If the *pari mutuel* system were ever adopted we should at once obtain the advantages which are claimed under this Bill and a great deal more besides. Betting would practically be confined to the racecourse itself; fraud would be put an end to; people would be obliged to bet with ready money, and therefore would not find themselves in the difficulties in which they are constantly placed through being able to bet on credit. An orderly and methodical system would be substituted for the pandemonium which now prevails, and finally a large sum would be available for useful purposes.

In France, where there is less racing than in the United Kingdom, the 2 per cent. which is deducted by the State for charitable purposes reached £180,000, and the 1 per cent. which is deducted for the encouragement of horse breeding reached the sum of over £90,000. It is perfectly clear that a very much larger sum could be obtained here if we had the courage to adopt this system; and in view of the fact that Governments are perpetually looking for fresh sources of income such a proposal ought not to be entirely despised. But I should like to go further still. There is one class in this country, and one class only so far as I know in the whole world, who are literally clamouring to be taxed. These are the bookmakers, and personally I should like to oblige them very much; and I should be inclined to oblige them to such an extent that their numbers would be materially reduced. The only possible objection to such a course is that such recognition would mean an encouragement of the vice. It is our habit to represent that the refusal of

State recognition—in other words, the refusal to look plain facts in the face—conduces in some mysterious way to the advancement of national morality. But by the Report betting has been put upon the same footing as drinking. Neither is a crime in itself. Now I would like to know, with regard to State recognition, if any human being before he gets drunk or drinks a glass of beer, pauses to consider whether the State recognises the drink traffic; and does anybody seriously believe that any human being who does not bet now, will be induced to bet because the State exacts some small profit from betting transactions or levies a tax on bookmakers? I am unable to see any objection to controlling a national amusement, which leads to much trouble, by means of taxation, and considering the well-known fact, corroborated by the noble Duke the Leader of the House, that racing cannot exist without betting, I must confess that it is a matter of surprise to me that the reform I have indicated has not been adopted long ago by the Jockey Club, who practically have complete control of racing in this country. Instead of this, the Jockey Club chooses to ignore betting altogether. The members of the Jockey Club sit aloft, like the gods of Epicurus, and they wish it to be understood that the betting shouts with which we are familiar, are expressions which convey absolutely nothing to their mind and with which they have no concern. This is a somewhat illogical attitude on their part, and although it is with great diffidence that I venture to criticise such an august body I venture to think that if they had exercised their great powers somewhat earlier, such legislation as we are considering at the present moment would have been entirely unnecessary. I am afraid I have committed an offence which is not altogether unknown in this Assembly—namely, that of discussing a matter which is not before the House. I admit that the major portion of my speech has been devoted to matters not contained in the Bill. Personally, I regret it. I think they ought to have been included. I rose with the object, in the first place, of pointing out the fundamentally different standpoint from which the two sections of the Committee regarded the question of betting, and also to take the opportunity of pointing out

that if the alleged gigantic evils of betting are to be satisfactorily dealt with they must be dealt with by a bolder and more comprehensive measure than this.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: My Lords, I feel somewhat nervous at entering on a discussion which seems to have been one of a family character, for up to the present five noble Lords have addressed the House, all of whom were members of the Committee who dealt with this subject. Two have spoken against the Second Reading, and three in favour. So far as I can gather from the opinions expressed by those noble Lords, there is a general consensus of opinion that something should be done to grapple with the betting evil. I need not go to the Report of the Committee. I will refer simply to the draft Report prepared by Lord Durham, which lays down as strongly as the accepted Report that the question of street betting is one that calls for legislative interference, and ought to be dealt with, as it is productive of the greatest possible harm to the working classes. The great central feature of the Bill is the checking of street betting, and I would appeal to my noble friend Lord Durham and to your Lordships to take this vote on the Second Reading as a vote in favour of doing something to diminish the evils of street betting. I think it can be shown that all the other proposals in the Bill are subsidiary to that great object which is to be found in Clause 4. For my own part, I frankly admit that I would not myself vote for the Bill if it involved support of the first two clauses, and if the Bill goes into Committee, as I hope it will, I shall be found among those opposing those two clauses. The Lord Bishop of Hereford, representing the high-water mark of strenuous support of the Bill, said he would be willing to accept the omission of these clauses. It seems to me that the supporters of the Bill have shown themselves in the utmost degree conciliatory. They have asked you to accept the proposition that half a loaf is better than no bread, and that if the House is not willing to accept the whole of the provisions of the Bill as they stand, let the House accept those pro-

visions which it does agree with. They say to the chief opponent of the Bill, Lord Durham, on whose draft Report the Bill hangs—

*THE EARL OF DURHAM: I protest. The Bill does not represent my views, and I defy the noble Lord to prove his statement.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: If the noble Lord challenges me, I will prove it. I will quote the noble Earl's draft Report—the Report before it had been altered by his friends on the Committee. In his draft Report the noble Earl states—

"18. It has been proved conclusively to the Committee that the practice of betting in the streets has increased very much of late years, and is the cause of most of the evils arising from betting amongst the working classes.

"The fact that bookmakers can ply their trade in the open street, and lie in wait to catch working men in their dinner hour outside factories and workshops in order to induce them to bet, is undoubtedly a great source of evil.

"19. Evidence has also been brought before the Committee to show that street bookmakers bet not only with men, but also with women and children.

"20. At the present time such offences can be dealt with as 'obstruction' under various local Acts or under particular by-laws in each town, the penalty in either case being inadequate to check the practice.

"21. When a street bookmaker is convicted twenty-five times in four years and is able to pay 137*l.* 8*s.* in fines and costs (to take a typical example of many cases which have been brought to the notice of the Committee), it is obvious that the profits of his calling must be very great, and that the penalties provided by the law to restrain his trade are not sufficiently strong.

"22. The Committee, therefore, recommend that, in view of the acknowledged evils of this form of betting, there should be further legislation, enabling magistrates to send bookmakers to prison without the option of a fine for the first offence, who have been convicted of betting in the streets with women or boys or girls, or otherwise inducing them to bet.

"The Committee further recommend that bookmakers convicted of betting in the streets with men should be liable to a fine of 10*l.* for the first offence, 20*l.* for the second offence, and that for any subsequent offence it should be within the discretion of the magistrate either to impose a fine of not more than 50*l.* or to send the bookmaker to prison without the option of a fine."

Those are the words of the noble Earl in his draft Report, and I contend that on the paragraphs I have read may be founded the whole case for this Bill.

*THE EARL OF DURHAM: No.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: That is the way it is accepted by its chief promoters. The right rev. Prelate says he is content to withdraw those provisions with which the noble Earl does not agree. It appears to me that the offer made by the promoters of the Bill is an extremely generous one, and I hope your Lordships will assent to the Second Reading.

THE EARL OF DERBY: My Lords, I do not often trespass on your Lordships' house, but this is one of the occasions on which I do not feel free to give a silent vote. I cannot refrain from the remark that the noble Lord who has just sat down seemed to be unduly hard on my noble friend opposite, in citing the paragraphs contained in the draft Report as paragraphs to every one of which the noble Earl himself assented. The draft represented the general view of the Committee, based upon the evidence, and it was perfectly free for us as members of the Committee to take what line we chose upon the various provisions as they came under discussion. Passing that by, however, I think it would undoubtedly have been better, if, differing on some points from the majority Report, we had stated our dissent more plainly; but in the circumstances I do not feel justified in opposing the Second Reading. By rejecting the Second Reading the House would take up the unenviable position of preventing any amending legislation on the lines recommended by the Committee. I am not prepared to take such a course. I desire to see the Bill go to the Committee stage and receive a full discussion, holding myself free to vote for further Amendment or the rejection of the Bill on the Third Reading stage. I hope your Lordships will give the Bill a Second Reading on that understanding.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (THE EARL OF HALSBURY): I confess that it is with the greatest reluctance that I ask your Lordships not to follow such a course as that recommended by Lord Derby, and not to introduce a new and dangerous system into your proceedings. It is said the Bill proceeds on the principle of abolishing

street betting; and against that practice there is much to be said, for it comes within the ordinary description of a nuisance. If it were confined to this object I would have some hesitation in voting against the Bill; but it is not so confined, and the authors of the Bill have not the courage of their opinions. If they mean to make betting an offence to be visited with penalties, why do they not bring in a Bill to prohibit betting? It is an extremely awkward thing to impose a number of penalties with ludicrous conundrums for His Majesty's Judges to solve, because the framers of the Bill will not say what they mean. If betting is to be made an offence, why not say so? The authors of the Bill have not the courage to say what they really mean; and the House is asked to go into legislation not dealing with the substance of a subject, getting rid of the responsibility for dealing with the substance, and going about the edge of it without touching it. Whether betting is right or wrong is a question I will not discuss. I will only say that betting is not the only form of gambling, and if we are going to make it an offence for any person to do something ancillary to betting, which is not an offence, treating him as a rogue, then we are embarking upon a very objectionable species of legislation; and I shall unhesitatingly vote against the Second Reading of such a Bill. I protest against the idea that after discussion among the Members of a divided Committee the House should give a Second Reading to a Bill on the understanding that two-thirds of it should be struck out, the remainder being that upon which they could agree. Why not bring in a Bill for the abolition of street betting that could be supported on different grounds? Street betting is a public nuisance, and, there is general agreement, should be put down. I shall vote against the Bill, and I hope your Lordships will not give any countenance to the new system of passing the Second Reading though two-thirds of the Bill will be thrown out.

*EARL SPENCER: I rise to say a few words on what has just fallen from the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack. The course which the noble and learned

Lord condemned is by no means extraordinary, and I rather think that His Majesty's Government have followed it in the other House, treating the Second Reading as acceptance of principle, yet agreeing to strike out large portions of the Bill. The principle of the Bill is that it is necessary to check the grave evils of betting among certain classes of persons who cannot afford it, and to diminish the temptations to the practice. That is the general principle; and I am convinced that the evils are great, and that betting has been the cause of sadness and ruin to many families. The Bill proposes to modify and reduce the temptations to betting. There are those who desire that no person should be allowed to get any drink. Your Lordships would not go so far as that; but many are in favour of some check in the great temptations there are to persons to indulge in drink. Why not apply the same principle to this question? Here is an admitted evil. Why should we not attempt to modify the temptations offered to people to bet, without attempting to say that betting is criminal? I contend that the proper course would be—and I strongly and earnestly urge your Lord-

ships to follow it—to read the Bill a second time and to take out in Committee the clauses to which you object.

THE EARL OF FEVERSHAM: There is one principle in this Bill which I cannot support. I object to the Bill because it would enact one law for the rich and another for the poor. That is a vicious principle indeed. The rich man may carry on his betting within the enclosure, but the poor man doing the same outside the enclosure, would be liable to arrest by the police. I agree with the objection urged by the Lord Chancellor that to pass the Second Reading of a Bill when you propose to omit some of the most important clauses of it, is not consistent with the practice of Parliament and may lead to great confusion and irregularities. I shall therefore support the Amendment of my noble friend opposite.

On question, whether the word ("now") shall stand part of the Motion,

Their Lordships divided:—Contents, 39; Not-Contents, 48.

CONTENTS.

Canterbury, L. Abp.

Northampton, M.

Carlisle, E.
Carrington, E.
Derby, E.
Jersey, E.
Morley, E.
Russell, E.
Spencer, E.
Westmeath, E.

Cobham, V. [*Teller.*]

Gloucester, L. Bp.
Hereford, L. Bp.
London, L. Bp.

Ashcombe, L.
Barnard, L.
Brassey, L.
Braye, L.
Clifford of Chudleigh, L.
Davey, L. [*Teller.*]
de Ros, L.
Denman, L.
Farrer, L.
Hawkesbury, L.
Herries, L.

Leigh, L.
Lyveden, L.
Monkswell, L.
Monteagle of Brandon, L.
Reay, L.
Ribblesdale, L.
Robertson, L.
St. Levan, L.
Silchester, L. [*E. Longford.*]
Suffield, L.
Tweedmouth, L.
Wandsworth, L.
Welby, L.
Zouche of Haryngworth, L.

NOT-CONTENTS.

Halsbury, E. (*L. Chancellor.*)
Devonshire, D. (*L. President.*)

Abercorn, M. (*D. Abercorn.*)
Cholmondeley, M.
Pembroke and Montgomery, E. (*L. Steward.*)
Clarendon, E. (*L. Chamberlain.*)
Abingdon, E.
Albemarle, E.
Bathurst, E.
Carnarvon, E.
Cawdor, E.
Durham, E. [*Teller.*]
Ellesmere, E.
Feversham, E.
Harewood, E. [*Teller.*]
Howe, E.

Innes, E. (*D. Roxburghe.*)
Stanhope, E.
Strafford, E.
Vane, E. (*M. Londonderry.*)
Waldegrave, E.

Churchill, V.
Falmouth, V.
Hutchinson, V. (*E. Donoughmore.*)
Ridley, V.

Abinger, L.
Brougham and Vaux, L.
Crawshaw, L.
Farquhar, L.
Fermanagh, L. (*E. Erne.*)
Harris, L.

Hay, L. (*E. Kinnoul.*)
Heneage, L.
Manners of Haddon, L. (*M. Granby.*)
Meldrum, L. (*M. Huntly.*)
Monckton, L. (*V. Galway.*)
Oranmore and Browne, L.
Penrhyn, L.
Rossmore, L.
Rothschild, L.
St. Oswald, L.
Saltoun, L.
Sefton, L. (*E. Sefton*)
Sherborne, L.
Southampton, L.
Wemyss, L. (*E. Wemyss.*)
Wenlock, L.
Wolverton, L.

Earl Spencer.

PROPOSED FISHERIES BOARD.

LORD HENEAGE: I beg to ask His Majesty's Government whether the Bill for the creation of a Fisheries Board has been prepared, and, if so, whether it will be introduced before Whitsuntide; also whether it is still the intention of the Government that the Fisheries Board shall be under the charge of the same Minister who may be appointed to preside over the Board of Agriculture.

*EARL HOWE: There is no change in the policy of the Government, but no statement can be made at present as to the date at which the Bill will be introduced. The Bill, I understand, has been prepared.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Eight o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 18th May, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL
BUSINESS.PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER
62 COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz. :—

Baker Street and Waterloo Railway (Extension of Time) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (STANDING
ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO
COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill; Naval Works Provisional Order Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time to-morrow.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (NO
STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz. :—

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time to-morrow.

Watford and Edgware Railway Bill.—
Read the third time, and passed.

Gas Light and Coke Company Bill; Hampton Court Gas Bill; Lancashire and Yorkshire and London and North Western Railways (Steam Vessels) Bill; Metropolitan District Railway (Various Powers) Bill; Midland and Belfast and Northern Counties Railways Bill; Stroud District and Cheltenham Tramways Bill. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Frinton-on-Sea Sea Defences Bill [Lords]; Harrogate Water Bill [Lords]; Harrow and Stanmore Gas Bill [Lords]; Knott End Railway (Extension of Time) Bill [Lords]; Milford Docks Bill [Lords]; Pelican and British Empire Life Office Bill [Lords]; South Wales Mineral Railway Bill [Lords]; Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Bill [Lords]; Strabane and Letterkenny Railway Bill; Wellington (Salop) Gas Bill [Lords]; Wirral Railway Bill [Lords]. Read a second time, and committed.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Copy presented, of Statement of the Estimated Financial Position of the Transvaal and Orange River Colony [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EVICTED FARMS (IRELAND).

Return ordered, "showing how farms from which tenants were evicted on certain specified estates since the first day of May, 1879, were occupied (1) at the time of the Inquiry of the Evicted Tenants Commission; and (2) on the 1st day of May, 1903."—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Return presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 173.)

ARRESTS FOR DRUNKENNESS (IRELAND).

Return ordered, "giving the number of arrests for drunkenness within the Metropolitan Police District of Dublin, and the cities of Belfast, Cork, Limerick, and Waterford, on Sundays between the 1st day of May, 1902, and the 30th day of April, 1903, both days inclusive, the arrests being given from 8 a.m. on Sundays till 8 a.m. on Mondays."

"And, similar Returns for the rest of Ireland from the 1st day of May, 1902 to the 30th day of April 1903 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 233, of Session 1902.)"—(*Mr. Sloan.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Cost of Public Vaccination.

SIR THOMAS ROE (Derby): To ask the President of the Local Government Board, if he will cause a Return to be issued showing the total cost of public vaccination charged on the Poor Rate for England and Wales for the two periods of four years, viz., 1895 to 1898, and 1899 to 1902.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long*): The particulars referred to are shown in Part I. of the Local Taxation Returns which are published annually. The Returns for the year ended Lady Day, 1902, are in preparation, and Part I. will, I hope, shortly be ready for issue. It does not seem necessary that a special Return should be granted.

Abolition of Offices—Compensation.

SIR THOMAS ROE: To ask the President of the Local Government Board, if he will state the principles and scale adopted by the Board in determining the amount of compensation on an appeal to them where the Local Government Act, 1888, Section 120, applies, in respect of abolition of office or diminution or loss of fees or salary.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) In determining the amount of the compensation in cases of the kind referred to in the Question it is the practice of the Local Government Board to award as many sixtieths of the annual emoluments of which the officer has been deprived as he has served years, together with a special addition varying, according to the length of his service, from one-sixtieth to ten-sixtieths of those emoluments.

Adulterated Whisky.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he is aware that German spirit made from potatoes and roots is imported into this country and sold as Scotch or Irish whisky, and that under the existing methods of supervision any potable spirit, German or otherwise, can be made up and sold as genuine whisky; and that English spirit, made largely from molasses, is shipped from this country to France and returned and sold as brandy; and, if so, whether he will consider the advisability of appointing a Committee of Inquiry into the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Ritchie.*) I am aware that allegations in the sense indicated have been made, but I have no official knowledge that would enable me to confirm or to refute such allegations. The matter was very fully examined by the Select Committee of the House of Commons in 1890, and I doubt whether any advantage would result from a fresh inquiry.

Applications for Guaranteed Transvaal Loan.

MR. COHEN (Islington, E.): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will state the number of the applications for

the recent Guaranteed Transvaal Loan of £1,000,000; between £1,000,000 and £5,000,000; £5,000,000 and £10,000,000; £10,000,000 and £20,000,000; £20,000,000 and £30,000,000; and of £30,000,000 respectively.

(*Answered by Mr Ritchie.*) The applications for the Transvaal Loan included 145 of £1,000,000 each; eighty-nine exceeding £1,000,000 and not exceeding £5,000,000; five exceeding £5,000,000 and not exceeding £10,000,000; five exceeding £10,000,000 and not exceeding £20,000,000; four between £20,000,000 and £30,000,000; one of £30,000,000.

Money Order System with the Colonies and Foreign Countries.

MR. HENNIKER HEATON (Canterbury): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that the cost or commission on a money order from Canada to the United States is only three cents (1½d.) for five dollars (£1), whereas the cost of a similar money order for £1 from Canada to England would be ten cents. (or 5d.); whether he is aware that a money order from France to England for 5s. is charged only 1d., but for a similar money order for 5s. from England to France 6d. is charged for commission; and, if so, whether he will take steps to improve our money order system with foreign countries and the Empire.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) I am aware that in the cases referred to by the hon. Member the rates of commission are as stated by him. As I announced in the House on the 11th instant, the money order system in this country is now the subject of inquiry by a Departmental Committee, and until that inquiry is completed I can promise no changes.

Greek Currant Monopoly.

MR. CHARLES M'ARTHUR (Liverpool, Exchange): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will instruct His Majesty's Minister at Athens to forward by telegraph particulars of any proposals tending to the establishment of a Greek

currant monopoly as soon as they are formulated, so as to admit of their examination in this country, if possible, before they are submitted by the syndicate for the sanction of the Hellenic Government.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) His Majesty's Minister at Athens has been instructed to send home by telegraph particulars of the proposals of the syndicate for examination before they have been sanctioned by the Hellenic Government.

Typhoid and Oysters—Suggested Board of Trade Inspection.

MR. SEYMOUR ORMSBY-GORE (Lincolnshire, Gainsborough): To ask the President of the Board of Trade if, in view of the cases of typhoid fever caused by oysters reared in insanitary beds, he will consider the advisability of appointing an inspector of oyster beds.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) The question of preventing the spread of typhoid fever is primarily one for the sanitary authorities, and I do not think that the appointment of a special inspector of oyster beds by the Board of Trade is necessary. I may, however, mention that the Board of Trade are considering with the Local Government Board whether in particular cases joint action might not be taken by the local sanitary and fishery authorities with a view of preventing the discharge of sewage in the neighbourhood of oyster beds, or where that is impossible of inducing the owners to move the oysters to another site.

Board of Education and Local Education Authorities.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether the intention of the Board of Education not to dictate to the local education authorities is intended to apply to elementary as well as to secondary education; and whether the Department adheres to the policy of not forcing the representation either of intellectual interests or of denominational interests on any Council with which the Board had to do.

(*Answered by Sir William Anson.*) The requisites of a scheme for an Education Committee are set forth in Section 17 of the Education Act, and the duties of the Board in respect of such schemes are also there stated. The Board will endeavour to ensure that the schemes submitted for their approval are such as will satisfy the requirements of the Act, and will promote the educational interests of the areas to which the schemes apply.

Ireland—Transfer of Sergeant Maloney.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will explain why Sergeant Maloney is to be transferred from his present station, seeing that he has only spent three years there.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) There is no intention to transfer this sergeant at present.

South Africa—Transport of Troops.

MR. FLOWER (Bradford, W.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will cause instructions to be given that the transport of troops by rail in South Africa shall be effected in ordinary railway carriages; whether he is aware that on the 6th of last January the 1st Royal Welsh Fusiliers left Potchefstroom for Cape Town in cattle trucks, unprovided with shelter against the rain; and if he will issue such orders as shall for the future ensure that accommodation equivalent to that given to the returning Boer prisoners, shall be given to His Majesty's soldiers.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) There is considerable difficulty in the provision of sufficient passenger carriages in South Africa for the conveyance of troops. I have been in communication with the railway authorities and will take care that all possible consideration is shown to the troops.

Survey of Somaliland.

COLONEL SADLER (Middlesborough): To ask the Secretary of State for War if he will explain why the maps of Somaliland recently issued by the War

Office are being published with a footnote stating that the country has never been surveyed, seeing that Colonel Swayne between the years 1886 and 1892 made a survey of the country, which was acknowledged by the Government of Bombay.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The object of the footnote is to warn those who use the map that it is a compilation from travellers' routes and other sources of information and not the reproduction of a complete survey, and that the accuracy of the detail is therefore not absolutely reliable. Colonel Swayne's route reconnaissances have been used and have proved most valuable in the compilation of the map, but none of his work can be technically described as survey.

Military Manœuvring Ground—Old Dean Common.

COLONEL WYNDHAM-QUIN (Glamorganshire, Mid): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the representations made by the General Officer Commanding the First Army Corps, the Commandants of the Royal Military College and Staff College, and others with reference to the expediency of securing the use of the whole of Old Dean Common for military purposes, he will take steps to prevent the alienation of any portion of the Common for building or other purposes.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) This Question is one which concerns the Office of Woods and Forests, and I would therefore refer my hon. and gallant friend to the full statement made by my hon. friend the Member for Fulham, in reply to a Question put by the Member for the West Division of Newington on the 2nd March,[†] from which he will see that there is no cause for anxiety on this matter so far as the War Office is concerned.

Horses for 125th, 126th, and 127th Field Batteries.

MR. ARTHUR LEE (Hampshire, Fareham): To ask the Secretary of State for War, how many horses are actually present and available for duty in the

[†] See (4) *Debates*, cxviii., 1113.

125th, 126th, and 127th Field Batteries respectively; and what is the proper establishment.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.)

The states on the 15th instant were as follows:—125th Field Battery, establishment 66, strength 49; 126th Field Battery, establishment 66, strength 60; 127th, Field Battery, establishment 66, strength 41.

Scarlet Fever at the Duke of York's School.

MR. WHITLEY THOMSON (Yorkshire, W.R., Skipton): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the fact that the epidemic of scarlet fever at the Duke of York's School still continues, and that the sanitary authority of the borough of Chelsea, although it has been called upon to remove and disinfect bedding and clothes, has been refused information on the extent of the epidemic and not allowed to enter the school, he will instruct the officials of the school to give entrance to the representatives of the sanitary authority of the borough.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.)

Nothing is known of any such refusal to give information to the sanitary authorities of the borough. On the contrary the medical officer of the school has been working in co-operation with the borough medical officer of health. It has been decided to remove all the boys who are free from infection and encamp them for a time.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Somaliland Operations.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS (Carnarvonshire, Eifion): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he has communicated to General Manning the view of His Majesty's Government that the objects of the military operations have been accomplished, and that they do not propose to incur further expenditure in pushing up fresh troops.

MR. FULLER (Wiltshire, Westbury): At the same time may I ask the Secretary of State for War whether he has yet received the report from General Manning upon the situation in Somaliland caused

by the results of the recent fighting; and, if so, whether he is in a position to make a statement to the House as to the policy the Government intend to pursue with regard to further operations.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (MR. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): I will reply at the same time to a Question on the same subject put by the hon. Member for the Westbury Division of Wiltshire. We have not yet had a full report from General Manning. He has however, transmitted to us in a telegram, dated 6th May, a rumour that the Abyssinians are advancing from the south and have engaged the Mullah's outposts, the Mullah's main body moving in consequence to the north. No sign of the enemy had been seen for some days by our advanced post at Galadi. In view of the difficulty of transport, which makes operations from the south and east impossible except in comparatively small parties, His Majesty's Government have directed General Manning to concentrate his force at Bohotle as his transport permits, and to operate from that base. In addition to its other advantages this will probably be the most favourable base for co-operation with the Abyssinians, but General Manning has discretion, having regard to the Abyssinian advance, to remain some time longer at Galadi, provided that he runs no risk of want of food or transport.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS: My Question was whether the Government have communicated with General Manning on the lines they announced in this House, that the object of the expedition has been accomplished and no reinforcements will be sent.

*MR. BRODRICK: No, Sir. The communication made to General Manning is to the effect I have mentioned. General Manning has asked for no reinforcements, and, therefore, no question has arisen of sending fresh troops.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS: Is the communication to General Manning of the altered policy not of vital importance?

*MR. BRODRICK: No, Sir. A communication has been made to General

Manning as to the base from which he should conduct his operations. We have no intention of withdrawing from the announcement of the policy made to the House.

MR. ARTHUR LEE (Hampshire, Fareham): May I ask whether the right hon. Gentleman has received any reply from General Manning as to the alleged deficiency of British ammunition?

*MR. BRODRICK: I have received several telegrams from General Manning with regard to different points in the operations, and the general effect of them coincides with the view of His Majesty's Government, that the future operations should take place from Bohotle. There is no withdrawal or change of policy in the matter. The troops from different posts have been concentrated, as they were intended to be concentrated, at Bohotle, which is to be the base of operations.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): Are we to understand that the Government has sent instructions to General Manning as to the disposition of his forces without having heard his opinion of the situation?

*MR. BRODRICK: I did not say that. His Majesty's Government consulted General Manning, and their decision has been in entire accord with the views he has expressed as regards the concentration of troops. As for ammunition, we have not yet heard anything from General Manning.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Has any communication been received from General Manning as to the situation since the recent disaster, and have the instructions sent to him by the Government been approved by him?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! That question does not arise out of the one on the Paper, and the hon. Member must give notice of it.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to give notice that I shall ask a series of Questions on this subject.

Loans to Naval and Military Exhibitions.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can give a list of the Government property lent by the War Office for the late Naval and Military Exhibitions in Manchester and Leeds, and state what steps have been taken to recover the 4.6-inch gun and maxim which were in the hands of the bailiffs, and with what result; and will he also state what inquiry, if any, was made into the status of the proprietors of the *United Service Gazette*, to whom the property was lent, and who they are; did the War Office authorities specify the proportion of the proceeds to be handed over to military charities; what regimental bands were permitted to perform at the Exhibition, and how many of these have been paid; and did the musical director of Kneller Hall receive official sanction to give his services to this exhibition.

MR. BRODRICK: The list of Government property lent by the War Office to these exhibitions is too long to read out, but I can give the hon. Member a copy if he likes. No guns, however, were lent by the War Office. As regards the status of the proprietors of the *United Service Gazette* there appeared to be no reason for doubting the *bonâ fides* of a respectable paper of long standing, and no inquiries were made. No fixed proportion of profits was stipulated for. It is not known at the War Office how many regimental bands were allowed to compete at the Exhibition, as this would be left to the discretion of the general officers commanding the districts concerned, nor is it known which, if any, received payment. The notification that the Director of Music of Kneller Hall would adjudicate in the band competition received official sanction.

CAPTAIN NORTON: Who are the proprietors of the *United Service Gazette*?

MR. BRODRICK: I cannot say.

CAPTAIN NORTON: I shall put the Question again, as it is all important.

Naval Gunnery.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty, have the firing returns from the Mediterranean Fleet now been scrutinised at the Admiralty in accordance with the practice which had been adopted by the Board on the 23rd April last; and whether, seeing that some of the battle-ships and first-class cruisers in that fleet have only had three half-days gunnery practice this year, and that one ship has has not had that, do the Admiralty propose to hold the admiral in command of the fleet responsible for the general low standard of shooting efficiency in that fleet; and will they now reconsider the advisability of causing it to be understood that the retention by admirals and captains of their respective commands will in future depend on the adequate shooting efficiency of the fleets or ships under their orders.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): Returns are carefully scrutinised as received. The attention of the Commander-in-Chief is, when necessary, called to any special points in connection with the Returns. I have already, on more than one occasion, stated the views of the Admiralty with regard to the importance of gunnery and good shooting. The Board have every confidence that the officers referred to in the hon. Member's Question are using their best endeavours to produce the desired result. They are, moreover, of opinion that no advantage to the service would accrue from the issue of orders of the nature suggested by the hon. Member.

Finances of Burmah.

MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the administration of Burmah is now a charge upon the Indian revenues, or whether there is a balance shown in favour of Burmah; and will he say what is the amount in either case.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord GEORGE HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): In 1901-2, the last year for which final accounts are

available, the revenue of Burmah exceeded its civil expenditure by about £1,800,000.

Sinking Fund and Transvaal Loan.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, under the terms of the Transvaal Loan Prospectus, the Sinking Fund can be applied to the purchase of the Transvaal Government Three per Cent. Guaranteed Stock when it is above par.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): No, Sir. The annual contributions to the Sinking Fund can be applied to the purchase of the stock only when it is below par.

Registration of Clubs.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has yet received copies of the Returns furnished in January last under Sub-section (3) of Clause 25 of the Licensing Act, 1902, to the clerks of the Justices in England and Wales by secretaries of clubs, containing the particulars requisite for registration; and, if so, whether he is now in a position to state the number of clubs registered under the Act in England and in Wales.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): There is no provision in the Licensing Act, 1902, requiring copies of these Returns to be sent to the Secretary of State, and I do not think that I should be justified in calling for them. I will, however, take steps to ascertain how many clubs have been registered this year, and will let the hon. Member know in due course. And in future arrangements will be made to include this information in the Annual Reports of the Inspectors of Constabulary. }

Mr. Whitaker Wright.

MR. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he

can give any information as to how soon the extradition proceedings in connection with Mr. Whitaker Wright will end.

*MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: No, Sir, I can only repeat that the matter is entirely in the hands of the Courts of the United States of America.

Licences Return.

- MR. J. H. LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he can say when the Return as to the number of licences ordered, on the 18th March, 1902, and presented on the 18th December, 1902, will be printed and distributed.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. ELLIOT, Durham): The Return is still in the hands of the printer, but will probably be ready for distribution in about three weeks.

Light Railways in England.

MR. SEYMOUR ORMSBY-GORE (Lincolnshire, Gainsborough): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he is prepared to initiate legislation to promote light railways in the poorer agricultural districts of England similar to that exercised in the congested districts in Ireland.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): The Light Railways Act already affords considerable facilities for the promotion of light railways in poor districts, and the Treasury is prepared to give a liberal interpretation to the provisions of Sections 4 and 5 of the statute providing for monetary assistance from the State. I fear I cannot promise legislation on the lines suggested by my hon. friend.

Board of Trade Appointments.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, in view of the fact that a Naval officer has recently been appointed to the post of Board of Trade representative at Gravesend, he will consider the advisability of appointing in

future to these posts men from the Merchant Service, who have as much experience as naval officers.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The advisability of appointing suitable officers of the Mercantile Marine to such posts as that referred to in the Question is always considered. Of the nautical posts under the Marine Department of the Board of Trade, two only (out of twenty-five) are at the present time held by Royal Naval officers.

Manchester Licensing Committee.

MR. WHITTAKER (Yorkshire, W. R., Spen Valley): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General whether he is aware that at the meeting of the Justices of the Peace for the City of Manchester for the appointment of the Licensing Committee for this year six Justices who were either brewers or shareholders in breweries engaged in the sale of intoxicating liquors in Manchester voted in the election of the Licensing Committee after being formally warned by the Lord Mayor and the clerk to the Justices that Justices in their position rendered themselves liable to penalties if they voted; and, if so, will he say whether he has authorised a prosecution in this case; and, if not, what action he has taken, or proposes to take, to prevent the repetition of such proceedings in Manchester.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): My attention has been called to the occurrence to which the Question relates. It was decided in the Attorney-General *v.* Willett that a Justice interested in a brewery is not entitled to vote on the appointment of a Licensing Committee. That case is not reported in the authorised Reports and does not appear to be so widely known as it should be. By my directions the Treasury Solicitor communicated with the six gentlemen referred to in the Question. One of them denied that he had voted; another stated that under the circumstances which he explained he had not been aware that he or his firm had the shares in question. From the letters of the other four it appeared that there had been some discussion on the question of

the right to vote, and that they had acted without realising that the law was as decided in the Attorney-General *v.* Willett. The Treasury Solicitor has called their attention to that decision and to the necessity of conforming to it, and I am satisfied that in future no breach of the law in this respect will be committed by them. Under these circumstances I have not thought it necessary to direct proceedings to be taken for the recovery of penalties.

MR. WHITTAKER: Has an assurance been given that they will not break the law again?

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: From one gentleman who seemed inclined to dispute the law, I have required an express assurance, two others voluntarily gave an assurance, and from the letters sent by two others I think there is no doubt that in future the law will be conformed with.

Education Committees and the Press.

MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether he is aware that the Education Committee of the Northumberland County Council has decided at its first meeting to exclude the public and the Press from its deliberations; and, if so, whether the Board will recommend the rescinding of the resolution, as contrary to the spirit and intentions of the Education Act. In putting this question may I further ask if it is not the fact that this Education Committee takes the place of thirty-four School Boards in Northumberland whose meetings were open to the Press.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir WILLIAM ANSON, Oxford University): The question of the exclusion of the public and the Press from the meetings of this Education Committee is a question for the Northumberland County Council to decide. It does not appear to me to be a matter for the interference of the Board.

MR. TREVELYAN asked whether the Board of Education had not been issuing circulars of advice to the education

authorities, and whether this was not a case where advice was desirable.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: This is provided for in the First Schedule of the Education Act of last year.

Rates for Secondary Schools.

MR. J. H. LEWIS: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education if he will state what County or County Borough Councils in England have resolved to levy rates for the support of secondary schools under the powers conferred upon them by the Education Act, 1902.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: The Board of Education have no information on the subject of the hon. Member's Question.

Voluntary Schools Aid Grant.

MR. LAMBERT: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education if he will state when the year commences for payment to voluntary schools under the Act of 1897; when the last audit took place of the accounts of these schools; whether the whole of the 5s. grant was spent each year, and, if not, whether any estimate has been formed as to balances remaining in hands of associations after providing for their schools up to the appointed day of the Act of last year; to what purpose will these balances be applied; and will they be spent in the current financial year.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: The grants under the Voluntary Schools Act, 1897, are for the financial year commencing 1st April in each year. The accounts of each voluntary school are audited in each case at the end of the school year. There has been an audit therefore in every case within a twelvemonth. Aid grant is given in respect of the financial year and not of any particular school year; in many cases it would be impossible for managers to expend it within the school year during which it happens to be paid. The Board of Education always satisfy themselves that it is expended within a reasonable time on the objects for which it is given. Hitherto no part of the grant has been put into the hands of an association; the grants

have been paid direct to the schools by the Board of Education on the recommendation of the governing bodies. Schedule II. (12) of the Education Act, 1902, empowers the Board of Education to pay the aid grant for the current financial year that may be allotted to any association direct to the governing body instead of to individual schools, if satisfied that suitable arrangements are made for its application. Some governing bodies are applying for the whole aid grant, some for part of it, to be so paid over; arrangements for its application are under consideration. It is at present impossible to calculate what the amount so handed over will be. The purposes to which the whole of the money will be applied are those purposes for which managers will in future be responsible under the Act. There is no reason why the money should be spent in the current financial year.

MR. LAMBERT: Is it the intention of the Board of Education to pay the aid grant to the governing bodies in future?

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: The Board of Education will endeavour to carry out the provision of the Education Act.

MR. LAMBERT: That is not quite the point. Do the Board of the Education, instead of paying these sums to the individual schools, intend to pay them to the governing bodies of the associations?

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: The Board of Education is empowered to do so, when satisfied that suitable arrangements are made for their application.

MR. LAMBERT: Will they do so?

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: If they are satisfied that suitable arrangements are made for their application.

Trinity College Leases.

*MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether, in the case of a landlord holding a portion of his estate under a Trinity College perpetuity lease,

that portion may be treated as a separate estate for the purposes of sales under the Irish Land Bill.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (MR. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): The mere fact that a landlord holds from Trinity College portion of the lands which belong to him does not of itself prevent that portion from being treated as an estate.

*MR. LONSDALE: Does that apply to all other head landlords?

MR. ATKINSON said the mere fact that the title under which a landlord derives part of his land differs from the rest does not prevent that portion of his land being treated as a separate estate.

Castleblaney Licence Transfer.

MR. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention has been directed to the action of the local Inland Revenue authorities in a case in which a person named Edward Keely recently obtained, at the Castleblaney (County Monaghan) Quarter Sessions, a certificate entitling him to a transfer of a public house licence from one Charles Moley; and to the fact that the Inland Revenue authorities in question have refused to act on the certificate of the County Court on a legal point decided against their contention by the County Court Judge; and, if so, will he state whether this action had his sanction, and whether he proposes to take any, and, if so, what steps in the matter.

MR. RITCHIE: Mr. Edward Keely applied for a transfer of a "six-day and early closing" licence from Mr. Moley in October last. The Quarter Sessions in granting the transfer extended the certificate so as to authorise Mr. Keely to apply to the Excise for a "six-day" licence. This licence the Board of Inland Revenue declined to grant, and I am advised that their action is supported by a decision of Lord Chief Justice O'Brien in a somewhat similar case, in which the Court held that the Licensing (Ireland) Act 1902 did not admit of the grant of

a licence more comprehensive in character and quality than that previously held, "the *status quo* was to be preserved, but not to be extended."

Ireland's Equivalent Grant.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, if he can state what portion of the equivalent grant of £185,000 will be allocated for education in Ireland.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (MR. WYNDHAM, DOVER): No, Sir. Inquiries are still proceeding, and until these have been completed it will not be practicable to allocate the money.

American Butter sold as Irish.

MR. JOYCE (Limerick): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the attention of the Department of Agriculture has been drawn to the fact that low grade American butters are being packed in Irish firkins and sold in the Manchester district as Irish firkin butter; that ordinary lump butter is being packed in creamery boxes and sold in England as Irish pure centrifugal creams or creamery butter; and that foreign eggs are being packed in Irish cases and sold as Irish; and, if so, will he state what steps the Department intend to take to stop these practices.

MR. WYNDHAM: Representations have been made on this subject, but they were of too general a character to enable the Department to take action. If definite particulars are supplied to the Department in any case in which the provisions of the Merchandise Marks Act are alleged to have been contravened, the Department is prepared to vigorously follow up the matter.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): Have the Department no inspectors who can go round and prevent these frauds being committed?

MR. WYNDHAM: There are inspectors, but the suggestion I make is that those who have knowledge of

such cases should bring them before the Department.

Irish Betting Offices.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to a declaration made before a magistrate giving the names and addresses of persons alleged to carry on a betting business and keeping a house or office, contrary to the Betting House Act of 1853, in Dundalk, Armagh, Londonderry, Maryborough, Dublin, Belfast, and other towns; and, if so, will he cause inquiry to be made with the view of taking action in the matter.

MR. WYNDHAM: Yes Sir. Declarations to this effect were recently received, and the police at the places named are now making inquiries into the matter.

Cork Model Schools.

MR. J. F. X. O'BRIEN (Cork): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to a public meeting at Cork on the 10th instant in reference to the action of the Commissioners of National Education in regard to the Cork Model Schools; and, if so, whether, in view of the fact that the Cork Technical Committee have spent £700 on alterations to make that portion of the schools granted by the Commissioners available for the purposes of technical education, the Irish Government will communicate with the National Commissioners with a view to their postponing their projected action with regard to the Technical Committee until after the Education Estimates have been submitted to Parliament.

MR. WYNDHAM: In submitting the hon. Member's Question to the Commissioners of National Education, I invited their attention to the supplementary Questions put on the same subject last Thursday,[†] and stated that I should be glad to be favoured with their further observations. In reply, I am informed that the matter will be considered by the Commissioners at their next meeting on the 26th instant.

[†] See page 693.

MR. FLYNN (Cork County, N.): Has the attention of the Commissioners been called to the fact that there are in attendance only one-fourth of the number of pupils for whom accommodation is provided?

MR. WYNDHAM: I called attention to that point, but, of course, the schools are also used for several other purposes.

MR. SLOAN: Was application made for permission before the alterations were effected?

MR. FLYNN: Yes.

MR. WYNDHAM: I understand that the Committee got the place temporarily, and the alterations are said to have been such as would have spoiled the schools for their original purpose.

MR. FLYNN: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the requirements of the Education Department were reduced to writing, and that their inspector was satisfied with what the Committee did?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The Question has been answered, and the hon. Member should put any further Question on the Paper.

Ballyduff Mails.

MR. FLAVIN: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that inconvenience is caused in and around Ballyduff, North Kerry, by the fact that there is no Sunday delivery of mails, while local places receiving less mail matter have a Sunday delivery; and, if so, whether he has made local inquiries and will accede to the request of the general public and grant a Sunday service.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): When the question of affording a Sunday post to Ballyduff, North Kerry, was considered last year, it was found that the cost of the existing service on week days as compared with the amount of correspondence was so high that additional expense for the purpose of establishing a Sunday post was not warranted. I will, however, make further inquiry in order to ascertain whether it is now

possible to provide a Sunday post to Ballyduff, and I will communicate the result to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

MR. FLAVIN: Seeing that other places in the immediate district which usually receive the same number of letters get a Sunday delivery, will the right hon. Gentleman make local inquiries as to the necessity?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Yes, Sir.

Church Discipline Bill.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR (Liverpool, E. Toxteth): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he will give the necessary facilities for enabling the further stages of the Church Discipline (No. 1) Bill to be proceeded with during the present session.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (MR. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): As my hon. friend is well aware, the policy I have always recommended the House to adopt with regard to the two Bills which have been read a second time is to send both to a Committee. My hon. friend is probably also aware that it would be impossible for the Government to give facilities for a Bill, whatever its merits, which is of a controversial character.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR: Will the right hon. Gentleman consider the favourable condition of public business in this House, and the absence of controversial matters?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Perhaps my hon. friend will allow me to wait a month or two before expressing a final judgment on the opinion he has just expressed.

Committee of National Expenditure.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL (Oldham): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether his attention has been drawn to the Motion which stands on the Paper respecting the Committee of National Expenditure; and whether he will afford facilities for its discussion.

The Motion referred to is as follows—

National Expenditure, That, in view of the fact that no sitting of the National Expenditure Committee has yet been held this session, the Order of the House for the appointment of such Committee be rescinded.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I cannot understand the object of my hon. friend's Question, but I am informed that the Committee have completed taking evidence, and are about to consider their Report. It would seem an unusual and unfortunate course to stop their labours at so advanced a stage.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the Committee has not met during the present session.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am not aware of anything more than I have told the House.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL: Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman will consider the desirability of giving them a gentle hint.

"Passive Resistance" to the Education Rate.

MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland): On behalf of the hon. Member for South Wolverhampton I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he will state whether he proposes to take any, and if so what, action against the National Committee for Passive Resistance to the payment of the Education Rate, as in law a criminal conspiracy.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I know little or nothing about the society to which the hon. Gentleman calls my attention. I do not know whether they have taken action which would bring it within the scope of the criminal law; but I should trust no person of sense would embark in any undertaking of the kind, which is equally at variance with sound logic, sound morality, and sound constitutional principles.

Preservation of Historical Buildings.

MR. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury

whether he will consider the appointment of a Select Committee of this House to inquire into the desirability of establishing in the United Kingdom a system of national protection and conservation of buildings of historical or biographical interest, such as exists in France under the Loi du 30 Mars 1887, whereby a Government grant of 1,427,000 francs is available for the purpose this year.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I should be very sorry to express any opinion on this question, or even go the length of saying that it is ripe for discussion before a Committee of this House. I have looked at the French law, and I find that it entirely turns upon the discretion of a Minister who is competent, or understood to be competent, to deal with questions of this kind. I am not sure that I should like to add to the labours of the central Government in this country such addition to their responsibility as the copying of the French law would entail.

MR. YOXALL: But the right hon. Gentleman is no doubt aware that the Minister is assisted by a specially appointed Commission.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: That may be so, but the whole responsibility rests with the Minister.

Shipping Combine Agreement.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury can he now state the details of the agreement which had been come to on 30th September last between His Majesty's Government and Mr Pierpont Morgan respecting the use in time of war of the ships of the International Mercantile Marine Association, and also between His Majesty's Government and the Cunard Company to lend to that Company the money required for the construction of two 24- or 25-knot ships, and also in addition to pay the Company £150,000 annually for twenty years. Can he state the cost of the two ships in question. In view of the delays which have occurred in laying before Parliament the formal documents embodying these agreements, and in affording to this House the promised opportunity

for discussing them, will he now fix a definite date when that discussion will be taken. And, in view of the decisions come to by His Majesty's Government on 11th November last that these two agreements were so closely bound together as to make it necessary to submit them together to Parliament, and of the further decision come to on 23rd February last that one of them was not open to reconsideration, do His Majesty's Government propose to execute the formal agreements without affording this House any opportunity of discussing their terms.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The formal agreement with the Combine is in course of execution, and will be laid before Parliament with the agreement with the Cunard Company. There are, however, some details in connection with this latter agreement which are still to be settled; and until both agreements can be laid upon the Table, I do not think it would be possible for me to say anything about them or fix a date for the discussion. Meantime, matters will be expedited.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Can the right hon. Gentleman reply to the second paragraph of my Question?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I should rather deprecate doing so until the agreements are in the possession of hon. Members.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: But considering the great delay that has taken place will the right hon. Gentleman try to expedite matters so that we may consider them shortly?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The delay has been longer than I could have desired, but I do not think it amounts to a degree of delay of which the House has a right or desire to complain. I do not think, however, it will be much longer extended.

The Shipbuilding Vote.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can inform the House, on the Report stage of the Shipbuilding

Vote, what is the policy of the Government which has led to the increase in the amount of that Vote and of the total Naval Estimates this year.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I gather that there was an explanation of that policy on the Vote last Thursday. I cannot promise a further debate on the later stage of the debate, even if such a stage should come up.

MR. LOUGH: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the Secretary to the Admiralty stated that he could not enter into the question of policy.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I heard the speech of my hon. friend, and I think he entered at great length into the policy.

The Minister of Agriculture.

MR. SCHWANN: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether, in consequence of the delay in appointing a Minister of Agriculture, he will make some arrangement whereby some other Minister will be enabled to answer Questions concerning the Department.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The delay will not be of long duration.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): What Supply will be taken next Thursday?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I hope to take the Revenue Estimates.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Will the right hon. Gentleman consider the propriety of putting down the third section of Vote 8, in order that we may discuss the general question of subsidies for merchant cruisers?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not think it would be expedient to again bring on Vote 8, to which a full sitting has already been devoted, when there are other important matters which must engage the attention of the House. In addition to that, it appears to me the point the hon. Member wishes to discuss touches on the fringe of another discussion which will take place later on the Atlantic Combine agreements.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: The third part of Vote 8 has not been considered at all.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: That may be so, but I still think it inexpedient to bring the Vote on again.

SIR HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.): A considerable amount of time has already been given to the Revenue Votes, and I would call the attention of the right-hon. Gentleman to the fact that we have as yet reached none of the Votes for the great administrative Departments. Would it not be desirable to take one of those next Thursday?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: With regard to the Votes raising the action and policy of the great administrative Departments, the Home Office and the Local Government Board, I shall be happy to consult hon. Gentlemen opposite through the ordinary recognised channels, and will take care that some arrangement is arrived at which will be agreeable to the House at large. I will endeavour to announce the result either to-night, at the termination of business, or to-morrow at Question time.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): We cannot discuss the Home Office Vote until we have the reports of the Inspectors of Factories and Workshops, which I believe are ready, although they have not yet been circulated.

NEW MEMBER SWORN.

JOHN KERR, Esquire, for the Borough of Preston.

LONDON EDUCATION BILL.

*MR. SPEAKER: There are two instructions standing in the names of the hon. Members for Camberwell, N., and Islington, W. The one proposes to vary the constitution of the education authority provided in the Bill, and the other to make the School Board for London the local education authority. The object in each case is one to be obtained by amending the Bill, and consequently both the instructions are out of order.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): Before the first Amendment on the Paper is taken, I beg to move that you report Progress and ask leave to sit again.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I cannot accept that Motion.

MR. LOUGH: Will you allow me to state—

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order. The House has decided that the Committee stage shall be proceeded with to-day. I therefore cannot accept the Motion.

MR. LOUGH: But will you allow me to explain the extraordinary position in which we are placed owing to the action of the Government?

*THE CHAIRMAN: That question cannot be raised on a Motion to report Progress.

MR. LOUGH: We are not in a position to go on.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): The First Lord of the Treasury gave a definite assurance that before the Committee stage was proceeded with the London County Council and the London School Board would have an opportunity of considering the details of the measure.

*THE CHAIRMAN: That is not a point of order.

DR. MACNAMARA: I submit it to your consideration.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I cannot consider it. I am here to consider points of order.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) moved that Clause 1 be postponed. He did so, he said, in consequence of the extraordinary position in which they found themselves that day. On the debate

on the Second Reading the First Lord told them that the Bill would not be taken until the County Council and the School Board had had an opportunity of considering it. Did the right hon. Gentleman deny that?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): That was not agreed upon. What I believe I said was that we could not postpone the Second Reading because these two bodies had not considered the Bill, but that I hoped they would have an opportunity of doing so before the Committee stage. I do not see why they should not have done so.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said the right hon. Gentleman must surely be aware that these bodies met only at certain times, and that a complicated measure such as this must be considered by a Committee before being submitted to the central body. The House was in a most extraordinary position. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education, who was evidently much impressed by the arguments advanced during the Second Reading against some of the provisions of the Bill, and especially those dealing with the inclusion of the Borough Councils, put down an Amendment on Thursday night, and subsequently finding that it would not work, he put down another on Friday night. This most important Amendment, altering the whole constitution of the Bill, had been put down in such a way as entirely to preclude the putting down of Amendments by the Opposition, and they could only move them verbally if the matter was reached that day. He did not think that was treating the Committee fairly. He hoped the hon. Baronet would give some explanation of the Government's proposals, and in order to make him do so he proposed to move the postponement of the clause.

*THE CHAIRMAN: That cannot be done upon the Motion to postpone the clause.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: We want to know how the Bill of last year will be made applicable to London,

Mr. Sydney Buxton.

*THE CHAIRMAN: That can be discussed only on the Clause as a whole.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: We can only discuss the clause as a whole when it is amended, and what we want to know is how it is to be amended. It appears to me that this is one of the evils which has sprung up from legislation by reference. Here is a clause which introduces an Act of nearly thirty clauses, and I want to ask how far we shall be able to amend the principal Act. Take, for instance, Clause 8.

*THE CHAIRMAN: That does not arise on a Motion to postpone the clause. The hon. Member must show good reason for postponing this clause and beginning on Clause 2.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON. The Committee is in such an extraordinarily difficult position that it may be necessary to move to postpone each successive clause as it arises. That was a fair position for them to take up if the Chairman ruled that the Government themselves were unable to state the latest views which they held, for they had held all sorts of views. He would reserve further discussion on the point till the clause was put.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Clause 1 be postponed."—(*Mr. Sydney Buxton.*)

DR. MACNAMARA said he supported the postponement of Clause 1, which was to apply the Act of last year to London, subject to certain modifications. As a London Member, he protested in the strongest possible way against this attempt to rush this clause, which was of the essence of the Bill. He was sorry the Prime Minister had left the House, because he maintained that the right hon. Gentleman had been guilty of what he called a grievous breach of faith in connection with this matter. The Bill was introduced and read a first time on 7th April; the text of the Bill was issued on 8th April. At that date both the London School Board and the London County Council were in recess for Easter. The Second Reading was taken on 28th April, when

the London School Board and the London County Council were still in recess, and had had no opportunity whatever of discussing a Bill which touched their interests in a most acute manner. The Second Reading was taken on the fourth Parliamentary day after the Easter holidays. He hoped when the Government came to deal with Scotland in regard to their Education Bill they would act very differently, or else the Scotch people would send their Bill back to them shorn. On 23rd April, a few days before the Second Reading, he asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether he would defer the Second Reading of the London Education Bill until after the London County Council and the London School Board had had an opportunity of considering the proposed measure, bearing in mind the fact that both these bodies had risen for the Easter recess before the Bill was issued, and had not yet had an opportunity of discussing it. And the Prime Minister answered that he did not think it would be convenient or possible to alter the arrangements they had come to. But, of course, the important bodies to which the hon. Member had referred would have ample opportunity of expressing their views before they came to the Committee stage. Now, the Prime Minister that day said that they had had ample opportunity. He asked any fair-minded man whether they had had ample opportunity to consider the measure? What opportunity had the School Board, which was to be destroyed by the Bill, of discussing before the Committee stage the details of the measure, as promised by the Prime Minister? The School Board met on 30th April, and immediately appointed a Special Committee. [Inter-ruption.] This was rather important for the people of London, he could assure hon. Members opposite; and he warned them in time that they might find it important before they had done with the matter. On 5th May the Committee met and worked very hard, as he could personally testify, and on the 8th and the 12th they also met and worked hard, and then all of a sudden the Prime Minister told the House that he proposed to take the Committee

stage on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. The School Board Committee met again on Friday, and the Board had to pass a special resolution that its Committee should send in their recommendations to the Government before submitting them to the Board, although on Friday last the Committee was not half-way through with their labours. They had, therefore, to scamper through the questions which involved the constitution of the local authority. Was that what hon. Members opposite considered giving plenty of time to discuss the important problems involved in this Bill?

As a London Member he protested in the most vehement manner at the way in which this Bill was being rushed. He believed the Prime Minister wanted to get a good authority for London education, but the least thing he could have done was to have given time to the bodies most concerned to consider the details as to how they were to get a good authority for London. Up to last Thursday night, the Education Committee was to consist of thirty-six members appointed by the local authority, thirty-one members by the Borough Councils, and twenty-five outsiders; but at the eleventh hour, on the eve of going into the Committee stage on the Bill, they were told that the Education Committee was to consist of forty-two members appointed by the London County Council, twelve appointed by the Borough Councils, and thirty outsiders—an entirely new scheme altogether. Now, he had spent the whole of the previous day in endeavouring to see how that would work out. [Cries of "Oh."] Yes, he did, and he thought it was very admirable work—he had got to be in a hurry in those days—but he was still at a loss as to how this grouping scheme was going to work out. With every desire to secure a good working scheme, he was still in the greatest difficulty. It was unfair, unjust, and inexpedient to rush things in the way that was being done. Rash haste was worse than delay. He did not want to make two bites of a cherry, but to do the thing in the best possible way. He desired in the most vehement manner to support the postponement of the first clause, first of all, because there was an open breach of

faith in respect to the promise made by the Prime Minister, and second, because at the eleventh hour a brand new scheme was put on the Paper which they had not had an opportunity of considering in its details and how these would work.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) said he was very much surprised that no answer had been made to the mover and seconder of the Amendment, which he supported. It was not in accordance with Parliamentary usage or courtesy that when a Motion was made by an hon. Member on the Front Opposition Bench, and supported by a distinguished educational authority, that no answer at all was made to their arguments. The President of the Local Government Board seemed to think that they were beneath contempt.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (MR. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.) said the hon. Member had no right to speak in that fashion. His hon. friend near him was ready to reply, and was only desirous to hear a case made out for the postponement of the clause.

*THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (SIR WILLIAM ANSON, Oxford University) said that his right hon. friend had exactly expressed his point of view. He was waiting for a clear case for the postponement of the clause to be made out. What had been urged up till now was not argument for the postponement of the first clause but for reporting progress, and that the Committee should delay the whole question until the London County Council and the London School Board had had an opportunity of giving their views on the Bill. Now, the matter before the Committee was the postponement of the first clause, and he would point out that that would make it perfectly idle and nugatory to discuss any other clause. The first clause was to bring in the Act of last year, subject to certain modifications, but if they did not take the first clause first, but proceeded to the discussion, which he presumed hon. Members

opposite wanted to hurry on, of the composition of the Committee of the local authority, they would be discussing the composition of the Committee before having constituted the body of which it was to be a Committee, and then they would proceed to discuss management before constituting the body which was to control the managers. It appeared to him that this proposal to postpone the first clause was so absurd that it could not be treated as a business-like proposal, and could only be regarded as of the nature of a dilatory Motion.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said that the hon. Gentleman the Parliamentary Secretary of the Education Board had asserted that the idea of postponing the question of the voluntary schools in London, as affected by the Act of last year, until after they had set up the machinery, was a perfectly absurd suggestion. But the hon. Member had forgotten that that was exactly what he himself did last year. Then the hon. Gentleman said, "Put up your machinery first and see afterwards what it is going to do." Was there no ground for postponing Clause 1? He agreed that the clause was the most serious part, the very essence of the Bill. The Government, without giving any opportunity at all to London to consider the matter, had decided to apply the whole of last year's Bill to the Metropolis. Now, in the first place, they ought not to do so until they knew their ground thoroughly, until they were certain that London was behind them in the matter. The London County Council had absolutely repudiated the very suggestion made in this particular clause. There had been a by-election in the last six months, when the opinion of London was expressed very clearly against the principle of this Bill. In spite of all those manifestations of opinion, the Government had decided to proceed with the Bill without giving London an opportunity of considering it. He would point out how differently the Board schools and the voluntary schools were treated in this respect. The voluntary schools were taken into consultation beforehand, and the Bill was actually altered to suit them. The voluntary schools said that they would

Dr. Macnamara.

have nothing to do with the Borough Councils, and that they must have the London County Council, and the Bill was altered accordingly. But the London School Board were not taken into counsel with the Government; they were not asked what their opinion was. The primary thing was to consider what the voluntary schools thought. The London County Council came to the same conclusion as the voluntary schools, but they were not consulted. The Government were now rushing the Bill through without giving any opportunity to either the London School Board or the London County Council to consider it. That was entirely in accord with the action of the Government. The Colonial Secretary said that the great question now was how much New Zealand mutton they should buy; the question before the Committee was insignificant, and should be rushed through. He entirely supported the Motion of his hon. friend.

MR. FLOWER (Bradford, W.) said he did not quite understand why hon. Members opposite should desire to postpone Clause 1. If that desire arose from the belief that the London School Board had not had a sufficient opportunity to consider the proposals of the Government, he thought hon. Members were somewhat unreasonable in their demand. The London School Board had for months past been considering the constitution of the new authority for London. It was perfectly true that the Board did not see the Bill; but did the hon. Gentleman the Member for North Camberwell suggest that it would be in accordance with Parliamentary practice that a Bill to be introduced by the Government should have been previously submitted to the London School Board? [Dr. MACNAMARA: No.] The hon. Member suggested nothing of the kind. The hon. Member and every member of the London School Board knew the lines on which the Government intended to proceed in legislating for London. The hon. Member for Carnarvon Boroughs seemed to think that the voluntary schools had received earlier information as to the Bill than either the London County Council or the London School Board. Not being in the secrets of the Educa-

tion Board, he could not say whether that was the case or not; but it must be evident that the very substantial changes foreshadowed by the Amendment of the Secretary to the Board of Education must have been as fresh to the representatives of the denominational schools as they were to either the London School Board or the London County Council. The main object of the Motion was to enable the Committee to debate at great length the question which was practically determined on the Second Reading, viz., whether there should or should not be an *ad hoc* authority for London; and it was to preserve, he would not say a licence, but a liberty of discussion upon that question that the matter had been raised in its present form. He believed that the Bill, as now drafted, was one which the people of London as a whole were fairly well acquainted with. They had had an immense deal of discussion, and they had had the views of the respective parties on the London School Board. Each hon. Member had received from the vice-chairman of the Board a letter setting forth in lengthy detail his views on the Bill. What would it profit if this Motion were carried? The Committee would gain no knowledge they did not now possess; and they would have to proceed with the discussion in Committee hampered by the absence of the kernel of the Bill, the centre around which every discussion would really range. Therefore he hoped that the Committee would pass to the serious consideration of details of great importance and great interest, which could not be effectively dealt with if the clause were postponed.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) said that the hon. Member who had just spoken stated that the people of London were fairly well acquainted with the provisions of this Bill. If the people of London were acquainted with the Bill they must possess the gift of prophecy, because the Government themselves were not acquainted with the most important provision of this Bill until Thursday night, and it was not until Friday morning, and, to some extent, not until Saturday morning that hon. Members as well as the people of London knew what the ideas of the Government were on a vital and

material point of the Bill. [Mr. FLOWER: That is Clause 2.] Yes, but Clause 2 made all the difference. Clause 1 was the alternative to Clause 2. The object of Clause 1 was to extinguish the London School Board, and it was not until Friday morning that they knew what the Government proposed to substitute. Until Friday morning the people of London were entitled to believe that the London County Council would not have a majority on the new body. It was not until Friday morning they saw the Amendment giving the London County Council a majority. [Mr. Flower: The First Lord of the Treasury said that on the Second Reading.] The First Lord of the Treasury said nothing of the kind. He had the best reason to know that, because he had made tremendous efforts to extract some information from the right hon. Gentleman but had failed. Neither the right hon. Gentleman, nor the Secretary to the Board of Education, nor the President of the Local Government Board stated what shape the Bill would assume except that it could not remain in the shape it then was. The real object of the Motion was that as the real purpose of the clause was to extinguish the School Board, the Board ought to have the chance that every prisoner had of being heard. How could the Committee decide whether the London School Board should be extinguished or not until they knew what authority was to be set up in Clause 2? Therefore, until they had that information, they were not in a position to take the vital and irrevocable step of destroying the School Board. For that reason his hon. friend's Motion seemed to be founded in reason; and he thought it would be a great pity if the Committee were deprived of an opportunity of knowing what the new authority was to be before they passed Clause 1.

Mr. WALTER LONG said he thought the right hon. Gentleman was straining the case rather far. He appealed to the Committee as to whether in the debates last year hon. Gentlemen opposite did not repeatedly declare that the object of the legislation of the Government was to destroy the School Board system; and they were repeatedly told that the only

privilege London enjoyed was that it would be reserved for the last. That was not an incorrect description of the debates last year; and was it not, therefore, rather exaggerating the case to suggest now that they should not proceed until the London School Board had considered the Bill, the main policy of which, viz., the abolition of the *ad hoc* authority and the substitution of a municipal authority, was the same in this Bill as in the Bill of last year? The right hon. Gentleman said that the Prime Minister was not clear in his statement on the Second Reading. That was not his recollection, nor the recollection of many of his hon. friends. His right hon. friend's statement was explicit—that the local education authority was to be the London County Council, that the Government intended to make the local education authority supreme, and that they intended to give the metropolitan boroughs a share in municipal education, but what precise form that would take would be a matter for consideration in Committee. He submitted that the description which had been given of the action of the Government was not well founded, and he further submitted with confidence that there was no justification for the Motion to postpone the clause. The Committee ought to adopt the advice of his hon. friend and proceed to the consideration of the Amendments, which alone could enable the question to be discussed.

Mr. McKENNA (Monmouthshire, N.) said he agreed with the Secretary to the Board of Education that Clause 1 was a most important clause, and that in the final form of the measure it ought to be first. The question under discussion, however, was not whether the clause should stand as it was, but whether the discussion should be postponed. The clause stated that the Education Act of 1902 should, so far as it was applicable, and subject to modifications, apply to London. The logical sequence, therefore, was that they should first discover what the modifications were to be. He admitted that that method might be inconvenient to the Government, as it would make them expose their hand too soon, and

defeat their scheme to divert public opinion from the religious question to the conflict between the London County Council and the Borough Councils. He did not, however, think that the Government could go on amending their arrangements indefinitely. The Government, in the interests of debate, should not ask the House to apply the Act of 1902 to London, when they did not know in what respects it was to be modified. That appeared to him to be an overwhelming ground for postponing the discussion of the clause. The right hon. Gentleman would get the clause later; there was no doubt about that as long as he had the support of his friends. But the Committee ought to have the details of the modifications of the Act of 1902 before they blindly said that the Act as modified should apply to London. The President of the Local Government Board accused hon. Members on that side of the House of having said last year that the object of the Bill was to destroy the School Boards, and of being inconsistent now in asking for further time because the London School Board was to be destroyed. It was quite true that they did say last year that the Bill was intended to destroy School Boards, but the right hon. Gentleman denied it, and they believed him. However that might be, he did not think that the President of the Local Government Board had touched the arguments in favour of the Motion at all. If they were to treat the Bill in a business-like way they ought to consider it step by step. They should not be asked to swallow the Act of 1902 in a mouthful, and then chew the cud slowly hour after hour and week after week. When they had passed Clauses 2 and 3 and the schedules, they could then proceed in a logical manner with the consideration of Clause 1.

SIR GEORGE BARTLEY (Islington, N.) said he thought the Government ought not to comply with the Motion to postpone Clause 1. In the past few days the Bill had been changed to such an extent that the municipal boroughs had almost disappeared. Islington now was represented by half a man, which was a most

extraordinary condition of things, and he feared if the clause was any further postponed, that half man would disappear altogether. He thought the boroughs should take a more prominent part than they did with regard to education.

MR. WHITLEY (Halifax) said the one point of the Motion which appeared to have been overlooked by the Committee, was the fact that the first clause of the Bill dealt, and was the only part of the Bill that did, with the management of the voluntary denominational schools. The whole management of the voluntary schools depended upon Clause 1, and the management of the provided schools depended on the subsequent provisions of the Bill. The reason he supported the postponement, was that they should first of all see what they were going to do with the public schools, and then treat the voluntary schools in exactly the same way as the provided schools. That was the practice adopted by the Government in the previous year when passing the Education Act. They first made up their minds as to how they would treat the public schools and then they placed the private schools under parallel conditions. If they passed Clause 1, they had the power taken out of their hands of dealing justly between the provided and non-provided schools. What really happened was that in January last a meeting of the voluntary school managers took place in London, and the position they then took up was that they would not be placed under the Borough Councils at all; that if they were put under anybody it must be the County Council. The Committee was now asked to accept a clause of this description without knowing what the Government intended to do with the non-provided schools. They ought, in the first instance, to decide under what authority they were going to place the provided schools, which were the vast majority of the schools in the county, and it was only after they had done that that they should decide in what manner they would deal with the voluntary schools. It seemed to him that they were putting the cart before the horse in dealing with the non-provided schools before they knew in

what way the Government intended to deal with the provided schools. In justice to the great majority of the schools in London, they should deal with the provided schools first and the non-provided schools after.

*MR. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.) said this was said to be a pendant and complement to the Act of last year. The Act of last year made one local authority for education throughout England and Wales, and therefore the Secretary to the Board of Education suggested there should be one authority for London. But many of the objections made to the Act of last year stood with regard to Clause 1 of this Bill, unless they knew beforehand what modifications were going to be made in the Act of last year as applied to London, and therefore he urged that discussion on Clause 1 ought to be postponed until they knew what the authority for London was going to be. The Act of last year began by setting up the local education authority, and the remaining clauses gave the local education authority certain powers of

administration. The Bill of this year reversed the proceedings of last year. Here it was proposed to lay down the powers which were to be vested in the authority before they had decided what the authority was to be. Such a change could not be defended on logical grounds, and it had only been adopted to hurry the Bill through and prevent discussion. The object of the parliamentary draftsmanship of the present day was to prevent discussion and to obviate criticism, to cause hasty and slipshod work, and make work for the lawyers after measures left the House, and this was the most flagrant instance of it he had ever seen. He thought the Committee would do well to follow the practice adopted in the case of the Education Act and determine what the authority was to be before they proceeded to say what powers it should exercise. He heartily supported the Motion.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 87; Noes, 194. (Division List No. 85.)

AYES.

Allan, Sir William (*Gateshead*)
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Black, Alexander William
Bryce, Right Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Causton, Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Craig, Robert Hunter (*Lanark*)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Dewar, John A. (*Inverness-sh.*)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Duncan, J. Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Evans, Sir F. H. (*Maidstone*)
Evans, Saml. T. (*Glamorgan*)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Foster, Sir Michl. (*Lond. Univ.*)
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, J. M. F.

Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E. (*Berwick*)
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk
Hutton, Alfred E. (*Morley*)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, David Brynmor (*Swans'*)
Jones, Wm. (*Carnarvonshire*)
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Jos. F. (*Accrington*)
Leng, Sir John
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
McKenna, Reginald
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Markham, Arthur Basil
Middlemore, Jn. Throgmorton
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Paulton, James Mellor
Price, Robert John
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (*Dumfries*)
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)

Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbt. L. (*Cleveland*)
Schwann, Charles E.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Abel (*Carmarthen, E.*)
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (*Barnsley*)
White, George (*Norfolk*)
White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Williams, O. (*Merioneth*)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
Mr. William M'Arthur.

Mr. Whitley.

NOES.

Abraham, W. (*Cork, N.E.*)
 Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
 Allhusen, Aug. Henry Eden
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir H.
 Austin, Sir John
 Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
 Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
 Bain, Colonel James Robert
 Balcarres, Lord
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (*Manchester*)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (*Leeds*)
 Banbury, Sir Frederick George
 Barry, Sir Fras. T. (*Windsor*)
 Bartley, Sir George C. T.
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.
 Bhowanaggee, Sir M. M.
 Bignold, Arthur
 Bill, Charles
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Boland, John
 Bond, Edward
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
 Bowles, T. G. (*King's Lynn*)
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brymer, William Ernest
 Bull, William James
 Butcher, John George
 Campbell, J. H. M. (*Dublin Univ.*)
 Campbell, John (*Armagh, S.*)
 Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*)
 Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (*Birm.*)
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. A. (*Worcester*)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Churchill, Winston Spencer
 Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Cross, Herb. Shepherd (*Bolton*)
 Crossley, Sir Savile
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (*Galway*)
 Dickson, Charles Scott
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Doford, Sir Wm. Theodore
 Duffy, William J.
 Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Esmonde, Sir Thomas
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (*Manchester*)
 Ffrench, Peter
 Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst

Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose-
 Flower, Ernest
 Forster, Henry William
 Fyler, John Arthur
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Garfit, William
 Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (*St. Albans*)
 Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin and N. r'n*)
 Gore, Hn. S. F. Ormsby- (*Linc.*)
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
 Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Greene, Hy. D. (*Shrewsbury*)
 Gunter, Sir Robert
 Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Ld. G. (*Midx.*)
 Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashford*)
 Harris, Frederick Leverton
 Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
 Hay, Hon. Claude George
 Hayden, John Patrick
 Heath, James (*Staffords. N. W.*)
 Helder, Augustus
 Hoare, Sir Samuel
 Hobhouse, Rt. Hon. H. (*Somerset, E.*)
 Hozier, Hon. Jas. Henry Cecil
 Hutton, John (*Yorks, N. R.*)
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
 Johnstone, Heywood
 Joyce, Michael
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*)
 Kerr, John
 Kimber, Henry
 Knowles, Lees
 Laurie, Lieut.-General
 Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
 Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks. N. R.*)
 Leamy, Edmund
 Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
 Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
 Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
 Long, Col. Chas. W. (*Evesham*)
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (*Bristol, S.*)
 Lonsdale, John Brownlee
 Lowther, Rt. Hon. Jas. (*Kent*)
 Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*)
 London, W.
 MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
 Maconochie, A. W.
 M'Ever, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W.*)
 M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Maple, Sir John Blundell
 Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
 Moon, Edward Robert Percy
 Morrison, James Archibald
 Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
 Mount, William Arthur
 Mowbray, Sir Robt. Gray C.
 Murphy, John
 Murray, Chas. J. (*Coventry*)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
 Myers, William Henry

Newdegate, Francis A. N.
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 O'Brien, James F. X. (*Cork*)
 O'Brien, K. (*Tipperary, Mid*)
 O'Brien, Patrick (*Kilkenny*)
 O'Connor, James (*Wicklow, W.*)
 O'Connor, T. P. (*Liverpool*)
 O'Dowd, John
 Peel, Hn. Wm. R. Wellesley
 Pemberton, John S. G.
 Percy, Earl
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Plummer, Walter R.
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Ratcliff, R. F.
 Rattigan, Sir William Henry
 Redmond, William (*Clare*)
 Reid, James (*Greenock*)
 Remnant, James Farquharson
 Ridley, Hn. M. W. (*Stalybridge*)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
 Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Samuel, Harry S. (*Lincoln*)
 Scott, Sir S. (*Marglebone, W.*)
 Seely, Chas. Hilton (*Lincoln*)
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*)
 Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Smith, H. C. (*North'mb. Tyneside*)
 Smith, James Parker (*Lancars.*)
 Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
 Stanley, Edward Jas. (*Somerset*)
 Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
 Stroyan, John
 Sturt, Hon. Humphrey Napier
 Sullivan, Donal
 Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
 Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (*Oxford Univ.*)
 Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Valentia, Viscount
 Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir William H.
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Webb, Col. William George
 Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (*Taunton*)
 Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (*Notts*)
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. J. Lloyd
 Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (*Yorks.*)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (*Bath*)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
 Wrightson, Sir Thomas
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir Alexander Acland-
 Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

Clause 1 :—

The following Amendments stood in the name of the hon. Member for North Camberwell—

"In Clause 1, page 1, line 5, at beginning, to insert, 'Except as respects the constitution of the local education authority for the administrative county of London, which shall be constituted as hereinafter provided.'"

"In Clause 1, page 1, line 7, at end, to add 'The London County Council shall be the education authority for London provided that— (1) The Local Government Act, 1888 (fifty-first and fifty-second years of Victoria) be so amended as to provide that the representation upon the London County Council of each metropolitan parliamentary division be increased by one half; (2) that at its first meeting after the election next after the passing of this Act the London County Council do appoint fifty-nine of its members together with fifteen other persons, selected for their knowledge of the educational needs of the Metropolis, to form the Education Committee. All matters relating to the exercise by the London County Council of their powers under this Act, except the power of raising a rate, or borrowing money, shall stand referred to such Committee as provided under Section 17 of the principal Act. The London County Council may also delegate to such Education Committee any of their powers under this Act in manner provided by Section 17 of the principal Act."

"In Clause 1, page 1, line 7, at end, to add, 'The authority for controlling all grades of publicly aided education within the administrative county of London shall be constituted as follows—(1) By the direct election, triennially, by the parochial electors of one person for each parliamentary division, provided that women as well as men shall be eligible for election; (2) By the co-optation by the members so elected of not more than fifteen persons chosen for their knowledge of the educational needs of the Metropolis.'"

*THE CHAIRMAN: The first Amendment standing in the name of the hon. Member for North Camberwell must, I presume, be read along with the second. That would be beyond the scope of the Bill, because it would involve an alteration of the Local Government Act, 1888, with regard to the constitution of the London County Council. The other would be in order as it stands; it does not require the first Amendment.

DR. MACNAMARA submitted that as a preliminary it would be necessary to except the question of the constitution of the local authority from this clause, on the lines of a ruling of the Chair last year in connection with Clause 7 of the 1902 Act. The hon. Member for East Mayo then proposed to deal specially with single school districts, and it was held to be necessary that certain preliminary words should be moved. He suggested that the present was a parallel case.

*THE CHAIRMAN said it did not strike him in that way. The last Amendment, when reached, would be perfectly in order as it stood. It seemed to raise the question of an *ad hoc* authority quite properly as there placed, the words "so far as applicable" being sufficient exception.

MR. McKENNA moved to insert at the beginning of line 5 the words "Parts I., II., and IV. of." He reminded the Committee that in the Bill of last year, as originally introduced, the adoption of Part III. by the local authority was optional, and the object of the present Amendment was to exempt the work of elementary education from the Bill, in other words, the London School Board would be kept alive. No sufficient reason had ever been given for the abandonment of Clause 5 last year. When introducing that measure, the Prime Minister said—

"We cannot hope to succeed in our object unless we carry with us the local authorities on whom the burden and responsibility of the Bill will fall. We think it would be most undesirable to drive or force them, with but brief consideration, and possibly against their will, into accepting our plans. We therefore propose to leave it to the Councils of the various districts to adopt the portion of this Act dealing with elementary education if and when they please. My conviction is that very few years will elapse before they do so. I feel tolerably confident that as it is stated and brought home to them that only by adopting its proposals in their entirety can they really hope to deal with the education problem as a whole they will all adopt it. How much better to attain that result through their free and untrammelled action than to force it upon them, it may be, prematurely."

Those words when applied to the present Bill were conclusive against the inclusion of Part III. Both the London County Council and the London School Board had declared against the measure, and, in the language of the Prime Minister, it was far better not to force on the local authorities work which they did not want when, if they were allowed time, they might be willing to accept it hereafter. There were exceptional reasons in the case of London why Part III. should be excluded. First of all, there was the magnitude of the task. Most admirable work had been done by the School Board, and he put it to the Committee whether it was not most undesirable

to destroy an organisation which, after thirty years experience, was doing some of the best educational work in the country. Was it reasonable to sacrifice that great organisation when it might be worked in with the general scheme of the Bill? They had in London a great complication arising from the existence of the Borough Councils, which were not an advantage in any educational scheme. In so far as the Government were compelled to recognise the Borough Councils in this form, they were injuring this educational scheme. If they included elementary education they would have three statutory authorities with co-ordinated powers, namely, the Board of Education, the County Councils, and the Borough Councils. It was said that the Borough Councils would only exercise the duties devolved upon them by the County Council, but the Borough Councils were statutory independent authorities for certain purposes. What would be the result under this Bill? The County Council would be liable to provide the accommodation, but the Borough Councils would determine the site on which the necessary school was to be built. The County Council would build, but the Board of Education would decide what was necessary in that building. After the children came into the school the Borough Councils had the independent management of the schools. The County Council determined the qualifications of the teacher, but the Borough Councils appointed and dismissed them. Those three co-ordinated authorities ran through the whole system, and so far from getting one single authority they would get confusion worse confounded than at the present time. What possibility would there be of obtaining that unity of control which was the vital principle of the Act of last year. Under the Amendment he proposed both classes of education, higher and technical on the one side, and elementary on the other, would be fully represented on the Education Committee, and they would thus secure a real unity of control and a guarantee of efficiency, neither of which they would get under this Bill. It would be far wiser if the Committee recognised that

the situation in London was different to any other borough in England; for London needed a special body. They ought to retain what was best in the Bill of last year, and combine in their authority all that was best in the School Board and the London County Council.

Amendment proposed—

"In Clause 1, page 1, line 5, at beginning insert, Parts I., II., and IV. of."—(*Mr. McKenna.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said it would be remembered that in the Bill of last year the option clause was thrown out by a very large majority, and consequently it might be taken that the House had pronounced very decidedly against it. He did not find any suggestion that there should be any option as to the inclusion or introduction of Part III. There being no such suggestion the Amendment really struck at the root of the principle on which the legislation of last year was carried into effect and on which this Bill was founded, namely, the co-ordination of all forms of education under one authority. The hon. Member spoke of the confusion that would arise, but surely the confusion he proposed to continue between the voluntary schools and the Board schools, under his new authority for secondary education and the authority for elementary education, would be infinitely more disastrous than anything that could possibly happen under the clauses of the Bill now before them. This Amendment would probably cause a conflict of jurisdiction between the various authorities set up. He did not wish to labour the point, but this Amendment could not be contemplated by the Government as a possible one to introduce into the Bill. It ran counter to everything they wished to see established all over England and Wales, and it was contrary to that which they hoped to establish in London before very long. This Amendment could not be introduced into the Bill without violating the principle upon which the Bill was founded.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said that although the Government had declared themselves against the *ad hoc* principle they had not declared themselves against the principle of this proposal, which was in the original Bill of the Government last year. The object of this proposal was that in certain towns where the School Boards had done good work and where the local authority did not desire to take over that work the existence of the School Board should be continued. Surely the Secretary to the Board of Education was not entitled to say now that this proposal was contrary to the principle of the Bill of last year. The essence of last year's Bill was in the first place that there should be a supreme authority; and in the second place that education should be municipalised. This Amendment, whilst municipalising education as far as possible, would allow the existence of large School Boards if such School Boards and the municipality concerned agreed to this course. He did not think the Government had met the point of the enormous amount of work this Bill would throw upon the London County Council, and that fact differentiated London from other great towns where the Government thought the work was being carried on so excellently that there was no necessity to absorb those School Boards into the local education authority. As the London County Council did not desire to undertake this work, and as the London School Board did not desire to give up the work in which it was engaged, he thought the Committee ought to accept this Amendment. His hon. friend had shown that confusion would result under the Bill, but the Secretary to the Education Department did not attempt to meet the argument that while the principle of the Bill was that there should be one authority, this Bill created three authorities. There was much to be said for the proposal of his hon. friend, and he should support it because he thought it was a better one than that contained in the Bill. When they got an opportunity of discussing the question of an *ad hoc* authority he thought they would be able to show some reasons why such an authority ought to be established for London.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Morley) said he quite agreed that the principle which animated the Government with regard to this Bill was, upon their own confession, first of all, the destruction of the London School Board—the institution the supporters of this Amendment supremely desired to preserve. Its whole work had been of the utmost importance for elementary education in London, and but for the existence of the Board there never would have been the extraordinary development of education that had taken place in the Metropolis. Because the hon. Baronet could say that occasionally, here and there, the School Board might have shown a desire to be the secondary as well as the elementary education authority, that was not a condemnation of the work rendered by that splendid authority.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON: I said that it would lead to conflict with the new authority.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON said there were many ratepayers in London who thought that the School Board imposed too great sacrifices on them in connection with the education of their children. What had been the justification that had enabled parents to put up with the demands made on them and their children? It was the fact that they had a School Board which they could control, and to which they sent direct representatives. Could the Committee believe that under an authority constructed as proposed by this Bill the ratepayers would have the same control as they had had in the past? In regard to elementary schools in this country, fortunately or otherwise—and they might deplore it—there had existed, and there would continue to exist under the Bill, a good deal of religious controversy. With regard to that, injustice was felt by the people of different communions, and the only way to secure the common concord and assent of the education authority was to allow all parties to come together by popular election. That system had been the security of our schools in the past, but that was being destroyed by the Bill. While they were quarrelling as to the

constitution of the authority, and the claims of the County Council and the Borough Councils, the clergy were simply taking the money for the voluntary schools. It was true, as the hon. Baronet had said, that if the Amendment were passed it would leave the voluntary schools as they now stood. He wondered that the Government, in view of the position created by last year's Act, had the courage to bring forward a proposal to put the voluntary schools on the rates. They might think a little of the methods of opposition which were appearing in every part of the country. It was not a matter of congratulation to the Government that they should have passed a measure which was producing such a tremendous feeling of opposition on the part of people who were prepared to go to almost any length in order to show their disapproval of putting the denominational schools upon the rates. He believed that in every part of the municipality of London, whether the people were represented by the Borough Councils or the School Board, resolutions had been passed disapproving of this measure, which proposed to destroy the School Board. He thought the Government might well pause before they took this step of establishing for the control of elementary education an authority which was not amenable to the great majority of the people of the Metropolis.

DR. MACNAMARA said this clause struck at the root of the scheme proposed, namely, the co-ordination of elementary, secondary, and higher education. There were two words he was getting tired of. One was "*ad hoc*" and the other "co-ordination." Co-ordination was a word which fascinated him formerly, and he was one of the tellers in favour of striking out Clause 5 in last year's Act because he believed it would not give co-ordination. Let them look at the co-ordination which this Bill gave. Under the Bill the County Council would be the authority for higher education. The County Council, nominally, would be generally and in a vague sort of way the authority for elementary education. But when they examined the Bill a little closer what did they find? In regard to the voluntary schools, which

were two-fifths of the elementary schools, the County Council was to be the controlling body as to local management; and in regard to the Board schools the Borough Councils were to have the control of the management. All he could say, was that he did not understand this mysterious Bill, although he had spent some little pains over it. If co-ordination between elementary and secondary education was desirable, how much more desirable was harmony between the various classes of elementary education. In the matter of teacherships the voluntary teacher was appointed by the managers subject to the veto of the County Council. The Borough Council did not touch the voluntary teacher under this Bill as it stood at present. What the Bill might be in a few days he could not say. But the Borough Council was to have complete control over the appointment and dismissal of the Board teachers subject to certain conditions as to qualifications. The Board teachers were to be shut up in twenty-nine watertight compartments, but the voluntary teachers were to be treated as one whole by the County Council. If he understood the speech of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education on the Second Reading of the Bill in regard to the voluntary schools, the County Council would, subject to the education code for the time being, determine nice points of the curriculum, but in regard to the Board schools the hon. Gentleman definitely stated the Borough Councils were to have some sort of jurisdiction over the curricula of the schools. The hon. Gentleman said that in the poorer parts of London the system had been rather rigid when carried out by one authority for all London, and that part of the object of the Bill would be to give the Borough Councils power to adapt the curricula of the Board schools to the needs of their areas.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said he never stated that the Borough Councils were to control the curriculum. What he said was that the Borough Councils would be in a better position to present such matters to the County Council as local authority than the existing managers could do in their relations with the School Board.

DR. MACNAMARA said the Borough Councils would be minor authorities and they would be quite oblivious of County Council control. At any rate, according to the statement now made, they were to submit to the County Council suggestions to meet every variety of curricula for the Board schools in the twenty-nine different districts, but no such suggestion could come from any authority with regard to the voluntary schools. The curricula of the Board school would be settled to a large extent by the representatives of the twenty-nine Borough Councils. What sort of co-ordination was that? This Bill set up chaos, and the hon. Gentleman was pleased to call it co-ordination. The argument that the adoption of this Amendment would strike a fatal blow at co-ordination was perfectly futile, because there was no co-ordination in it. It was said that this Amendment would set up a conflict of jurisdiction, but obviously the County Council and the Borough Councils were going to be in conflict on certain matters. It was proposed to give Battersea and Wandsworth one representative. Battersea was progressive, but Wandsworth was not. How were these Boroughs going to settle who was to be the representative? Hammersmith, Fulham, and Chelsea were to have one representative, Fulham, long before the Bill was introduced, declared in favour of an *ad hoc* authority. Hammersmith and Chelsea had passed resolutions in favour of the Bill. He did not like this Bill very much. If accepted, the County Council would control higher education, but the voluntary schools would remain as they were; the School Board would remain as it was with its work truncated by the Cockerton Judgment. He thought that that might be got in a different way from that proposed in the Bill. The School Board and the London County Council would come into closer harmony for the moment. He would go still further. The voluntary schools were in a helpless condition; the buildings were wretched, and the teachers starved. He would for a year give them a grant from the Imperial Exchequer *pro rata* for what they would lose financially by their non-participation in this scheme, and during that year they could appoint a Committee which would sit down quietly and cogitate or hammer out on the anvil of deliberate discussion, a scheme for London which would give an authority

with the control of all education, and real co-ordination and harmony. The issue was so grave and the problem was so stupendous that it would be worth while to do as he suggested, instead of passing this undigested scheme at a speed which would be illegal for a motor car.

MR. CLAUDE LOWTHER (Cumberland, Eskdale) said that if the hon. Member for Camberwell proposed to discuss every Amendment on this very interesting and intricate measure at the same length as he had indulged in his last speech, there would be very little motor-car speed in the progress of the Bill. He did not suppose he would be in order in discussing the provision in the schedule which the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education had put on the Paper, or to endeavour to reconcile the rival claims of Battersea and Wandsworth; but he wished to point out that the effect of the Amendment, if carried, would be practically to destroy the whole object of the Bill. So far as London was concerned no one would deny either the excellence of the work done for higher education by the Technical Education Committee of the London County Council or the excellence of the work of the London School Board. Nobody who had had the honour of a seat on the London School Board would wish to speak in any but respectful terms of admiration of the work done by that great and important body. He did not like to hear the phrase continually used that the object of this Bill was to destroy the London School Board. He did not think that it was in any hostile spirit to the London School Board that the Government had endeavoured to provide a scheme which would enlist in one army all the great forces for educational progress in the Metropolis. If the Amendment were carried the Bill might just as well be dropped, because this was a Bill for co-ordination, and the Amendment was directly hostile to that principle. The point raised by the hon. Member for Camberwell could be raised again on his Amendment at the end of line seven and that would be the fitting opportunity on which to offer such objections as might be made to the principle of the clause.

The sooner they came to the really important matters they had to discuss—the constitution of the Education Committee and the powers and the devolution of the powers of the local authority to that Committee—the better would be the progress of the Bill. They need not waste time on discussions of questions which had been thoroughly threshed out in the debates last year.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorgan-shire, Mid) said that the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down was the only Member who affected to see that the Government did not desire to put an end to the School Board, of London. Had he still remained a member of the London School Board, as he once was, the hon. Member would not have so complacently taken that view. For himself, he regarded the Amendment as of the greatest importance, as had been admirably shown by the hon. Member for Camberwell. He was glad to find that at last his hon. friend had had his disillusionment in regard to the question of co-ordination. His hon. friend said he was getting tired of that word. Several of them were tired of it at the beginning of the debates on the Education Act of last year, because they knew that co-ordination was only a catch-word and a shibboleth to cover aid to the voluntary schools at all costs. He was not going to prophesy that there would be a rate-war in the country over the voluntary schools, but, if there was, would it not be better to limit it to the country and not introduce it into London? Nobody at the present moment could predict how the Education Act was going to work in many parts of the country, and what would be the effect of the threat of many people not to pay the education rate at all. If the Amendment were adopted the London County Council would remain the rating authority for elementary education. The hon. Baronet said that they would be introducing great confusion; but no confusion brought in would be half as bad as that which already existed. The hon. Member for Camberwell had pointed out that the Borough Councils were to have no control over the voluntary schools, but to have control over the number and qualifications, the appointment and

dismissal, of the teachers of the provided or Board schools. The effect of the Amendment would be to shut out the voluntary schools in London for the moment, and that, he contended, would not be a bad thing to do. It would remove the rate-war outside London, while the London voluntary schools would share the improved grant given to the voluntary schools throughout the country. Their position would not be worse than at present, but would be improved, while the Board schools, administered by the body which, it was admitted in all quarters, had done their work hitherto most excellently, would not be disturbed. It was perfectly true that if elementary education was to be limited to the three R's, by reason of the Cockerton judgment, the jurisdiction of the Board would be very much limited also. But elementary education could be defined by a clause which would give to the School Board legislative authority to carry out the excellent work which they did before the Cockerton judgment. If the Amendment were carried it would facilitate very much the passing of the Bill, and would have the advantage of enabling them to see what the country was going to do in regard to the Act of last year and to limit the probable great conflict over the payment of rates for the voluntary schools to the country—leaving London undisturbed.

MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W. R., Elland) said that the Amendment raised two very important points. He did not propose to discuss one of them at present—that relating to the voluntary schools in London. The most important point they had to discuss was whether the School Board should be the elementary authority for education in London in future. He had been a member of the London School Board, and his experience compelled him to support the Amendment. In theory he was in favour of municipalisation as against direct election, but the Government were running that theory a great deal too far. Owing to the manner in which Amendments had to be submitted, they never in the Bill of last year obtained a proper discussion as to whether towns having large School Boards should be exempt from the operation of the Act. Many of them thought that there was

really no case why, in the smaller towns, education should not be handed over to the municipal authorities; but that, for merely practical reasons, where there was a great School Board its work should not be thrown on the municipal authority. To give the Committee an idea of what the London County Council was being asked to undertake under this Bill, he might mention that, apart from teachers, the London School Board had a staff at the offices on the Embankment of 559. In addition, the superintending and visiting staff numbered 445, the correspondence staff 35, and the works staff 154; or a total of about 1,200 people. That would give some idea of the immense amount of detailed labour that would be imposed on the new Education Committee. Already the London County Council had as much work as it could get through; and it seemed to him that what would happen would be either that the work would be scamped—and he was afraid that would be what would happen—or else the Education Committee would have to do almost all the work that the London School Board now did. Any one who saw the heavy agenda paper which the London School Board had at present, would at once agree that the work of the Board was more than hard-worked County Councillors could undertake. It might be said that the Bill provided for delegation. That was perfectly true. There was a system of delegation proposed to which they intended to object; but, as a matter of fact, the duties to be delegated to the Borough Councils would not be very much more than the duties which were now delegated to boards of managers.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Gentleman is a little off the Amendment now.

MR. TREVELYAN said what he wished to point out was that the Bill would not lead to any very great amount of delegation; and that, therefore, the authority proposed to be set up would have a great deal too much work to do. There was one other alternative; but he did not believe that there was any chance of its being adopted until a new idea was introduced, as it would eventually have to be introduced, into the municipal govern-

Mr. Trevelyan.

ment of the great towns of the country. That was the payment of a certain number of councillors in order to act, so to speak, as ministers of education, and works, and other things. If a larger amount of specialised work by the very best councillors could be obtained in that way, they could dispense with the committee system. That would not, however, be done, at any rate for the present. They would continue the existing system of working through Committees; and to put the work of the London School Board upon men who were already worked as members of the London County Council were, would be to put more on them than they could undertake. He would support the Amendment.

MR. WALLACE (Perth) said he was very glad the Bill would not apply to Scotland; but as it now seemed as if they were to have an Education Bill every year, he was beginning to be afraid that the principle might be extended to that country also. That was why he ventured to intervene. The Amendment raised what appeared to him to be a most important principle in connection with the Bill. Having watched the great work of the London School Board for the last fifteen or twenty years, and having realised how excellently that work had been done by the present Board, it seemed to him that the justification for this Bill should come from those who proposed to destroy such an excellent institution. Everyone praised the work of the London School Board; but it was said it was necessary that it should be destroyed in order that they might have what had been described as co-ordination. The word found favour last year, and was played upon, but now there was no word more detested when put before a popular audience. If it were proposed to increase the powers of the existing Board, and to give it power over higher education, he could have understood it; but he could not understand the extraordinary method now proposed. It was not co-ordination at all; it was mere playing with the word. They were creating a variety of new authorities which would come into conflict with each other; and produce strife in the future. They were proposing to have a County Council authority, and a Borough

Council authority, and an increased authority to the Board of Education. This Bill was put forward on the ground that it was decentralising the authority. Its real effect was to centralise all authority in the Board of Education. It would destroy entirely the education authority of London, and centralise it in the hands of persons whom some people, at all events, did not trust. If these two authorities disagreed, they were to call in the Board of Education to arbitrate. That would be a night for the gods indeed. They would be like the Kilkenny cats, and when all was finished very little would be left of the Education Department, and if that happened there would be few wet eyes at the funeral of the Department. What they felt was that the authority which had to deal with the problem of education for London must be an authority which was occupied with nothing else. Those members of the London School Board who gave any attention to the problem of education devoted their whole time to it, from Monday morning to Saturday night, and then found it impossible to overtake it, yet now the Government were proposing to destroy that excellent authority, and substitute that artificial authority the Board of Education, an authority no one praised or understood, and which would only make frightful confusion in the future. He would not discuss the Amendment further. He rose now to enter his protest against the destruction of this great authority, which had done more to civilise and humanise London than any other authority.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) said the Committee ought to have regard to the weighty matter with which they were dealing in this small clause of three and a half lines. What the Amendment said was that elementary education ought to be left out. If that were done there would be a great deal left for the education authority to undertake. The problem of elementary education was sufficiently vast to merit the Government giving it some consideration. He thought some explanation should be given as to why, when they felt last year that the principles of the Education Act could not be applied to London,

which must be dealt with separately, the whole of the principles of the Act should be suddenly cast upon London by this clause. Those who represented London on the opposite side of the House were quite as much interested as those with whom he sat, and he thought they should give this matter more attention. If the clause was to be passed would it not be better for the Committee to put their heads together and see if something could not be done to meet the views expressed in the Amendment. He and those who sat with him who had followed these proposals, certainly thought that they were most unsatisfactory. This was such a terribly revolutionary clause that every one would be justified in opposing it.

MR. BRYCE said he desired to submit a really practical reason in favour of this Amendment which had not received the attention it deserved. When the Bill of year last was under discussion many Members supported the fifth Clause on the special ground that the addition of the work of elementary education to secondary education would lay so heavy a burden on the local authority that it would be impossible for them to accept it. It was argued then that as secondary education was more needed it should be taken first. It was a matter of common knowledge that we were more behind in regard to secondary education in London than elementary education. In London there was no authority for secondary education, although there was a good authority for technical education. The problem of the secondary education of the 4,500,000 people in the area of the County Council was a gigantic problem. The practical way of dealing with this matter would be to proceed by steps; first of all, establish the authority for secondary education, and when it had grappled with that problem and had provided the secondary schools that were needed and co-ordinated secondary with elementary education, it was time enough then to give it the control of elementary education. If his recollection served him, one of the chief objections to Clause 5 when the Education Act was under discussion, was that it gave an option to the local authorities, and his hon. friend, bearing in mind the

objections taken to Clause 5 in the Education Act, had so drawn his Amendment that secondary education only should be given to the local authority. When that had been done and the schools brought up to date, elementary education could be brought in by a short Bill. It was on this ground, and on the ground that London furnished so peculiar a case, that they must not press the general principles applied last year in the Education Act, to the case of London, and in the belief that London was best served by the handling of secondary education first and then adding elementary education after, that he should support the Amendment.

*MR. YOXALL said that co-ordination embodied and represented all the great principles of education, and all the defects of education in the past had been due to the lack of co-ordination. The chief hope of education in the future was the establishment of a proper system of co-ordination. The Secretary to the Board of Education had appealed to the Committee to pass on to the essential clause of the Bill, that being the clause which constituted the education authority to perform this work of co-ordination of the schools of London. He (Mr. Yoxall) made an appeal earlier to postpone the discussion on Clause 1 in order to do so. Therefore he regarded the Amendment before the Committee as an adjourning Amendment. It was another attempt to postpone Clause 1 until they knew what the Education Committee was to be. He was no particular friend of the School Board for London. In his opinion it had at various times, fallen into the hands of faddists and extremists who had regarded their position on the London School Board as a platform for the exposition, on the one hand, of theological ideas, and on the other as a means of enabling them to regard education as a mechanical thing rather than as a spirit and a principle, but he would much rather that the School Board schools should remain in the hands of the School Board for London until he saw what were to be the powers of management in the hands of the new educational authority. In Clauses 2 and 3

there were most important and vital considerations as to what should be the managing powers of the Borough Councils and the proper constitution of the Education Committee, and that was one of the reasons for his desire to postpone the discussion.

MR. GEORGE WHITE (Norfolk, N.W.) said the clause now under discussion made the machinery for the education of London the same as that for the whole country by the Bill of last year. He was surprised that the Prime Minister desired to use the provisions of the Act of last year for London. When that Act was under discussion he was not satisfied that it would be right to apply its provisions to London, and now by the very first clause of this Bill he had adopted it. He ventured to say no similar clause had ever been drawn in so few words which accomplished so great a revolution. It was acknowledged that the work of the School Board had been most efficiently done, and that its members had shown great devotion to their duties; therefore good reasons ought to be shown before it was abolished. He could well believe that the Government had had much difficulty in drafting the Bill, because, while they hated the School Board, they did not regard the County Council with much greater favour. The County Council could not devote to the work the same amount of time that the School Board had done. The chief idea of the Government was to get rid of the directly representative system in education. This proposal marked a most important step in regard to education, which, consequently, was one of the most important a Government could take, and one which he believed would be disastrous to the work of elementary education. The people of London had never asked to have that work taken out of the hands of the School Board. The task involved in Parts I., II., and IV., would have been sufficiently gigantic to tax the powers of the new authority, but the inclusion of Part III. would make the task one which, from his experience of School Board work, he was convinced could not be efficiently discharged by such a body. So far from assisting co-ordination, the Bill would work in the opposite direction.

A large amount of co-ordination could be secured between an *ad hoc* authority and the authorities for technical and secondary education. All that was necessary could be done by mutual arrangement and co-operation without an Act of Parliament, and certainly more than was likely to be done under this Bill. The fact of the matter was that this great revolution was being effected by the Government at the wish and request of those who did not appear in the foreground, and, by the question being so dealt with, there would be brought into London the strife and opposition which were manifesting themselves throughout the country. The Prime Minister must have failed to read the newspapers if he was unaware that friction of all sorts was arising, and that the opposition to the working of the Act of last year was likely to be most acute. The opposition to the payment of rates for the support of denominational schools would be extended to London, and elementary education, instead of uniting the people, would be an occasion of endless strife and opposition. All this could have been avoided by omitting Part III. for the present. He objected also to the large amount of power which would be placed in the hands of the Central Board of Education. The way in which the Act of 1902 was being administered would increase the opposition to this Bill. So far from certain sections of the community getting fair representation on the boards of management, there was plenty of evidence that they were being most unfairly treated. Therefore, in the interests both of education and of good feeling in the work, he cordially supported the Amendment.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield) deprecated any great revolutionary step being taken unless some great improvement was certain to be thereby secured. The Amendment proposed to modify the Bill to some extent, but supporters of the Government ought really to be grateful for anything that would limit to the country districts the war which this matter was causing. One could not read the newspapers without realising that the present was not an opportune moment to stir up fresh con-

troversy. The Amendment would avoid the creation of twenty-nine new boards in the place of one which had been tried and found efficient, while the Bill as it stood would entirely sever the ordinary Londoner from the idea of having anything to do with the education of his children. The Amendment was a very reasonable one; it would not injure the principle of the Bill, and it would leave it open to the Government in future years, if the system was found to work well in the country, to extend it to London.

MR. TRITTON (Lambeth, Norwood) said that hitherto he had always advocated the London County Council being the paramount authority on this question, but his views had been somewhat changed of late by the action of that body with reference to the Bill. By a large majority the County Council had condemned the measure, and declared in favour of an *ad hoc* authority. Taking the deepest possible interest in the education of the children of London, he protested against handing over this most sacred and important task to a body which did not want it. He would like to see the work placed in the hands of a body that would love to have the care of the education of the children, and consider it one of their greatest privileges to have such a task committed to their charge. As he looked round he saw some of the wonderful work which the London School Board had been doing for the last thirty years in this great Metropolis, and he did not think they could speak too highly of the education which that body had been giving, both from a secular and a religious point of view, to the children of this great city. He had only risen to say that he intended to vote in support of the Amendment proposed by the hon. Member for North Monmouthshire because he believed it to be a very fair compromise. He did not wish to see the work of the London School Board belittled or done away with, and he thought it would be better to leave this work in the hands of that body, which had done it so well for so many years.

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 100 ; Noes, 239. (Division List No. 86.)

AYES.

Allan, Sir William (*Gateshead*)
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbt. Hy.
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Black, Alexander William
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Right Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Causton, Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Craig, Robert Hunter (*Lanark*)
Cremor, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Davies, M. Vaughan (*Cardig'n*)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Duncan, J. Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Emmott, Alfred
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (*Leith*)
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Grant, Corrie

Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale
Hayter, Rt Hon Sir Arthur D.
Hutchinson, Dr. Chas. Fredk.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, David Brynmor (*Swansea*)
Jones, William (*Carnarvonsh.*)
Labouchere, Henry
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Jos. F. (*Accrington*)
Leng, Sir John
Lough, Thomas
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
McArthur, William (*Cornwall*)
Mappin, Sir Fredk. Thorpe
Markham, Arthur Basil
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*)
Morley, Charles (*Breconshire*)
Morley, Rt. Hn. John (*Montrose*)
Newnes, Sir George
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Palmer, G. Wm. (*Reading*)
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (*Saffron Walden*)
Perks, Robert William
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Robertson, Edmund (*Dundee*)
Roe, Sir Thomas

Rose, Charles Day
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
Schwann, Charles E.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Taylor, Theo. C. (*Radcliffe*)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, A. (*Carmarthen, E.*)
Thomas, F. Freeman (*Hastings*)
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (*Barnsley*)
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Wason, John Cathcart (*Orkney*)
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (*Norfolk*)
White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, O. (*Merioneth*)
Wilson, J. W. (*Worcestersh., N.*)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. McKenna and Mr.
Alfred Hutton.

NOES.

Abraham, W. (*Cork, N.E.*)
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Ang. Henry Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Austin, Sir John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Manch'r.*)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. Gerald W. (*Leeds*)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barry, Sir Francis T. (*Windsor*)
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boland, John
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Lt.-Col. HF. (*Middlesex*)
Bowles, T. G. (*Lynn Regis*)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brown, Sir Alx. H. (*Shropsh.*)
Brymer, William Ernest
Bull, William James
Butcher, John George

Campbell, J. H. M. (*Dublin Univ.*)
Campbell, John (*Armagh S.*)
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*)
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (*Birm.*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A. (*Worc.*)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Charrington, Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasgow*)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Herb. Snepherd (*Bolton.*)
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (*Galway*)
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph C.
Donelan, Captain A.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Doxford, Sir William Theodore

Duffy, William J.
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Faber, E. B. (*Hants, W.*)
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (*Manch'r.*)
Ffrench, Peter
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (*City of Lond.*)
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (*St. Albans*)
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nairn*)
Gordon, Maj. Evans. (*Tr. Hm'ts*)
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert

Greene, Hy. D. (*Shrewsbury*)
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Gunter, Sir Robert
 Hain, Edward
 Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G. (*Midd'x*)
 Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashfd*)
 Harris, Frederick Levertou
 Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick G.
 Hay, Hon. Claude George
 Hayden, John Patrick
 Heath, James (*Staffs., N. W.*)
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Henderson, Sir Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
 Hickman, Sir Alfred
 Hoare, Sir Samuel
 Hobhouse, Rt. Hon. H. (*Somerset, E*)
 Houston, Robert Paterson
 Hozier, Hon. Jas. Henry Cecil
 Hutton, John (*Yorks, N. R.*)
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred
 Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
 Johnstone, Heywood
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*)
 Kerr, John
 Kimber, Henry
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Knowles, Lees
 Laurie, Lieut.-General
 Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*)
 Lawson, J. Grant, (*Yorks. N. R.*)
 Leamy, Edmund
 Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
 Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
 Lockie, John
 Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Chas. W. (*Evesham*)
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (*Bristol, S*)
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*)
 London, W.
 Maconochie, A. W.
 MacVeagh, Jeremiah
 M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Ed'n'grh W.*)
 M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)

Manners, Lord Cecil
 Maple, Sir John Blundell
 Maxwell, Rt. Hon. Sir H. E. (*Wigt'n*)
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Molesworth, Sir Lewis
 More, Robt. Jasper (*Shropshire*)
 Morrison, James Archibald
 Morton, Arthur H. Aymer
 Mount, William Arthur
 Mowbray, Sir Robt. Gray C.
 Murphy, John
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (*Bute*)
 Murray, Chas. J. (*Coventry*)
 Murray, Col. W. Wyndham (*Bath*)
 Myers, William Henry
 Newdegate, Francis A. N.
 Nicol, Donald Nimian
 O'Brien, K. (*Tipperary, Mid*)
 O'Brien, Patrick (*Kilkenny*)
 O'Connor, Jas. (*Wicklow, W.*)
 O'Connor, T. P. (*Liverpool*)
 O'Dowd, John
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 Pease, H. Pike (*Darlington*)
 Peel, Hn. Wm Robert Wellesley
 Pemberton, John S. G.
 Penn, John
 Percy, Earl
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Plummer, Walter R.
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Pretzman, Ernest George
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Pym, C. Guy
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Ratchiff, R. F.
 Rattigan, Sir William Henry
 Reid, James (*Greenock*)
 Remnant, James Farquharson
 Ridley, Hon. M. W. (*Stalybridge*)
 Ridley, S. Forde, (*Bethnal Green*)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
 Robertson, H. (*Hackney*)
 Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford

Samuel, Harry S. (*Linchouse*)
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone W.*)
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*)
 Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Smith, H. C. (*North'mb. Tyneside*)
 Smith, Jas. Parker (*Lanarks.*)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
 Spear, John Ward
 Spencer, Sir E. (*W. Bromwich*)
 Stanley, Edw. Jas. (*Somerset*)
 Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
 Stewart, Sir Mark J. M. Taggart
 Stroyan, John
 Sturt, Hn. Humphry Napier
 Sullivan, Donal
 Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (*Oxf'd Univ.*)
 Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. E. M.
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H. (*Sheffield*)
 Vincent, Sir Edgar (*Baeleer*)
 Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir W. H.
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (*Taunton*)
 Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (*Notts*)
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. J. Lloyd
 Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
 Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
 Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (*Yorks.*)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (*Bath*)
 Wolf, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
 Wrightson, Sir Thomas
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir Alexander Acland-
 Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

MR. LOUGH moved to insert after "The" in line 5, Clause 1, the following words: "School Board and County Council for London may pass resolutions asking that the." He said the object of the Amendment was that the clause should not come into effect until these two great bodies had requested that it should be applied to London. He thought this was a most reasonable Amendment. The great complaint of the Members for London was that the Government, in regard to the Bill, had not given the people an opportunity of considering this educational problem before it had been settled for them by the

Government. It could not be said these bodies took a party view on the great question of education, or any view hostile to the wishes of the Government. The School Board had shown a disposition to reform itself and to put itself in order in every way so as to be able to discharge its important duties. Months ago it passed a resolution by a large majority that a body elected on the *ad hoc* principle should be chosen to deal with the question of education. The case of London was peculiar. The School Board for London was by far the greatest that existed in the country, and there were precedents

to show that London ought to receive exceptional treatment. When the Municipal Corporations Act was passed and applied to every town in the country, London was exempted, and when the Local Government Act was passed in 1889 a special Act was passed for London. This was obviously an occasion on which the old constitutional course with regard to London should be followed. The Government should take some opportunity of allowing the people to pronounce on the sort of authority they wanted. This was all the more desirable because of the fact that in all these local matters of administration the view taken by Londoners was quite different from that held by the representatives of the Metropolis in this House. London seemed to elect one class of men to speak its mind on Imperial affairs, and another class to manage its local affairs. Why not consult the School Board and the County Council in regard to this proposal? Why not leave them some option to express their view on the whole situation that had arisen and to state what in their opinion might be the right course to pursue? The Government would not be bound to adopt their recommendations in every case, but it was desirable that their opinions should be expressed before the Government proceeded to a solution of this question. He asked that something should be inserted in the clause to provide for this being done, and that the proposal should not be pushed down their throats in the way it was on the Paper. It appeared a short clause, but it contained a great deal. This Amendment gave the Government the opportunity of consulting local feeling and, he believed, making a better Bill than would be produced if they went blindly on without consulting the people of London.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 5, after the word 'The,' to insert the words 'School Board and County Council for London may pass resolutions asking that the.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said the object of this Amendment was that they should

Mr. Lough.

wait before bringing this Bill into operation until the London School Board and the County Council passed a resolution asking that this should be done. He had been taken to task in the earlier stages of the Bill for having stated that one of its objects was the abolition of the School Board. He might have expressed himself somewhat brusquely, but, as a matter of fact, the Bill was to constitute a new education authority for London, and one of the results of that would be the passing away of the School Board. He hoped that he had expressed himself with proper admiration and regard for the School Board and its work. The hon. Member who had just moved this Amendment, in his previous speech this afternoon called upon him to do more than that—to express his sympathy with the School Board. He thought that would be a somewhat peculiar thing to do while in the act of abolishing the School Board. He preferred to express his admiration for the work it had done. He thought sympathy was an empty thing at the best, and that it would be somewhat out of place on the present occasion. Whatever regard, or sympathy, or admiration, he might feel for the London School Board the Amendment was an impossible one to accept. The principle of the Bill involved the displacement of the School Board for another education authority. Were they under these circumstances to wait until the School Board so far lost the natural instinct of self-preservation as to pass a resolution in favour of its own extinction? The hon. Gentleman spoke of the Government consulting the opinion of the people, but what he asked was that the School Board should decide upon its own extinction. The Amendment was hardly to be taken quite seriously, and he apologised to the hon. Member if he had not approached it in the solemn spirit which he seemed to think the occasion required. But when proposing to constitute a new authority, they could not wait the pleasure of the old authority to express its willingness to be abolished.

MR. MCKENNA did not think the hon. Gentleman had treated the Amendment in the way it should be treated. If this

Amendment were accepted, the ratepayers of London would have an opportunity when they elected the next School Board to decide what form of education authority they wanted. Surely the representative system was not to be treated with ridicule as it was in this matter. What they asked was that the people concerned, the ratepayers of London, who had to pay for the schools and whose children were to be educated in the schools, should be allowed some voice in deciding what should be the form of education authority for London. On the last Amendment he read an extract from the speech of the First Lord of the Treasury in introducing last year's Bill. In a latter part of the same speech the right hon. Gentleman dealt with this exact point, and showed how useful it was in wise legislation to act with caution. He used these words—

“We have, I think, in the sphere of education itself, a good example of how valuable this cautious procedure may prove. It may be in the recollection of the older Members of the House that it was not until 1876 that the non-School Board areas were given the right to pass by-laws for making attendance at schools compulsory. They were not obliged to exercise the right, but they were given it. Had they been obliged to make attendance at school compulsory, they would undoubtedly in many cases have bitterly resisted the obligation. Fortunately it was made a voluntary act. Four years elapsed, and, without a word, without the smallest objection from any quarter of the House or from any part of the country, universal and obligatory school attendance was made by statute the universal rule. I augur well from this precedent, and I believe that while the voluntary element which we introduce into our Bill will relieve a great many fears, smooth over many difficulties, and prevent many prejudices being harshly interfered with, it will not delay for any long or important period the universal adoption of this Act in every part of England and Wales.”

He appealed to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education to adopt the wise and statesmanlike procedure so heartily recommended by the First Lord of the Treasury last year. Call their objections to this Bill prejudices if they liked, but let them remove these prejudices. If the proposal, of the Government was a wise proposal the electors would recognise its wisdom, but do not let them complicate the already complicated condition of education in this country by forcing upon them a system of which they might disapprove. If the Bill was a good one it would not

suffer any permanent injury, and if it was a bad one they would at any rate have spared London the loss of its School Board. By adopting the Amendment they would, to use the words of the First Lord of the Treasury—

“Relieve a great many fears, smooth over many difficulties, and prevent many prejudices being harshly interfered with.”

On these grounds he asked the hon. Member to accept the Amendment which would allow them time to watch the operation of the Act in the country. In the meantime London itself would be able to say to what extent the operations of the Act should be adopted in the Metropolis. In this way all those difficulties which were called prejudices, but which they were satisfied were based on sound reason, would be overcome.

CAPTAIN JESSEL (St. Pancras, S.) said that it had been stated that the Amendment only meant that the ratepayers of London should be consulted at a future election. That was not really the purpose of the Amendment, and he would say to his hon. friend that if he had been as well acquainted with London school matters as other hon. Members, he would have been aware that only 18 per cent. of the ratepayers of London voted at the last School Board election. It was incredible that on a question of whether the School Board was to be continued or not any higher percentage of votes would be obtained. By the London Government Act of 1899, all the existing vestries were extinguished, but could anybody contend that these bodies were consulted beforehand? No public body liked to be suicided out of existence, and he could quite understand that members of the School Board would never vote for their own extinction. He suggested that the Amendment had been put on the Paper for the purposes of delay. [OPPOSITION cries of “Oh, oh!” and “Withdraw.”] He did not say anything wrong; they were only delaying the question until some future period. As to the other portion of the Amendment, the Committee was well aware that the London County Council had already come to a conclusion in regard to the Bill, and had passed a resolution against it. The Amendment was, therefore, not very useful.

MR. GEORGE WHITE said that to force upon a great body like the London County Council the work of the School Board without a clear understanding that they desired the additional labour, and were prepared to undertake it *con amore* seemed to him to be a very vicious kind of legislation. There was no work which required more sympathetic treatment than educational work. The School Board of London had given a large amount of time to it, and the only *éclat* attaching to it was the consciousness that they had been doing good work. It might be that the London County Council, feeling itself utterly unable to do the work in a desirable and efficient manner, might decline to undertake it. If that were so, and if the Government were determined to force it upon them, they were sure to do the work in a very inefficient way. The London County Council was in a very different position from the County Councils in the country when the Act of last year was passed. No doubt many of the country County Councils wished to undertake the work if the House desired to place it on their shoulders; but there was no indication of that in the case of the London County Council. The charge that the Amendment had only been proposed for the purposes of delay ought not to have been made. So far from that, it had been put forward for the most excellent possible reasons. The hon. Member for St. Pancras had compared the extinction of London vestries with that of the London School Board; but the hon. Gentleman's ideas must be very vague indeed if he did not see the very different character of the two bodies. He was not intimately acquainted with the cause of the very small poll at the last School Board Election, but he knew that that argument had been answered over and over again to good purpose. At any rate, the sole advantage of these education discussions had been to awaken and very largely to increase, interest throughout the community in educational matters, and, therefore, there was likely to be a very much larger poll on the question whether the School Board should be kept in existence; and in that way the real opinion of the rate-

payers of London would be obtained. He warmly supported the Amendment.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea District) said that the hon. Member for St. Pancras had obviously misconstrued the Amendment. He had endeavoured to suggest to the Committee that the Amendment was to be read as though it applied to the present School Board and the present London County Council. He overlooked the fact that the School Board and the London County Council were corporate bodies, and the effect of the Amendment was to make it a condition to the operation of the Act, that the School Board and the London County Council should pass Resolutions in its favour. The practical effect of this would be that when the next School Board Election took place in London, the question voted upon would be whether this was the kind of educational scheme that was best suited to the requirements of the Metropolis. And that would take place early as next November. Another practical effect would be that at the next County Council Election, in March 1904, the question voted upon would be whether that body, having regard to the large amount of work already thrust upon it, could undertake that work, and at the same time discharge all the duties of the School Board. Was it an unreasonable thing for him, as a London ratepayer, to ask the Committee to pause before making this enormous change, until the ratepayers, not simply as persons electing Members to this House, but as ratepayers, had expressed their opinion finally in regard to this matter? He submitted that the demand made by the Amendment was entirely reasonable. He would advance another point. They had now had in Wales some experience of the attitude of the County Councils towards this alteration in their educational system. It would be in the recollection of many Members of the Committee that when the Education Act of last year was passing through the House, many of the Welsh County Councils objected to administer the Act, not on the ground of any religious scruples, but on the ground that, having regard to their other work, they should not have imposed upon them another inconsistent set of duties. It would have

been better, he thought, if, before the Government attempted to make this change in London they had waited to see how the County Councils of England and Wales had managed to administer the Act of last $\frac{1}{2}$ year.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that the hon. Gentleman's argument did not really apply to the Amendment before the Committee.

*MR. BRYNMOR JONES said that, with great deference, he thought it did. He was not referring to what the County Councils were doing, although at first they were not inclined to administer the Act at all. He was only arguing that it would be better to delay any changes in the practical educational system of London until they knew what was the true construction of the Act of 1902 in actual working, and that could only be ascertained by watching what the County Councils were doing, and how the Courts construed the different sections of the Act. The Amendment, instead of being dismissed in a few perfunctory sentences by the Secretary to the Board of Education, was a suggestion well worthy of the consideration of the Committee.

MR. BURDETT-GOUTTS (Westminster) said the Amendment introduced a very large and quite a new principle into the constitutional practice of the House. It struck at the ordinary theory of legislation, namely, that the initiative of legislation lay with the Government, and the responsibility first with the House of Commons. It was not the first time that the supremacy of this House over these subordinate bodies had been contested. He wished to point out that the result of this Amendment would be really to ask the London County Council and London School Board to draw up an Education Bill for London. The hon. Gentleman who had just spoken said the object of the Amendment was to enable those bodies to give their opinion as to whether this was or was not the sort of Bill they wanted for London. The result of that, of course, would be, as they all knew, owing to the constitution

of those two bodies, to defeat the Bill. It was a Government Bill, and the two bodies were permeated by the political colour of hon. Gentlemen opposite. Therefore, the result would be certain. But was it the part of a Government elected by the majority of the suffrages of this country to submit itself to any subordinate elected body? What would be the practical result in this case? This Bill, for the reasons he had stated, would be rejected, and they would be asked to express their opinion on some other Bill than the Government Bill. Who was going to draw that Bill? Was the hon. Member for West Islington going to draw up an Education Bill for London? He did not understand the practical nature of the hon. Gentleman's proposal. The Amendment introduced a principle which was altogether against the theory and practice of their legislation, and he hoped the Committee would reject it.

MR. WHITLEY said he wished to thank the hon. Gentleman for stating that if the ratepayers, acting through the London County Council and the London School Board, were allowed to express an opinion on this Bill they would not have it at any price. [Mr. BURDETT-COUTTS assented.] He was glad the hon. Gentleman assented to that. Therefore, it was necessary for the Government, by their temporary majority, to get the Bill through as quickly as they could.

MR. BURDETT-COUTTS said that they would not accept the Bill because it was a Government measure.

MR. WHITLEY said that went to show how dissatisfied the ratepayers of London would be if they had an opportunity of expressing an opinion on the Bill. That added greatly to their complaint against the Government for having taken advantage of an adventitious majority on another subject to rush last year's Bill through; and, as his hon. friend explained, they were anxious to complete the edifice by means of the same adventitious majority. But the hon. Gentleman admitted that the citizens of London, acting through the London County Council and the

London School Board, would not pass the Resolutions suggested in the Amendment.

MR. BURDETT-COUTTS said the hon. Gentleman did not state his argument correctly. He said that if it were left to the present London County Council and the present London School Board they would not accept the Bill.

MR. WHITLEY said the present London County Council and the present London School Board were in the same position as the present Parliament. They were not elected to give an opinion on this Bill; and what the Amendment proposed was that they should be put in that position through the elections which were imminent, and that the ratepayers of London should be allowed an opportunity of expressing an opinion on this question. But the Government would not have trust in the people at any price; and it was perfectly clear that their object was to use the power they possessed against a small minority in the House before there was any chance of an appeal to the people, either local or national. He was glad the hon. Gentleman had put the matter so clearly; and they certainly would vote for the Amendment which proposed that the people should be left to judge for themselves. In last year's Bill power was given to local authorities to express their opinion; and it was only by closure of a rather peculiar kind that that provision was struck out. They now asked that the great City of London should be given an opportunity of expressing its opinion, especially as the machinery for taking that opinion was at hand. Next November there would be elections for the London School Board, and in March next for the London County Council. If the policy of the Government commended itself to the people, then the Government was perfectly safe; but the rejection of the Amendment would show that the Government were afraid to ask the people of London to give their opinion on the policy of this Bill.

MR. CREMER (Shoreditch, Haggerston) said that when the Bill was in its Second Reading stage, it was stated, he thought by the Secretary to the Board

of Education, that only eighteen per cent. of the ratepayers of London went to the poll two years ago when the London School Board was elected. The bottom was knocked out of that argument over and over again; but, notwithstanding that, the hon. Member for St. Pancras thought it right to repeat that assertion, because, he supposed, the hon. Gentleman was not in the House when the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education was so effectively answered. It was evident, therefore, that they should continue to repeat the answer which had been given to that assertion.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Has this anything to do with the Amendment? I do not see the relevancy of the hon. Gentleman's argument.

MR. CREMER said that, the assertion having been made, he thought he was perfectly entitled to answer it.

*THE CHAIRMAN: If the argument of the hon. Gentleman is relevant, he is entitled to follow it; but if we were to follow every observation made and contradicted in debate, I do not know that we should ever arrive at the conclusion of any debate at all.

MR. CREMER said that if the assertion were accepted as evidence that there was a great deal of apathy on the part of the ratepayers of London concerning the School Board and its splendid work, then he thought he was perfectly justified, even at the risk of being accused of delay, in asking that another opportunity should be afforded to test the feeling of London with regard to the School Board and its work. As he was not permitted to explain the peculiar circumstances in which that election was fought, he would content himself with saying that they were quite abnormal, and that it was not fair and just to repeat the assertion to which he had referred. If the electors neglected their duty on that occasion, and went "mafficking" instead, he thought they ought to be afforded another opportunity of expressing their opinion. It had been said that the Amendment was proposed for purposes of delay, but, even if that were true, he claimed that he would be

Mr. Whitley.

perfectly justified in attempting to delay the passage of this Bill through the House of Commons. Let him give his reasons.

*THE CHAIRMAN: No question as to any attempt to delay the passage of this Bill through the House of Commons can possibly arise on this Amendment. The Amendment proposes that when the House passes the Bill, it shall be in the power of the London County Council and the London School Board to say they do not want it.

MR. CREMER said it was stated that the object of the Amendment was to delay the passage of the Bill, and, in those circumstances, he thought he was perfectly entitled to reply, and to state that he would have no hesitation in doing everything he could to prevent the passage of the Bill.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I have already pointed out to the hon. Member that the question of delay does not arise. The hon. Member for St. Pancras, in mentioning the word delay, meant that further time should be given to the School Board to consider the position. He did not refer to delay in passing the Bill through the House. The hon. Gentleman must not deal with that question again.

MR. CREMER said he thought they were entitled to ask for further delay. The elections would not be long deferred, and if the Government would allow the London County Council and the London School Board to consult the ratepayers with regard to the proposals in the Bill a clear issue would be raised. If it were sought to rush the Bill through without consulting the ratepayers of London, he would feel himself justified in interposing every obstacle he could to the progress of the Bill through the House of Commons.

*MR. CORRIE GRANT (Warwickshire, Rugby) said the object of his friend

was to obtain for the people of London the right to express their opinion on the legislation of the Government. The proposal of his hon. friend was not an ideal proposal, but it did raise that point. There were many ways in Parliament by which local authorities of all kinds were given an opportunity of pronouncing judgment as to whether an Act was to be brought into operation or not. The hon. Member for Westminster was entirely ignorant, apparently, of the many Local Government Acts in which local authorities were given an opportunity of bringing the Acts into operation by a Resolution. For instance, that was true of many measures dealing with the public health. Though he agreed that the School Board and the County Council should have the right to pass Resolutions to bring this Bill into force, and though he agreed that the Amendment was not an ideal way of dealing with this Bill, when it was said there was no authority for it and that it had never been done before, then he said there were numerous precedents for it under the Public Health Acts. The hon. Member for Westminster also said the initiation of legislation belonged to Ministers, but the constitutional principle of this country was that initiation of legislation belonged to the people. It was from the desire of the people themselves that initiation of legislation should come, and when there had been some definite expression of opinion from the electors of the country or locality that they desired legislation, then, and only then, was it the duty of Ministers to bring proposals before the House. He entered his protest against the suggestion that Ministers with a majority of the House could bring forth despotic proposals for which there was no demand.

Question put.

Committee divided:—Ayes, 109; Noes, 242. (Division List No. 87.)

AYES.

Allan, Sir William (*Gateshead*)
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair

Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbt. Hy.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)

Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Black, Alexander William
Bolton, Thomas Dolling

Brown, Geo. M. (*Edinburgh*)
 Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
 Bryce, Right Hon. James
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Calwell, James
 Cameron, Robert
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Channing, Francis Allison
 Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
 Craig, Robert Hunter (*Lanark*)
 Cremer, William Randal
 Crombie, John William
 Crooks, William
 Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
 Davies, M. Vaughan. (*Cardigan*)
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
 Duncan, J. Hastings
 Edwards, Frank
 Elibank, Master of
 Emmott, Alfred
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert
 Ferguson, R. C. Munro (*Leith*)
 Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*)
 Fuller, J. M. F.
 Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herbert J.
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Grant, Corrie
 Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
 Harmsworth, R. Leicester
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
 Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
 Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk

Hutton, Alfred E. (*Morley*)
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Jones, W. (*Carmarvonshire*)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lambert, George
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Leese, Sir Joseph F. (*Accrington*)
 Leng, Sir John
 Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
 McArthur William (*Cornwall*)
 McKenna, Reginald
 Mansfield, Horace Rendall
 Mappin, Sir Fredk. Thorpe
 Markham, Arthur Basil
 Middlemore, John Throgmorton
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*)
 Morley, Charles (*Breconshire*)
 Morley, Rt. Hon. John (*Montrose*)
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Newnes, Sir George
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Williams
 Partington, Oswald
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pease, J. A. (*Saffron Walden*)
 Perks, Robert William
 Priestley, Arthur
 Rea, Russell
 Reid, Sir R. Thresbie (*Dumfries*)
 Rigg, Richard
 Robert-, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
 Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
 Robertson, Edmund (*Dundee*)

Roe, Sir Thomas
 Rose, Charles Day
 Russell, T. W.
 Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Shipman, Dr. John G.
 Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
 Sloan, Thomas Henry
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Soares, Ernest J.
 Taylor, Theo. C. (*Radcliffe*)
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, A. (*Carmarthen, E.*)
 Thomas, F. Free. an (*Hastings*)
 Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
 Tomkinson, James
 Toulmin, George
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Wallace, Robert
 Walton, Joseph (*Barnsley*)
 Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
 Wason, J. Cathcart (*Orkney*)
 Weir, James Galloway
 White, George (*Norfolk*)
 White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
 Whiteley, G. (*York, W. R.*)
 Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, O. (*Merioneth*)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Mr. Lough and Mr.
 Brynmor-Jones.

NOES.

Abraham, William (*Cork, N. E.*)
 Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
 Allhusen, Aug. Henry Eden
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir H.
 Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
 Bain Colonel, James Robert
 Balcarres, Lord
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (*Man'r*)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (*Leeds*)
 Banbury, Sir Frederick George
 Barry, Sir Fras. T. (*Windsor*)
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.
 Beckett, Ernest William
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Bhowagaree, Sir M. M.
 Bignold, Arthur
 Bigwood, James
 Bill, Charles
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Boland, John
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Bowles, T. G. (*Lynn Regis*)
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brymer, William Ernest
 Burdett-Coutts, W.
 Campbell, J. H. M. (*Dublin Univ*)
 Campbell, John (*Armagh, S.*)
 Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*)
 Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (*Birm*)

Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. A. (*Worc*)
 Chaplin, Right Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Clive, Captain Percy A.
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Cross, H. Shepherd (*Bolton*)
 Crossley, Sir Savile
 Cullinan, J.
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (*Galway*)
 Dickson, Charles Scott
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Jos. C.
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
 Doxford, Sir William Theodore
 Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
 Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Esmonde, Sir Thomas
 Faber, E. B. (*Hants, W.*)
 Faber, George Denison (*York*)
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Ferguson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (*Man'r*)
 Ffrench, Peter
 Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
 Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose

Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Flower, Ernest
 Forster, Henry William
 Fyler, John Arthur
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Garfit, William
 Gibbs, H. A. G. H. (*City of Lond*)
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Gordon, H. J. E. (*Elgin & Nr'n*)
 Gordon, Maj Evans. (*Tr. Hm'ts*)
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
 Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (*West Ham*)
 Greene, Hy. D. (*Shrewsbury*)
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Gunter, Sir Robert
 Hain, Edward
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G. (*Middx*)
 Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashfd*)
 Harris, Frederick Leverton
 Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick G.
 Hay, Hon. Claude George
 Hayden, John Patrick
 Heath James (*Staffords. N. W.*)
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Henderson, Sir Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
 Hickman, Sir Alfred
 Hoare, Sir Samuel
 Hobhouse, Rt. Hon. H. (*Somerset, E*)
 Houlst, Joseph
 Houston, Robert Paterson
 Hutton, John (*Yorks. N. R.*)
 Jebb, Sir Richard Clayhouse

Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
 Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
 Johnstone, Heywood
 Joyce, Michael
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*)
 Keswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Knowles, Lees
 Lambton, Hon. Fredk. Wm.
 Laurie, Lieut.-General
 Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
 Lawrence, Sir Jos. (*Monm'th*)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*)
 Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks. NR*)
 Leamy, Edmund
 Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
 Lockie, John
 Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (*Evesham*)
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S.*)
 Lonsdale, John Brownlee
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*)
 London, W.
 MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
 Maconochie, A. W.
 MacVeagh, Jeremiah
 M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
 M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*)
 Manners, Lord Cecil
 Maple, Sir John Blundell
 Maxwell, Rt. Hn. Sir H. E. (*Wigt'n*)
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Molesworth, Sir Lewis
 More, R. Jasper (*Shropshire*)
 Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
 Morrison, James Archibald
 Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
 Mount, William Arthur
 Mowbray, Sir Robt. Gray C.
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (*Bute*)
 Murray, Chas. J. (*Coventry*)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)

Myers, William Henry
 Newdegate, Francis A. N.
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Nolan, Joseph (*Louth, S.*)
 O'Brien, K. (*Tipperary, Mid*)
 O'Brien, Patrick (*Kilkenny*)
 O'Connor, Jas. (*Wicklow, W.*)
 O'Connor, T. P. (*Liverpool*)
 O'Dowd, John
 O'Malley, William
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 Pease, H. Pike (*Darlington*)
 Peel, Hn. Wm. R. Wellesley
 Pemberton, John S. G.
 Penn, John
 Percy, Earl
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Plummer, Walter R.
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Pretlyman, Ernest George
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Pym, C. Guy
 Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Ratcliff, R. F.
 Rattigan, Sir William Henry
 Redmond, William (*Clare*)
 Reid, James (*Greenock*)
 Remnant, Jas. Farquharson
 Ridley, Hon. M. W. (*Stalybridge*)
 Ridley, S. F. (*Bethnal Green*)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
 Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
 Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
 Seely, Charles Hilton (*Lincoln*)
 Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
 Sharpe, William Edward T.

Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*)
 Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Smith, H. C. (*Northumb. Tyneside*)
 Smith, Jas. Parker (*Lanarks.*)
 Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
 Spear, John Ward
 Spencer, Sir E. (*W. Bromwich*)
 Stanley, Edw. Jas. (*Somerset*)
 Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
 Stewart, Sir Mark J. M. Taggart
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Stroyan, John
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (*Oxf'd Univ.*)
 Taylor, Austin (*East Dorset*)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Webb, Col. William George
 Welby, Lt.-Col. J. A. C. E. (*Taunton*)
 Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (*Notts*)
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. J. Lloyd
 Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Colonel R. (*Dorset*)
 Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
 Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
 Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)
 Wilson-Todd, W. H. (*Yorks.*)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*)
 Wolf, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
 Wrightson, Sir Thomas
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir Alexander Acland-Hood
 and Mr. Anstruther.

DR. MACNAMARA moved the insertion, after the word "shall," in line 6, of the following words—"Except as to the constitution of the local education authority for the administrative County of London." By the insertion of these words the constitution of the local authority for London would be taken out of the clause, and he would subsequently propose to add the following—

"The authority for controlling all grades of publicly-aided education within the administrative County of London shall be constituted as follows—

- "(1) By the direct election, triennially, by the parochial electors of one person for each Parliamentary division, provided that women as well as men shall be eligible for election.
- "(2) By the co-optation by the members so elected of not more than fifteen persons, chosen for their knowledge of the educational needs of the Metropolis."

He objected to the assertion that this principle had been already decided by the Second Reading of the Bill. What the Second Reading decided was that the principle of the Act of 1902, after adaptation, and with certain modifications, should be applied to London. But Clause 27 of that Act stated that it should—

"Not extend to Scotland or Ireland or, except as expressly provided, to London."

The only express provision with regard to London was in reference to the Cockertonised schools. The Act, therefore, did not settle the question of the local authority for London, or any other of the great issues involved. The Amendment raised the question of the *ad hoc* authority, a question which doubtless many Members were tired of hearing him raise. He, however, was

the only member of the London School Board with a seat in the House, and if his authority was to go down he meant to go down with his flag flying. With the general policy of the Government with reference to the local control of education he had no quarrel whatever. In small towns the work of education might be municipalised; the work was of such a nature and extended over so comparatively small an area that a committee of the town council might very well carry it out. But in any large borough, and least of all in London, the local control of education could not be municipalised. What was the result of the endeavour to do this in the great county boroughs? All sorts of outsiders had to be called in, with no responsibility whatever to the ratepayers, and it was they and paid officials, and not the elected representatives of the ratepayers, who did the work. That would be overwhelmingly the case with regard to London. He believed that were it not for the feeling that having destroyed the *ad hoc* principle in the country the Government would suffer a loss of dignity if they allowed it to remain in London, the arguments in favour of a directly-elected authority would be so patent to Members on the other side of the House that, being anxious to have a really good authority, they would agree there was no way out of the difficulty except by constituting a directly-elected body.

The Bill of 1870 in its early stages was a municipal Bill. The *ad hoc* authority was created by an Amendment of the right hon. Baronet the Member for Forest of Dean, and before that Amendment was put to the vote everybody in the House agreed that it was necessary that London, at any rate, should have an *ad hoc* authority. He rested his case for a directly-elected authority for London on the magnitude of the work. If he could only explain what that work really was he believed that all would be convinced that it could not be handed over to any body subordinate to another authority. The School Board comprised fifty-five members, and held weekly meetings; there were seven standing committees and thirty-two sub-committees; the members were

summoned to 706 meetings last year; the Board had charge of 500,000 children, managed 1,500 school departments, and employed 12,000 certificated teachers. In addition, there were the voluntary schools. He had always frankly admitted that they must come under the local authority and receive rate aid under reasonable terms; they could no longer be dependent on voluntary contributions. In voluntary schools there were 1,500 school departments and 220,000 children. Then there was higher education, at present managed by a Committee of thirty-five members of the London County Council, who found it necessary to meet every fortnight. Altogether the work represented 2,000 separate educational institutions, 20,000 public school servants and teachers, 1,000,000 students and pupils, and an expenditure of £4,000,000 public money. That was a piece of work as great in its area as, and far more minute in its details than, the whole of the work of the London County Council. He did not think hon. Members realised that this Bill would double the work of the London County Council. Both financially, humanly, and administratively, the educational work of London was as big as the whole educational work of Scotland, and it was three times as big as that of Wales. It was originally proposed to constitute for London an authority consisting of thirty-six county councillors, thirty-one borough councillors, and thirty outsiders. Now it was proposed that there should be forty-two county councillors, twelve borough councillors, and thirty outsiders. Did any hon. Member believe that the London County Council could spare forty-two men, who would be taken exclusively away from their work as county councillors. It meant that instead of going to Spring Gardens, forty-two county councillors would have to attend at the School Board Offices, and once they put their hands to this educational work they would not be able to do anything else. He himself used to be a pretty regular attendant at the meetings of the London School Board, but since he had been a Member of the House of Commons he was ashamed of the small amount of time he had been able to devote to School Board work.

Dr. Macnamara.

They were taking away from the County Council forty-two members for education, fourteen for the Water Board, and eight under the Port of London Bill. This meant, if they added the representatives of the Council on the Thames and Lea Conservancy Boards, that they were taking away seventy-eight out of 120 elected members of the London County Council. They were simply spoiling the London County Council.

If the Government meant to municipalise, why did they not create enough county councillors for the purpose? The only thing they would do by this scheme would be to destroy the London County Council. Last year the County Council called over 1,300 meetings, and its Committees, Sub-committees and Special Committees numbered sixty-eight. What would happen under this scheme? The forty-two members taken away by this Bill would not be able to deal with educational work. The twelve borough councillors would, but they were not very capable administrators and the net result would be that the work would fall into the hands of twelve borough councillors and thirty outsiders. Who would be the outsiders? They would be doctrinaires and very likely he might be one of them, for he had been named as one of the five from the School Board who might be brought in. Could they leave this work to thirty doctrinaires? Would he himself be a good administrator? He would want to be toned down by the common sense of those persons who were not experts. Under this scheme the forty-two men of business would not be able to be there, and the whole thing would be in the hands of thirty multiplications of himself. If the *ad hoc* authority would be extravagant what would happen in the hands of thirty specialists who had lost all sense of proportion and all idea of public needs. This meant the control of education in London by thirty experts. When the London County Council had none of the extra work which recent Acts of Parliament had imposed upon it, they were told by Members of the Government that the County Council had too much work. He remembered Lord Salisbury stating that the London County Council was suffering from megalomania and

had too much work to do. The Duke of Devonshire also said that the County Council had too much to do, and the Colonial Secretary went so far as to say that if the county councillors were archangels from Heaven they could not do the work. His scheme was a perfectly simple one. He took the fifty-nine Parliamentary areas in London, and from each he proposed that one member should be elected directly and exclusively for educational purposes. If this made too many elections they might have them on the same day, a system which worked very admirably in America. They would then get fifty-nine persons directly elected who would be responsible to the ratepayers. This proposal was quite consistent with last year's Act, which excluded Ireland and Scotland and which enabled the School Board of London to continue for one year longer. The Government had formed a Bill for Scotland, and when they brought that measure forward what would they say? Would they say "We have destroyed the *ad hoc* authority for England and Wales therefore we must destroy it for Scotland." Lord Balfour of Burleigh would give the Government a lot of trouble if they did that. He objected to having this question defeated by a side issue. The terms of last year's Bill did not necessitate the application of the same principle, because the unique case of London made it undesirable that that principle should be applied to the Metropolis. He believed he had the great bulk of the people of London behind him in regard to maintaining an *ad hoc* authority for London. (MINISTERIAL cries of "No, No.") The Borough Councils, representing half the population of London, had declared in favour of an *ad hoc* authority.

MR. REMNANT (Finsbury, Holborn): No, No.

DR. MACNAMARA said that amongst metropolitan boroughs that had passed resolutions in favour of the *ad hoc* authority were Battersea, Bethnal Green, Camberwell, Finsbury, and Wandsworth.

MR. KIMBER (Wandsworth): That resolution has been cancelled by Wandsworth, and they have passed another resolution in favour of the Bill.

MR. REMNANT: And I am sure that Finsbury is dead against an *ad hoc* authority.

DR. MACNAMARA said there was also Woolwich. The population within the areas of these Borough Councils amounted to 2,100,000. He thought he was entitled to say that the Borough Councils, representing half of the population of London, were in favour of an *ad hoc* authority. The great bulk of the people were in favour of an *ad hoc* authority. He was sorry that the Government had not proposed it, but it was not too late to do so now. However apathetic Londoners might be, and they were apathetic, he was sure that the Bill could not come into operation. Next November, when the School Board election had taken place, and next March, when the County Council Election had taken place, the Government would hear definitely what London believed, and that was that there should be a directly-elected authority for education. He asked the Committee not to shut this question up, but by adopting the Amendment to allow an opportunity at a later stage for discussing the precise form of the authority. He hoped that, if left a few hours longer to consider the matter, the Government would find it expedient and wise to go back to the *ad hoc* authority he had always advocated. He begged to move—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 6, after the word 'shall,' to insert the words 'except as to the constitution of the local education authority for the administrative county of London.'"—(Dr. Macnamara.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON expressed the hope that they were now discussing the *ad hoc* authority for the last time. He wanted to take exception to the statement of the hon. Member for Camberwell that they had discussed the *ad hoc* authority in connection with this measure as a side issue. Nothing could be more explicit than the issue as stated on the Second Reading of the Bill by the Prime Minister. He had not the right hon. Gentleman's words before him, but

he was confident that he said that there were two principles in this Bill, namely, to establish the London County Council as the education authority for London, and to provide for decentralisation, to be developed by means of the Borough Councils. The right hon. Gentleman gave various reasons against an *ad hoc* authority, and upon that issue the Second Reading of the Bill was decided. There was no reason why a directly-elected authority for educational purposes only should be more popular than a directly-elected authority which comprised the administration of education among its functions. It was that sort of authority which this Bill proposed to constitute. The real question was why should education, of all municipal duties, be dealt with by a special authority; Why should it not take its place by the side of other municipal duties? The fact that education had hitherto been dealt with by a specially elected authority was the result of an historical accident. The Government neglected education for many years, and afterwards they began slowly to subsidise voluntary effort. As the subsidies grew the Government control grew stronger. At length it became apparent that voluntary effort assisted by Government subsidies was not enough, and the School Boards were introduced to supplement, but not to supersede, voluntary effort. When the Education Bill of 1870 was first introduced, however, no School Board for London was proposed, but a number of School Boards were contemplated scattered all over the London parishes. From these beginnings developed the notion that it was necessary to have a directly-elected authority for education. The growth of the Boards—of these separate little corporations with their own constituencies—had made it impossible to arrange a scheme of education by which all forms of education should be brought together. He thought the hon. Member for Camberwell would go so far as to admit that it was nothing but the amount of work to be thrown upon the municipality which disinclined him to entrust to the London County Council the work of the School Board. With regard to the question of popularising educational control, he wished to point

out that as the Bill now stood the London County Council had a most indisputable control over its own Committee. Then he came to the argument as to the undesirability of an *ad hoc* authority, not as a general proposition, but in this particular case. It was undoubtedly a fault of local authorities to appoint unnecessarily large committees, and he thought that by economy in this matter the London County Council might spare as many men as were required for educational purposes. Moreover, without any interference with the general control which the central authority would exercise over elementary education throughout London, the local authority would be relieved of an immense burden of administration under this Bill. There was no difference of opinion between him and the hon. Member as to the merits of municipalisation; the question at issue was merely one of the amount of work to be thrown upon the County Council. He asked the Committee to reaffirm the decision at which it had definitely arrived on the Second Reading, and to say that it would not set up an *ad hoc* authority for London.

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY (Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey) said he did not for one moment pretend that he possessed expert knowledge on educational matters, but this was an Amendment which did not deal with the educational side of the question.

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress.

To sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

LONDON EDUCATION BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 1 :—

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 6, after the word ‘shall,’ to insert the words ‘except as to the constitution of the local education authority for the administrative county of London.’—(Dr. Macnamara.)

Question again proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY said the Amendment of his hon. friend the Member for Camberwell could not be regarded as an educational Amendment pure and simple. It was not one which experts and specialists in educational affairs alone were competent to deal with. It was a matter more of municipal government, and an Amendment on which it might be as well to have the consideration and opinions of those who spent their time in municipal affairs and civic work. He had spent seventeen of the best years of his life as a member of a town council, and, in his opinion, it was attempting an impossibility to ask the County Council to take upon its shoulders—to superadd to its already multifarious duties—the work of the education of the Metropolis. He would be the last to depreciate the ability, energy, and zeal of the County Council. He had the fullest appreciation and recognition of the manner in which they had conducted the affairs of this great city, and, in his opinion, if this House were to mould its debates and manage its affairs on the methods of the great municipal corporations of this country, the harvest of its labours would be greatly increased. The hon. Member for Camberwell was not asking the House to take a retrograde step in voting for this Amendment, nor was he asking any Member of the House to stultify himself in supporting it, and if he thought for one moment that there was any inconsistency in it he should be the last to support it. There was no analogy whatever between the London County Council and the other County Councils in the country. They were not upon the same plane, and what might be appropriate and seemly for one might easily be inappropriate and unseemly for the other. The Bill was seeking to create an educational machine for London, and yet at the outset, in its initial stages, almost before they were dealing with the main phases of the Bill, they were clogging the wheels of the

machine by imposing upon the County Council—an already overburdened body—work which they could not possibly do.

The House could not have appreciated the size and importance of the work now done by the School Board. It had to supervise the work of 5,360 schools. It had to deal with the appointment and dismissal of 13,519 teachers. It had ten special schools for the blind, eighteen for the deaf, sixteen for the mentally defective, four for the physically defective, two industrial, three day industrial, three truant schools, and twelve assistant teacher centres. If the House considered the colossal array of duties to be performed in connection with that work, it would become evident at the outset that any Committee of the London County Council could not for a moment deal with this complex and manifold work. There was one great central office on the Embankment, and eleven sub-district offices. There was a staff 560, visitors and superintendent visitors 460, school keepers 464; correspondent, artisans, etc., 250. This was the work of the London School Board, and this was the first work which any Committee of the London County Council would have to take over. They might as well put upon a Committee of the London County Council the management of the six new Army Corps which had been hatched by the present Secretary of State for War. They were asking the London County Council to achieve an impossibility. If a man had as many sets of brains or centres of mental and physical activity as a camel is said to have stomachs, it might be possible to achieve this, but until men were so constituted it would be nonsense to attempt it. One of two results were bound to ensue—either the municipal work of the Council would be neglected, or the educational work of the Council would be neglected. It was absolutely impossible for a man to give his attention to both sets of duties. Every authoritative opinion on record was against it. Lord Salisbury and the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and other persons of eminence, were all agreed that the County Council had now too much to do; that it could not now carry out its present duties,

and therefore it was perfectly ludicrous to impose these new duties upon it.

The scheme of dual representation was ludicrous and farcical. Take the case of the metropolitan borough of Battersea, for instance. Battersea sent a man to the London County Council who rejoiced in the name of Burns. Mr. Burns might be elected to serve upon this Education Committee. The borough of Battersea might, in addition, send a direct representative to the Educational Committee, and these two representatives of Battersea might be absolutely opposed in their opinions, and bicker, and quarrel, and vote against each other on every conceivable opportunity, which would entirely nullify the representation of the borough. The practical solution of this matter was to create the special authority suggested by the hon. Member for Camberwell. The hon. Baronet in charge of the Bill had asked why an *ad hoc* authority should be more popular in its character than this proposed Committee. No one had argued that it was, all they said was that a body such as was suggested by his hon. friend would devote all its time, zeal, and power to this gigantic task of managing the educational work of London. Education was a matter of such great importance to the County of London that it could not possibly be left to men who were elected for other purposes, who would only devote the dregs of their time to it. He urged upon the Committee that from a municipal standpoint they were attempting to set up an Education Committee which could not perform its duties because the members of it would be physically incapable of carrying on all the multifarious and momentous duties for which they were elected.

MR HARRY SAMUEL (Tower Hamlets, Limehouse) said the change of attitude on the part of the hon. Gentlemen opposite was extremely peculiar. It was not so many months ago since they had fought and died in the last ditch, as it were, in trying to give the whole control of Water London to the London County Council. It was true that was municipal work, but that did not touch his argument that if they were overworked they had no right to have the whole of the business of

Mr. George Whiteley.

Water London in their hands. The analogy of the Borough of Battersea returning one member to the County Council and another member of opposite opinions directly to the Educational Committee had its counterpart in this House. Nothing was so common as a double-barrelled constituency which returned one Member to the Unionists and another to the Liberal side of the House. There was nothing strange in it with regard to the advisability or inadvisability of having an *ad hoc* authority; in his opinion they had arrived at a deadlock. They had the London School Board entering into the most wasteful competition with other bodies. They competed first of all with the voluntary schools, inasmuch as Board Schools were being dumped down all over the place every month in the year. The *ad hoc* authority was in competition with the London County Council technical schools and the polytechnic schools, and also with what might be called the monotechic schools established by the City Guilds. The establishment of a central authority for London was to do away with the overlapping and the extravagant waste of money that was the root of the Government Bill. The argument of the hon. Member for Camberwell in support of his Amendment was that the County Council and the Borough Councils would be in conflict, and the result would be that education would be handed over to the expert, which said the hon. Member, God forbid. That argument was the very strongest argument that could be used against his Amendment, because the *ad hoc* authority meant the election of experts upon a particular subject; and to hand over education to such a body as the hon. Member proposed, would be to hand it over to experts, a thing which he did not wish to see. So far as he could see, the results obtained by the School Boards were not such that they should ask the House to continue the *ad hoc* authority. The great difficulty in the way of education was the slack attendance and the early age at which the children left school, and that certainly was not an argument in favour of the continuance of the *ad hoc* principle, which had obtained only an attendance

of 80 per cent. He was deeply impressed with the necessity of such a scheme as the Government had suggested.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston) said he had always regarded with pride the results obtained under the system of education now to be swept away. The results of that system were remarkably encouraging, and although some thought money had been spent somewhat too lavishly and unwisely, it was in connection with the education of the children, and if there was one thing which had caused any check to our trade it was that we had not spent enough on education or that we had not spent it in a proper way. He regarded the Government's scheme with great apprehension. He thought it was likely to be disastrous to this great city as regarded education. His joy at having a body which would have under its control education in all its grades, was shattered when he thought of the absolute inefficiency of the body that it was proposed to set up. He could not conceive a body more incapable than the body suggested by the Government. The proposal to add selected members to the body was an admission that the body itself was inefficient. These members would not be directly responsible to any constituency, and he believed no man should be placed in a position to spend public money unless he was directly responsible to the people who provided the money. He did not like co-option or selection, on these bodies because it gave to all engaged in a position of public trust less of that great sense of responsibility and interest which was the great element of public work. He was afraid that the scheme proposed by the Government would not produce the most efficient body for carrying on education in the Metropolis. In the old days, before the Act of 1870 was passed, he remembered that Mr. John Bright said that what was wanted was a school in every parish and district managed directly by people chosen by the parents of the children, and in such a way that while they provided the money they would have the full control of the schools. Well, this scheme would not give them that. The recent Act, which had been applied to the whole of

England, had destroyed that ideal for a long time at least. The proposal of the hon. Member for Camberwell made some approach to the ideal, for it suggested that there should be a really popular and efficient body directly elected by, and responsible to, the ratepayers of the whole area; that was having the vivifying virtue of direct responsibility to the people who found the money. That was a prime and necessary element in the constitution of any good and efficient body for the administration and control of popular education. Then, that body would be practically efficient because it would have no other work to do except that for which it was directly elected. By dividing itself into Committees and calling in to its assistance managers, the scheme of education could be worked efficiently in every respect.

Under the scheme of the Government they should not have a body directly elected to discharge this enormous responsibility of the education of the whole of London, but a body which had associated with it two other elements more or less heterogeneous in character. The tendency would be for the work to fall more and more on those members of the body who were selected, and less and less on those who were elected. The consequence would be that the non-elected and non-responsible members would have a larger share than they ought to have of the work. Another reason why he disliked the Government system was, that in an overburdened body like the London County Council, with a small infusion from the outside, the work would be thrown to a large extent on the irresponsible officials. In every body in this kingdom, where the private time of the Members was encroached upon by the increased responsibilities thrown upon them, the tendency was to shift more and more of the work on the paid officials, and the consequence was that they had administration by paid officials instead of the good old wholesome system of administration by elected representatives. The tendency of that was to introduce a narrow uniformity which ought not to mark any good scheme of education. He believed that that danger would be obviated by the scheme of the hon. Member for Camberwell. What surprised him more than anything else, was that this enormous responsibility for the

education of this wide area of the Metropolis was to be given to the London County Council, even with the addition suggested to the Education Committee. If he mistook not, this Government had shown more than once a desire to limit the functions of the municipalities. It had refused to London the power of looking after its water supply. Surely a body who could not be trusted with the water supply was not a body to which to entrust the duty of the education of the children—a duty much more sacred and which called for a much greater expenditure of individual labour. In addition to that, the tendency of His Majesty's Government had been, by the appointment of Committees and by remarks made from time to time in the House, to try and check municipal trading on the ground that municipalities were not to be trusted with the expenditure of their own ratepayers' money in connection with tramways, electric lighting, water supply, and other developments of modern municipal life. But these things were a mere trifle compared with the terrible burden and sacred duty which it was now proposed to place on the shoulders of the London County Council in connection with the education of the children. The scheme of the Government would be found to be inefficient, it would lead to the diminution in the excellence of the education of the children; it was bound to produce bad administration, and consequently to bring about public discontent.

MR. KIMBER (Wandsworth) said he thought that a *prima facie* case for the Motion of the hon. Member for Camberwell had been proved. The hon. Gentleman's figures, at all events, could not be controverted. In fact, he believed that neither the House nor London itself realised the largeness of the task which had been undertaken. Here were 1,000,000 children to be educated in a locality forty miles in circumference; an army of educated teachers, 20,000 strong; the revenue of a State—£100,000, to be raised and expended every week; the daily toil of mind and body upon the superintending authority, to say nothing of the executive duty which must be committed to the much larger body of managers than could be compassed within the supreme

Sir Walter Foster.

assemblage if they considered for a moment all these facts there was, as he had said, a good *prima facie* case made out for the Motion of the hon. Member for Camberwell. The Parliamentary Secretary had answered this case first by saying that the *ad hoc* principle had been discussed and, to a certain extent, decided at the Second Reading. No doubt it was discussed at great length on the Second Reading. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education also said that *ad hoc* assemblies were always extravagant; and, judging from the past, in London they might be admitted to be so. Another objection to an *ad hoc* body made by the Parliamentary Secretary was the multiplicity of elections. That, no doubt, was a strong objection; but the question was, whether these and other objections urged at the Second Reading were sufficiently valid to overcome the arguments put forward in favour of a directly-appointed body of men by the ratepayers to whom the body ought to be responsible? He was not afraid of the *ad hoc* principle at all; he was not afraid of the extravagance because he believed the remedies would be equal to the disease. Another objection, or rather what he might call a mitigation of judgment in regard to the *ad hoc* principle advanced by the Parliamentary Secretary, was that we had in London already municipal machinery on the very large scale adapted to the municipalisation of almost everything. He thought that there was very great weight in that, although it was also true that the water supply had been committed to the hands of a separate Board. It seemed to be admitted on all hands that education formed a fair subject for municipalisation. He did not quite like the range of the thing himself, still he did not see any reason why, if municipal bodies could be entrusted with the sanitary part of domestic life, they should not be entrusted with the education of the young mind. Therefore, he accepted the principle. The Borough Councils and the London County Council furnished machinery capable of carrying out the educational duties of the Metropolis in a very admirable manner.

When the Bill was first brought in there were some men of sound judgment who did not relish at all the idea

of committing the care of the education of 1,000,000 children to an overworked body like the London County Council. The Government themselves had admitted, when the Water Bill was being discussed, and on a subsequent occasion, that the London County Council was an overworked body with ever increasing duties. He could not help feeling the force of the observation of the hon. Member for Camberwell that forty-two Members were to be taken—because it was always the willing horses that were drawn upon—from the body which could not reach the accomplishment of the work already on their hands. He and his constituents consoled themselves, when they saw from the Bill that the London County Council would be the education authority, with the fact that that was a very dignified body and was entitled to every respect for the admittedly good work which it had done in many directions. Therefore, he willingly bowed to the adoption of the London County Council as the education authority, because the other parts of the machinery, which he considered to be ten times more important, and which reached from end to end of the constituencies of London, were to be committed to the Borough Councils, who were in daily touch with the children, who knew them, and the places where they lived. He had had upwards of fifty years acquaintance with the City and all its doings, but he could not claim to thoroughly know London. But here they had twenty-nine bodies, composed of members who came from the uttermost parts of this great city, that would form a force large enough to deal with the education problems and would give the assistance which the London County Council, as the supervising body, would need. If there was one thing in arranging this great measure for London which ought to be kept supreme in all minds, it was that whoever composed the superintending council, the executive council, or the managing councils, they should be men not only of ability, but who had the time to afford to see that this business was done properly. A mess might be easily made, and they should beware lest in attempting to grapple with some minor points they made a bad piece of machinery.

He thought that the Borough Councils should have a large share in the executive work, but why should they have lost that link which the Bill as brought in gave them—only one voice to represent 200,000 ratepayers in the counsels of the supreme body when their affairs were being discussed? He passed over the fact that the Government proposed to increase the number of the superintending authority on the Committee from thirty-six to forty-two. He gave way to that, because he had strong confidence that whether the London County Council were in a majority or in a minority on the supervising body, their action would be the same. They would be, as it were, the referendum body for the education authority, and at all events all the proceedings would be carried on in the light of day, subject to the public opinion and a certain amount of corrective action from this great Metropolis. But when he found on the Paper an Amendment that this small shred of what was called the representation of the boroughs on the Education Committee, was reduced from one solitary individual to a third of an individual, he failed to see how there could be representation in any reasonable sense. How could the third of a man represent most conflicting districts with conflicting views? He did not know whether the man who was to represent Wandsworth and Battersea, and the former included the Parliamentary Division of Clapham, was to represent Wandsworth with his head, and Battersea with his legs! How was he to report to the superintending body the opinion of the two Councils without possibly being a member of either, and how could he take back the views of the superintending body to the Councils? The great American impresario, Barnum, once quarrelled with his partner as to their property in an elephant, and Barnum solved the difficulty by loading a rifle and declaring that he was going to shoot his half of the elephant. That was a symbol of what might happen in the proposed amended representation of the grouped boroughs! Could anything be more grotesque than to attach the name of representation at all to such a thing—to allow to the third or to the half of a man the representation of a constituency of 250,000

Mr. Kimber.

inhabitants. And yet that was to be the link between the supreme body and the executive management. He agreed with his constituents that rather than submit to such an affront they would prefer to have no representation. He told the Government distinctly that if this was to be the representation as between Borough and County Councils they had better leave it out. They would drive the constituencies of London back to the *ad hoc* principle. Unless the executive power of the Borough Councils was strengthened there would be dissatisfaction and revolt in the constituencies.

MR. CROOKS (Woolwich) would not say the County Council could not do the work; they would do it, and perhaps efficiently, but perhaps also at the expense of some other very important work. The work of education was sufficient for any body of men, and the industrial classes claimed that if an authority was to be constituted for the purpose they should have a voice in the constitution. This Government seemed to have delegation on the brain. Anything that wanted doing was to be handed over to somebody else. But if there was one thing more than another that hon. Members opposite were given to boast about it was that they refused to be delegates, but were willing to be sent there as representatives of the people. If they believed in that principle, why not give London an education authority to which the people might send their representatives and not have someone co-opted here and there? The people of London were perfectly satisfied that the School Board for London was going on very safe lines. The outside public were beginning to look with suspicion upon this new-fangled notion of delegating work to other people. The people looked upon this system of delegation with suspicion, because they knew that if they wanted to get "equal opportunity" for all the children this was not the way to get it. People were frequently told that they should be content with the positions in life to which the Lord had called them, but he did not believe in that. His belief was that any position belonged to the workman and his family that God had given them capacity to fill. He would not secure fair opportunities through an authority over which he

had no control. The hon. Member opposite had spoken about the borough councillors knowing every part of their own locality. Surely it was not unreasonable to suppose that if they adopted the Amendment of the Member for North Camberwell the constituency would select someone who knew the needs of that particular district. There were many people on the Borough Councils who were actually teachers. Were they going to turn them off? Were such councillors to take part in fixing the wage of the teachers? Hon. Members knew that they would not tolerate such a state of things. There would be a delightful mix-up as to who was to come in to make up this new authority. Woolwich would not get even a third of a representative in spite of the fact that it polled the largest number of votes of any constituency in the Metropolis. They were arguing in favour of a continuity of authority, but Woolwich was only going to have a quarter of a representative. How were Deptford, Greenwich, Lewisham and Woolwich going to select their representative? Would they have to go round the corner and toss for it? How were they going to settle it? They wanted a directly elected authority. He wished parents to realise that the greatness of this country lay mainly with the workpeople, who must get the best education possible. To secure this they must get a grip of the authority who were going to do the work, and so create the sense of responsibility. He appealed to the Government to give them the best possible education for London by providing an authority which would win the confidence of the vast majority of the people of London. This could only be done by establishing an authority directly created by the people themselves.

MR. MIDDLEMORE (Birmingham, N.) said it was time for those sitting on the Ministerial side of the House who were dissatisfied with the proposals of the Government respecting the creation of the new education authority definitely to declare their opinions. He had abstained from voting against the Second Reading of the Bill, like other supporters of the Government, in the hope that a radical modification would be made in the pro-

posal with respect to the new education authority when it was reached in Committee. The original proposal had been withdrawn. He had had no very great objection to it, because it was so grotesque that it could not possibly have been administered. Under the new proposal of the Government they were asked to double the work of the County Council, and they were asked to sanction the appointment of forty-two of its members to attend to the new educational duties of the County Council. In his opinion, the County Council, with all the duties that at present fell to their lot, could not discharge this impossible task. If that were so they were creating an authority which would not be able to control its own Committee, and it would not be able to exercise any control over the Borough Councils at all. The Government proposed to give to this so-called authority a bare majority on its executive committee. There were to be twelve representatives of the Borough Councils, and they were going to confer upon them the most vital of all the educational duties, namely, the appointment and dismissal of teachers and the selection of sites. Did they call that an authority? They would be but a phantom authority; or, rather, they would be simply the paymasters. They would have no more authority than the Paymaster General of the Forces had of the real control of the Army.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: Rubbish.

MR. MIDDLEMORE said it was not rubbish. It was what he honestly believed; and what he had the courage to say. (Opposition Cheers and Cries of "Withdraw.") The right hon. Gentleman was very fond of interrupting. He was nothing if not technical. The right hon. Gentleman seemed to grope his way along the technicalities and husks of life like a snail without his horns. The right hon. Gentleman invariably spoke as if he were one of the deities—as if he were omniscient; but he was only a poor ignorant child of time to whom it was enough to do to follow his own nose. The description he had given of the relations between the County Council and the Education Committee was substantiated by experience. The great provincial municipalities were able to

exercise but little control over the committees which spent their money. Take the gas committee. Upon a gas committee it was necessary to attend its meetings with the most unbroken vigilance, and if a Member was absent from a single meeting he often found considerable difficulty in picking up what he had lost. But the safeguard of the municipality was that they appointed the whole of the committee; and, having appointed it, they trusted it. If that were true of the new education authority he should have very little objection to it. The Government had begun entirely at the wrong end. They started with the management committee, went on to the Borough Councils, and then on to the County Council. The Government ought to have begun, in his opinion, at the other end, and made the County Council the real and genuine authority, the fount of authority. Let that authority depute and depute, delegate and delegate, until at last they got down to the management committee. There would then be solidarity and conformity; and the best opinion of the country was in favour of that, as well as the common sense of every business man. He did not know how they could fix responsibility on these various authorities. The County Council would not be the authority—it would be nothing better than the paymaster; the Education Committee would not be responsible—they were not in touch with the boroughs; and certainly the boroughs would not be responsible for London as a whole. He thought the authority was badly constructed, that it began at the wrong end, and that it would be wasteful, heterogeneous, and ineffective.

*MR. YOXALL (Nottinghamshire, W.) said he thought the Committee would now be able to understand why the Government was reluctant to postpone the discussion of Clause 1, for directly they got to close quarters with Clause 2 it became patent to the Committee that this was an impossible Bill. Upon its first introduction it was condemned, on the Second Reading it was thrown overboard by its own friends, and since then the hon. Baronet and the President of the Local Government Board had been engaged with the London Unionist Members in botching and

tinkering it day by day; and at last they had produced a set of proposals which satisfied nobody, and which were repudiated and condemned by all people outside who knew anything of the education question, as well as by sections of the Government's own friends—by those who were in favour of the London County Council being the authority as well as by those who favoured the Borough Councils being the authority. He ventured most respectfully to commiserate the hon. Baronet and the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Local Government Board who sat blushing beside him, on the searching fire of criticism to which they had been subjected by the hon. Member for Wandsworth and on their exposure to the double-shotted guns of the hon. Member for North Birmingham, two of their own friends—one of whom spoke from long experience of London municipal life, in which he was thoroughly versed, and the other of whom possessed equal experience in the municipal life of a great provincial city which had been held up as a model municipality—he meant the city of Birmingham. All seemed to be agreed that this was an impossible Bill, which would not work. Had the Government approached the question with a desire to introduce a satisfactory educational measure they would never have brought in a Bill of that nature. Had they set aside their political predilections and objections to existing authorities all that botching and tinkering might have been avoided, and they would have had a Bill setting up a specially elected authority.

He was in favour of the municipal principle in dealing with education; but when he was asked to apply it to the Metropolis, with its 20,000 teachers and 1,000,000 scholars, with the revenue of a principality or a small kingdom—when he was asked to entrust that enormous task to forty-two members of the London County Council, already overburdened with work, and to add to them twelve members from the Borough Councils selected by a process which carried absurdity to the point of perfect bathos and ridicule, he felt it to be impossible in the case of London, and he prophesied that sooner or later the Government would be compelled to fall back on the *ad hoc* principle.

Mr. Middlemore.

In his opinion a specially elected authority for that purpose, and for no other purpose, was the only possible authority to do the work. Why had not the Government adopted that idea, which afforded the only practical solution of the difficulty? Simply because they were opposed to the idea of a School Board, or of a specially elected authority. They were opposed to the London County Council as the sole supreme and undivided authority; they did not like either the London County Council or the School Board. But this was not a matter to be played on by political prejudices or ancient hatreds, by a dislike of their own child in the case of the London County Council, or of the School Board which was the child of Liberal parents. He would remind the House that in 1870 the Liberal Government tried to introduce for London the principle of devolving education upon the then existing vestries, but as the debates went on it became obvious that the only way to deal with London education was by an authority specially elected for the purpose. And that conclusion was arrived at, not after a debate which had been rushed or stifled, but after leisurely, careful and full discussions. He believed that if the Government would give equal opportunity for full debate on the present occasion the Committee would be irresistibly forced to a like conclusion. He had listened with great interest to the able speech of the hon. and learned Member for Wandsworth, who had told them that rather than have the preposterous proposal of borough councillors elected by thirds and halves he would prefer the *ad hoc* proposal. He believed many of the hon. Gentleman's colleagues coincided with that view. It was clear that this Bill was a huge mistake, and although it had been botched and tinkered, revised and re-revised, it would never satisfy the House, and although it might be carried by force it must eventually result in failure.

SIR JOHN GORST (Cambridge University) said that the question whether education should be entrusted to a specially elected authority, or to the ordinary municipal authority which

represented the people, was discussed at great length last year. On several occasions he gave his reasons for preferring the municipal authority to the specially elected body—not because he had any strong prejudices against School Boards or directly elected authorities, but because he thought that they would never have proper local self-government until there was one body alone able to rate the people, and be responsible to the people for the local finances and general expenditure. His reasons at that time were not educational, but local government reasons. He had intended to sit silent through the debate, but the peculiar circumstances of London would, however, perhaps justify him in explaining how the matter struck him. Those who were endeavouring to municipalise the management of education were that night at a great disadvantage; because on the one hand they had the usual proposal for a specially elected body, and on the other hand they had not a clear proposal for a definite and absolute municipal control. If he voted, as he intended, against this Amendment, he must not be understood as voting in favour of any sham supreme municipal body. He was going to vote for a real municipal body in London as elsewhere; and when the Committee came to the further clauses of the Bill, he could promise the House that he would do everything in his power to make the control of the County Council over the education of London absolutely real, and secure that the Council should have all the powers and the opportunities of carrying out the great work placed upon it in the same degree as the municipalities of other places. Against such a municipalisation of education as he had described, there was only one special argument. It was the difficulty, or, as some thought, the impossibility of the existing County Council being adequate for that work. But he thought that the best judge of that question was the County Council itself; and if it were to come to the opinion that its present numbers were insufficient for the task which Parliament was placing upon it, he thought that a good deal of attention would have to be paid to it. But the cure was very simple. The

Prime Minister himself pointed it out—to increase the numbers of the County Council so as to make it adequate to do the work. He had intimated clearly that if it were shown that the London County Council was insufficiently strong to perform the duty which Parliament placed on it, he would have no difficulty whatever in bringing in a Bill—or making provision for such an increase of its numbers as would make it adequate for the task. He held, therefore, that those who were supporting the Government in resisting that Motion were perfectly consistent; they were merely carrying on a stage further the municipalisation of education which they embodied in the legislation of last year. The arguments brought forward by the hon. Member for Camberwell were sound, no doubt, but they could easily be got over by the simple expedient of increasing the numbers of the London County Council so as to make it adequate for the work.

MR. MCKENNA (Monmouthshire, N.) noted with regret the absence of the Prime Minister in view of the importance of the subject and the powerful arguments on both sides of the House which had been adduced in favour of the principle for which they were contending. He sympathised with the work which the Prime Minister had to do, and particularly his special labour now in discussing the Corn Tax with the Colonial Secretary, but if the right hon. Gentleman had been present he thought that he would have been able to give the Committee some assurance that the Amendment of his hon. friend, if not accepted now, would lead hereafter to some Amendment being proposed to adapt it to a real municipalisation. He agreed with the right hon. Gentleman who had just spoken that there was no argument in favour of the *ad hoc* principle that could not be used with equal strength in favour of the County Council, provided that that body was made large and powerful enough to carry out its added duties. As London now stood, if they did not have an *ad hoc* authority, but if they had the Bill as it stood, the House would be stultifying itself, having regard to the principle laid down in the Act of

1902. That principle was that they should have one single authority for the control of education. That was exactly what this Bill did not give them. It was an affront to their common sense to talk of the County Council as a single authority under the Bill. It would merely delegate to the Borough Councils certain powers which it did not exercise itself. It would have no more authority than the Borough Councils; it would have a different authority, and such authority as the Borough Councils would enjoy would not be a delegated authority, it would be an authority entirely independent of the County Council. The hon. Member for Limehouse was the only Member who had spoken against the Amendment, and he had but two objections to urge. In the first place, he desired that one authority should have control of every grade of education, and it was exactly what would happen if the Amendment were carried. The second was that the municipality should take the child from the elementary school right up to the highest school. That also was provided for by the Amendment, as an *ad hoc* authority would be a single authority for all grades of education, and the child would remain under that authority until his education was completed. After the speeches made from hon. and right hon. Gentlemen opposite, he thought they were entitled to ask the Parliamentary Secretary of the Board of Education for some better reasons for his opposition to the Amendment—something different from those advanced last year on a Bill which did not deal with London. It was not sufficient to give them a mere perfunctory answer as the hon. Baronet had done; they might easily retort on him that there was no principle put forward by his Government which might not be altered, withdrawn, or reserved if public pressure was brought to bear upon it. He believed that on Saturday next public opinion on this Bill would be amply demonstrated in Hyde Park, and that the Government would soon be brought to realise that public opinion was against them on this Bill.

MR. CRIPPS (Lancashire, Stretford) held that the two questions of the *ad hoc*

authority and the position of the County Council must be kept absolutely distinct. With regard to the *ad hoc* authority, the arguments were just the same in the case of London as in the case of other large areas; they rested on the concentration of local duties, both as a matter of responsibility and as a matter of rating. For any economical administration of local duties the responsibilities must be so concentrated that those who elected the local authority might know what the responsibilities were and have an interest in them. The only suggested difference between London and the other great municipalities was that the London County Council was over-burdened with work. He did not believe it was over-burdened in the sense of being unable to undertake these educational duties. No doubt it had a large number of functions, which it performed in an admirable fashion. Politically he did not agree with the County Council, but he thought that everybody in London was indebted to that body for the manner in which it carried out its local duties and responsibilities. But as to the constitution of the new authority he was entirely out of accordance with the proposals of the Government. As a question either of rating or of local government it was impossible to justify the proposals of the Bill, even as amended. There could be no justification for not imposing the same trust and responsibility, and giving the same facilities in London as in other parts of the country. It was no good making the County Council the authority unless it were made the real authority, with power and responsibility for carrying out its duties, so that the ratepayers might know where the responsibility really rested. It was impossible for the local authority to have that responsibility unless it had the control of the Education Committee. In other parts of the country the education committees consisted of a majority of county councillors. That had been put right in the amended proposals of the Government. But in addition to that, other members of these Committees had a delegated authority from the County Councils, and he desired to know why in London there should be an Education Committee composed of persons who were not county councillors, and who had not a delegated authority

from the County Council? No one wanted to say a word against the dignity and efficiency of the borough councillors; but they did not attack their dignity and efficiency by not giving them duties which were not properly theirs; and he said, without fear of contradiction, that if the County Council was to be the local authority for London it ought to have full power of delegating to the Education Committee in the same way that the County Councils in the rest of the country had full power. Unless this were done, both as regards rating and education, they might expect failure from this Act.

As a London ratepayer he dissented from the idea that his money was to be spent except under the jurisdiction and power of the County Council. No other authority had any right to dispose of the county rate in London, and it was a matter of bad principle to give the real authority for spending rates not to the authority responsible for raising them, but to a body which was not responsible to the ratepayers for them. As to local government, why should they have a local authority, and yet not give it power to appoint the committee by which the duties were to be carried out? What reason was there for introducing in the case of London—admittedly a most difficult problem—a principle which had not been introduced in any other case, and which was directly antagonistic to the true principles of local government? From the educational point of view—and in a Bill of this kind their chief thought should be of education—they in London, the centre of the Empire, ought to know where the true responsibility rested in the matter. But if this Bill were passed as it stood, where would the responsibility for carrying out the duties imposed on the County Council really lie? Were they trying to fix that responsibility when they elected a County Council, as they ought to? They would not do so unless they made the responsibility of the county councillors a reality, not only by giving them nominal powers, but by making them supreme on the Education Committee by which those powers were carried out. On the question of management, again, he protested most strongly

against independent bodies being treated as managers who were not directly responsible to the ratepayers at all. He would not speak so strongly were it not that he felt very deeply on this question; and he would ask why should every principle of rating and local government and real responsibility in education be upset in our great Imperial metropolis? This was not a London question only; it was a great Imperial question. Matters of this kind were not to be settled by patching up compromises between various interests; it was far too big a matter altogether. And, though he would certainly oppose anything like an *ad hoc* authority, he did earnestly hope that before they came to Clause 2 the Government would make up their minds that London was not to be dealt with in this opportunist manner, but that principle was to be adhered to on these great questions, and that they could not assent to an Education Bill for London on any other basis.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) said this had been a very remarkable debate. The Government Bill since half-past seven had been riddled by the fire of their supporters—by the hon. Member for Wandsworth, the hon. Member for Birmingham, the late Vice-President of the Council, and, lastly by the hon. and learned Gentleman, who was usually one of the most faithful advocates of the Ministry, but who had now declared with unwonted warmth that the proposals of the Bill as regarded the County Council could not be justified either in their original or their amended form. Yet the Government had given no reply whatever. How was it they had drifted into this position? Last year the principle of municipalisation and of throwing all power on to one authority was defended on grounds confessedly inapplicable to London. But this year all the Secretary to the Board of Education had to say was that they must do this for London because they did it last year for other places, on grounds which did not apply to London. There was no similarity between the case of London and that of cities like Manchester or Liverpool, which had no more than one-seventh of the population of the Metropolis. Surely the difference of facts made it impossible to argue that this question was

Mr. Cripps.

settled last year, and made it necessary for the Government to deal with it as a new question in the interests of London, considered as an entirely separate kind of place. He did not deny the advantages of having one authority; and to secure complete unity of administration one might be willing to sacrifice a great deal. But the present Bill would not secure unity of administration; on the contrary, it would introduce the most complicated, confused, chaotic, and unworkable system which had ever, he thought, been proposed to a legislative assembly. Sites were to be selected by one body, and another body was to pay for them and build the schools. One body was to pay the teachers and another body was to appoint them. Then the provided and non-provided schools were to be on totally different systems and principles.

With regard to the practical problem before the Committee, viz., to constitute an authority capable of doing the work, he said that if the Government would propose an increase in the number of the County Council so as to enable it to deal with its new educational work, that arrangement would largely meet the objections felt by most Members on that side of the House. If one member, or two members, were added to each County Council division, such members to be elected with a view to educational needs, the County Council would be given a strength and power to deal with this mass of work which it did not, and could not at present possess. If, however, the Government did not care to do that, let them constitute an *ad hoc* body. He had no strong preference for such a body as opposed to a body which united all functions, subject to one consideration which he would mention later. The one thing to secure was a body with the time, knowledge, and competence for the work, and the Bill would be an unsatisfactory measure, which the opinion of London would condemn, if it threw upon the authority work it was unable to discharge. There was one point which an increase in the membership of the County Council would not meet, and that was the necessity, referred to by the hon. Member for Woolwich, of giving the people a grip of the schools.

If at a County Council election the policy of education was to be mixed up with all the other questions of policy which now came before the electors, how was the question of education to be considered by the people, and praise or blame, as the case might be, allotted? That impulse for educational progress which ought to be given by the people at an election would be lost, and that, to his mind, and not any mere democratic theory was the argument which recommended a body specially elected to deal with education. He believed that would be the best of all possible solutions; but if they were not to have that, let them have the County Council. The Bill could not work as it stood. Let the Committee either retain the body which had done good work already, or let them strengthen the County Council. The Committee were not merely rendering an honourable funeral to the School Board; they were discussing a question which would occupy London for some time to come. The Bill could not be a permanent solution of the problem; the needs of the case would force any Government to provide an authority capable of giving London a proper system of education. He therefore felt anxious that they should make it clear to the Government that the Bill must be taken back, and, much as it had been tinkered with already, still further altered before it could pass through the discussion in Committee.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.) said that, having regard to the fact that this was perhaps the most important Amendment that would be moved in the course of the proceedings in Committee, it was not unreasonable that the Government should have abstained from taking part in the debate until the usual hour for winding up such discussions. He therefore felt that the right hon. Gentleman's complaint on that score was unfounded. The right hon. Gentleman had congratulated himself and his Party on the fact that from the Government side of the House there had come speeches which were very qualified in their support of the Government proposals. The right hon. Gentleman, although he confessed very few who had listened to him realised

the fact, was supposed to be advocating the proposal of the hon. Member for North Camberwell; but anybody who had listened to the debate would be driven to the conclusion that, though many people were found to criticise the proposals of the Government, very few were found to support the proposal of the hon. Member for North Camberwell. Something had been heard about the *pourparlers* which were supposed to have taken place between the different sections on the Government side. It was not only on the Government side that there had been *pourparlers*. If they were to embark in what he regarded as somewhat fruitless discussion, it would be interesting to know why the London County Council had suddenly arrived at the conclusion the Committee was told they had arrived at, that this work was too heavy for them to undertake. Many members of the London County Council, both Moderate and Progressives had come to him singly, or in twos or threes, and assured him that there was no foundation for the statement that the Council could not fully discharge these duties. It was argued that, owing to the constitution of the Council, a great many more members had to be put on Committees than were required. Members of the Council had said to him, "Add to our duties and we will reduce our committees, and we shall bear this burden with the utmost ease."

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.):
Who said that?

MR. WALTER LONG said that that statement was frequently made to him. [HON. MEMBERS: Name.] He did not think he was called upon to mention names; but he was not in any way misleading the Committee. He was dealing, as the hon. Member for North Camberwell would realise, with negotiations which ran over a very considerable period of time. He had seen many members of the County Council, and he did not think he could say who the members were who said to him "Reduce our Committees and we will be able to do this work." All he could say was, up to a very recent period no member of the Council had said to him "We cannot take the work of education upon us." The one fear of every London county

councillor was that the Government were going to set up what was called a Water Board, and the prevailing opinion was that that would be very bad for London government. But was it not idle to discuss the question? During the discussions on the Water Bill, the Government were attacked for setting up an authority other than the County Council. Why should the County Council spend hundreds and thousands of pounds in promoting Bills in this House to have the sole control of London water if they were overworked? If the right hon. Gentleman opposite and the hon. Member for Camberwell said that the London County Council were so overworked that they could not possibly manage London education without neglecting some portion of the work, then they must be forced to the conclusion that the London County Council had wasted the rate-payers' money when they brought into that House Bill after Bill asking to have the entire control of London water, to say nothing of their requests to control the police, Thames steamboats, and so forth. He thought he was not misrepresenting the argument of the hon. Member for North Camberwell when he said that he had stated on many occasions, and again that night, that the London County Council was so overburdened with work that it was impossible for them to undertake the work of education.

DR. MACNAMARA: Why not increase their numbers?

MR. WALTER LONG said that the London County Council had never asked Parliament for an increase of numbers, although they had asked for the complete control of the water supply and other matters. It was said that the water supply was an easy matter, and that the London County Council could manage it, and also manage the police. But when it was proposed to ask, not the Council as a whole, but a Committee, to deal with the administrative and detailed work of education, then it was said that they were so overworked that they could not undertake that duty. At any rate, the hon. Member for North Camberwell was consistent. He had never departed from his view that

Mr. Walter Long.

there ought to be an *ad hoc* authority. The right hon. Gentleman and others stated that the only answer of his hon. friend the Secretary of the Board of Education in reply to arguments which had been brought forward, was the Act of last year. But his hon. friend not only said that it would be inconsistent with the Act of last year, he also stated—and he himself did not wonder that his hon. friend did so, having regard to the laborious part he took in the discussion of last year's Bill—that the question of an *ad hoc* authority had been discussed *ad nauseam* last year, and that he did not propose to revive the arguments against it. His hon. friend went further, and said that the main argument of the hon. Member for North Camberwell viz., the overburdening of the County Council, had been disproved by the County Council themselves, who had never advanced that argument.

DR. MACNAMARA said that the Council stated that they could not undertake this work.

MR. WALTER LONG said that was another matter altogether. The attitude of the London County Council was very much that of hon. Gentlemen opposite—that was to say, they declared that the work was too burdensome, not because they had too much to do, for they kept on asking for more work, but because they preferred, for reasons that were obvious, that there should be an *ad hoc* authority. If the London County Council asked to be allowed to control the whole of London's water, how could they represent that they were overburdened with work when this educational proposal was brought forward, as to which there would be a distribution of the labour between the central and the local authorities? It was a dilemma from which hon. Gentlemen opposite could not escape. The hon. Member for Camberwell had been consistent; he had always advocated the creation of an *ad hoc* authority.

DR. MACNAMARA: So do the London County Council.

MR. WALTER LONG: The London County Council advocated the creation of an *ad hoc* authority on the ground

that they had so much work to do that they could not support this addition to it. [AN HON. MEMBER: Not this work.] Now they were coming to the truth of the matter. The London County Council and hon. Gentlemen opposite regarded the Council as overburdened now; but they regarded the County Council as a body capable of doing a great deal more work when they themselves were anxious that other work should be handed over to the Council. It was impossible for hon. Gentlemen to controvert that argument. The facts were quite simple. Hon. Gentlemen advocated an addition to the labours of the County Council in connection with the water question. They would, he was sure, be prepared to-morrow, almost without discussion, to transfer to the control of the Council the London police and the Thames steamboats. All this the Council could do, but even with the distribution of labour between the central authority and the local authorities they could not undertake the work of education. Hon. Gentlemen were entitled to the view which the hon. Member for North Camberwell had always consistently held that there should be an *ad hoc* authority for education in London. That was a perfectly reasonable proposal; but manifestly they could not support it by the contention that the County Council was overworked, or if they supported it by that contention they could not next day support a further proposal for an enormous addition to the labours of the County Council. He was bound to say that he listened with profound regret to the attack which had been made by the hon. Member for North Birmingham on his hon. friend, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education. He thought that that attack had been heard with regret in all parts of the House. His hon. friend had not been very long in the position he now occupied. He came to it at a moment of very great difficulty, and had not the advantage of being in office when the Bill of last year was being prepared. But he was confident that every one who had watched him in the discharge of his responsible and laborious duties would agree that he had brought great energy and distinguished ability to their performance, and that he had done his work to the

enormous advantage of the House and the country.

AN HON. MEMBER: He was referring to you.

MR. WALTER LONG: No, no.

MR. MIDDLEMORE: May I, as a matter of personal explanation, say that I very fully admit all the good things the right hon. Gentleman has said of the Parliamentary Secretary? I spoke undoubtedly in a moment of irritation, when an extremely unpleasant word fell from his lips and caught my ear.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON: As a matter of personal explanation, may I say that I heard the hon. Member describe the provisions of the Bill in terms which did not commend themselves to me, and, I am afraid, speaking, as I thought, in an undertone to my right hon. friend I said what I am sorry to think reached his ear? I accept his explanation, and I hope the matter is now ended.

MR. WALTER LONG said he recognised to the full the satisfactory withdrawal of his hon. friend the Member for North Birmingham, and he joined with his hon. friend in desiring to carry the incident no further. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Aberdeen had referred to the speeches made by his hon. friend the Member for Wandsworth, and his hon. and learned friend the Member for Stretford. But what was there to be found in those two speeches in support of the Amendment the Committee were now considering? His hon. and learned friend the Member for Stretford advanced some arguments against the proposals of the Government. The Committee would come to those proposals in time, and then he and his hon. friend the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education would be prepared with their defence of those proposals. The arguments of his hon. and learned friend were not, however, in favour of an *ad hoc* authority. His hon. friend the Member for Wandsworth, who had received a resolution from his constituents, was also not prepared to agree to an *ad hoc* authority. In those circumstances, he appealed to the Committee whether they might not fairly decide

upon this question of an *ad hoc* authority now, and then approach and consider the question with reference to which most of the speeches to-night had been delivered, namely, whether the constitution of the Bill was satisfactory. Whether the authority was satisfactory and whether it could be improved was another matter altogether. He submitted that the great bulk of the speeches delivered to-night showed that an *ad hoc* authority would be as impossible as it would be inconsistent with previous legislation.

MR. GEORGE WHITE (Norfolk, N.W.) said that the hon. Baronet, followed by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Cambridge University, disputed to some extent whether the County Council had disowned any desire to become an education authority. The last paragraph of the resolution passed by the London County Council was as follows—

“This Council is strongly opposed to the scheme proposed by the Bill, and would prefer either the maintenance of the present system or the creation of one directly elected education authority devoting itself exclusively to educational purposes, and which shall have real and complete control over all grades of education.”

That showed the disposition of the County Council in regard to this matter. Although there might be something in the argument that if the number of councillors was increased they might be able to undertake the work, it had been already ruled that no such proposition could be made under this Bill, and that it would have to be accomplished in an entirely new Bill. The hon. Baronet said that this would be the last time the *ad hoc* principle would be discussed in this House. Having for thirty years been a member of a large School Board elected on that principle, he naturally parted with it with some reluctance; and

Mr. Walter Long.

he was bound to say that as far as the discussion went, he had heard no argument to induce him to believe that a better authority could be put in its place. It might be said that the London School Board would naturally seek to retain its powers. But that argument could not be used with reference to the Resolution of the London County Council, which was perfectly disinterested, and which should have more attention given to it than it appeared to receive from Members of the Government. He felt that the Committee had been slighted by the absence of the Prime Minister during the evening. He should like to ask where the Prime Minister got his mandate to destroy the *ad hoc* principle. Several hon. Members opposite admitted that the principle was popular, and that this measure was going against the wishes of the people. He wished that the Prime Minister had heard the speech the hon. Member for Norwood, who of spoke with great feeling of the work of the School Board of London, and who dreaded the disaster which he believed would follow its abolition. Then there was the powerful appeal of the hon. Member for North Camberwell; but they were delivered in the absence of the Prime Minister, who, of course, was responsible for this Bill. He thought there should be some plain speaking when a revolution like this was attempted to be accomplished against the people's will. He would quote the words of a well-known historian, Mr. J. R. Green, with reference to a conjunction of circumstances which exactly corresponded to that in which they were placed. Mr. Green said that a Minister who was elected at a moment of panic, who refused to appeal to the country, and who acted in defiance of its will, would be acting technically legally, but that such a

Minister would be none the less a criminal. That was exactly the position in which they were placed at present. When they had an attempt to tamper with representative institutions in the way this Bill proposed to tamper with them, there ought to be some plain speaking. The question had been asked—why has not the Government attempted to bring forward a measure of this kind for Scotland? The answer was very plain. There was not a dominant Church in that country to dictate policy to the Government. He ventured to think that the Government in attempting to carry this Bill were going not only against the will of the people, but in the teeth of a great many of their own supporters. He hoped, therefore, after the representations which had been made from both sides of the House that the Government would reconsider their scheme, and that London would be saved the degradation of having one of its most useful representative institutions destroyed by this measure.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland) said he was unable to see any contradiction in the attitude of the County Council in not feeling fit to deal with the great question of education along with its other work. He thought the President of the Local Government Board must have been impressed by the severe, merciless, and, in some degree, unanswerable arguments which had been brought against the scheme of the Government by some gentlemen on his own side of the House. He gathered from the right hon. Gentleman's reply that the question now before the House was left open for consideration on subsequent portions of the Bill. This was a very remarkable Bill from all points of view. He thought it rather remarkable that hon. Gentlemen opposite who had been speaking of the

megalomania of the County Council should put upon it this large addition to its burdens. He expressed his surprise at the conduct of the Government in taking away from one authority power it wished to retain, and insisting on imposing it on another authority which did not want to undertake the new duties. That did not seem very rational conduct on the part of the Government. His hon. friend the Member for Camberwell proposed a body *ad hoc*. He agreed with those who thought that the management of the education of London was big enough to take all the time, powers and energies of a body elected for that purpose. The question they were now discussing was the creation of a new body entirely different from the School Board. It was different in respect that it did not give to minorities the protection of their rights which was accorded to them by the cumulative vote. He represented a minority which from the religious point of view was to a large extent unpopular. That minority under the School Board system had hitherto been protected by the cumulative vote. He regretted the departure from that safeguard, and he deplored the antagonism which had been created between the School Board system and the denominational system by what he called the zealots on both sides of the question. The Roman Catholics, who in this country were mainly Irish Catholics, had no fear whatever of popular control provided that the religious character of their schools should not be interfered with. His hon. friend proposed that every Parliamentary constituency should have a representative on the new Board, but how would the Catholics fare under the proposal? He ventured to say that there would not be a single Catholic representative from

any London constituency, and Catholics would be deprived of all the protection they had on the School Board, where they had two members whom they were able to elect by the cumulative vote. He could not vote for the proposal of his hon. friend. It was not one to maintain the School Board but to set up an entirely separate body. He regarded the School Board as gone, and now they had to find a substitute, and the real question was—was the County Council to be a real educational authority or not? In any effort the Government might make to meet the objections raised by making the County Council really effective they would have the support of the Irish Members. It might well be that an addition should be made to the Council, and if that were necessary the Government should introduce a one-clause Bill increasing the number of members and making the Council equal to the larger responsibility thrown upon it.

MR. LOUGH complained that the Government had given no satisfactory reply to the arguments which had been stated in support of the Amendment from both sides of the House. There was something particularly mean in the speech of the President of the Local Government Board, who argued that, the County Council being eager to take up such work as the administration of the water supply and the provision of steamers on the river, it was ridiculous to say that the Council could not tackle the great work of education. That was a very shabby argument to use. He did not think the right hon. Gentleman had been serious in pressing it. Did he know that the cost of education in London was as great as all the work the County

Council had to perform? They had heard a great deal from the right hon. Gentleman about the co-operation that might be expected between the County Council and the Borough Councils in discharging the work under the scheme in the Bill. They had experience in London on this point. There was constant difficulty and conflict arising between the County Council and the Borough Councils with regard to the municipal duties they had now to discharge. His hon. friend the Member for the Scotland Division hardly did justice to the Amendment. It contained the suggestion of the co-option of Members, and he believed his hon. friend the Member for Camberwell had, in making the suggestion, had in view the meeting of the difficulty with regard to the Roman Catholics which had been referred to. The President of the Local Government Board had admitted that the last word had not been spoken, but he said, "Dispose of this Amendment; we might have something else up our sleeve." That was the difficulty the House had had at every stage. They were not treated fairly; they had hardly been treated honestly by the Government. It was admitted by speakers on the other side of the House that there was some substance in the Amendment, and, if that was so, this was the occasion when they should hear the first proposal of the Government. The Prime Minister ought to be here, but if the right hon. Gentleman did not care to attend he ought to leave some adequate person to represent him. There should be some kind of statement made on behalf of the Government as to the course they proposed to take. He moved that they report Progress and ask leave to sit again.

Motion made, and Question proposed,
 " That the Chairman do report Progress ;
 and ask leave to sit again."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

MR. WALTER LONG appealed to the
 hon. Member not to persist in that
 Motion. The Secretary to the Board of
 Education and himself had replied, and it
 was wholly unreasonable to ask for a
 further reply.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Question again proposed, " That those
 words be there inserted."

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 105 ;
 Noes, 201. (Division List No. 88.)

AYES.

Allen, Chas. P. (*Glos., Stroud*)
 Asher, Alexander
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbt. Hy.
 Barran, Rowland Hirst
 Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
 Black, Alexander William
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Brigg, John
 Brown, Geo. M. (*Edinburgh*)
 Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
 Bryce, Right Hon. James
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Burns, John
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
 Craig, Robert Hunter (*Lanark*)
 Cremer, William Randal
 Crombie, John William
 Crooks, William
 Davies, Alfred (*Cardmarthen*)
 Dewar, John A. (*Inverness-sh.*)
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
 Duncan, J. Hastings
 Edwards, Frank
 Emmott, Alfred
 Ferguson, R. C. Munro (*Leith*)
 Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*)
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Grant, Corrie
 Gray, Ernest (*West Ham*)
 Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
 Hardie, J. Keir (*Merthyr Tydvil*)

Harmsworth, R. Leicester
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
 Hayter, Rt Hon Sir Arthur D.
 Helme, Norval Watson
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
 Huton, Alfred E. (*Morley*)
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, William (*Carnarvonsh.*)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kitson, Sir James
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lambert, George
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Leng, Sir John
 Levy, Maurice
 Lough, Thomas
 Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
 McKenna, Reginald
 Mansfield, Horace Rendall
 Markham, Arthur Basil
 Middlemore, Jn. Throgmorton
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Cardmarthen*)
 Morley, Charles (*Breconshire*)
 Norman, Henry
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 Partington, Oswald
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pease, J. A. (*Saffron Walden*)
 Price, Robert John
 Priestley, Arthur
 Rea, Russell
 Rigg, Richard
 Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
 Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)

Robson, William Snowdon
 Roe, Sir Thomas
 Rose, Charles Day
 Runciman, Walter
 Russell, T. W.
 Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Shipman, Dr. John G.
 Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Soares, Ernest J.
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, A. (*Cardmarthen, E.*)
 Thomas, F. Freeman (*Hastings*)
 Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
 Tomkinson, James
 Toulmin, George
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
 Wason, J. Cathcart (*Orkney*)
 Weir, James Galloway
 White, George (*Norfolk*)
 White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
 Whiteley, G. (*York, W. R.*)
 Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, Osmond (*Merioneth*)
 Wilson, Fred. W. (*Norfolk, Mid.*)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES.—
 Mr. Herbert Gladstone
 and Mr. William M^rArthur.

NOES.

Abraham, W. (*Cork, N. E.*)
 Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Arnold-Foster, Hugh O.
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
 Austin, Sir John
 Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
 Bailey, James (*Warworth*)
 Bain, Colonel James Robert
 Balcarres, Lord
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (*Manch'r*)
 Balfour, Capt. C. B. (*Hornsey*)
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*)
 Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch.*)

Banbury, Sir Frederick George
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
 Bignold, Arthur
 Bigwood, James
 Bill, Charles
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Boland, John
 Bond, Edward
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Bowles Lt.-Col. H. F. (*Midd'x*)
 Brodick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Burdett-Coutts, W.
 Campbell, J. H. M. (*Dublin Univ*)

Cavendish, R. F. (*N. Lancs.*)
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*)
 Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon J (*Birm*)
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hn J. A. (*Worc*)
 Chaplin, Right Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Clive, Captain Percy A.
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas

Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Cross, H. Shepherd (*Bolton*)
 Cressley, Sir Savile
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Cullinan, J.
 Cust, Henry John C.
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Denny, Colonel
 Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (*Galway*)
 Dickinson, Robert Edmond
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph C.
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
 Duffy, William J.
 Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
 Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Faber, George Denison (*York*)
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellows, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (*Manx*)
 Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
 Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose
 Flavin, Michael Joseph
 Flower, Ernest
 Forster, Henry William
 Fyler, John Arthur
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Garfit, William
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nairn*)
 Gordon, Maj. Evans (*Tr. Hm'ts*)
 Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby- (*Linc.*)
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
 Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Greene, Hy. D. (*Shrewsbury*)
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Hall, Edward Marshall
 Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Ld. G. (*Midx*)
 Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashfd*)
 Harris, Frederick Leventon
 Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
 Hayden, John Patrick
 Heath, James (*Staffords., N. W.*)
 Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
 Hickman, Sir Alfred
 Hoare, Sir Samuel
 Hobhouse, Rt. Hn. H. (*Som's't E.*)
 Houn., Joseph

Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
 Johnstone, Heywood
 Joyce, Michael
 Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*)
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*)
 Keswick, William
 Knowles, Lees
 Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
 Law, Hugh Alex. (*Donegal, W.*)
 Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks. NR*)
 Leamy, Edmund
 Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
 Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
 Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
 Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (*Evesham*)
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S*)
 Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*)
 London, W.
 Maconochie, A. W.
 MacVeagh, Jeremiah
 McArthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
 McIver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*)
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 More, Robt. Jasper (*Shropshire*)
 Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
 Morrison, James Archibald
 Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
 Mount, William Arthur
 Mowbray, Sir Robt. Gray C.
 Murphy, John
 Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Balm*)
 Myers, William Henry
 Newdegate, Francis A. N.
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 O'Brien, Patrick (*Kilkenny*)
 O'Connor, T. P. (*Liverpool*)
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 Pease, H. Pike (*Darlington*)
 Peel, Hn. Wm. R. Wellesley
 Percy, Earl
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pretymen, Ernest George
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Rattigan, Sir William Henry

Redmond, William (*Clare*)
 Reid, James (*Greenock*)
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Ridley, Hon. M. W. (*Stalybridge*)
 Ridley, S. F. (*Bethnal Green*)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
 Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
 Robertson, H. (*Hackney*)
 Rollitt, Sir Albert Kaye
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Roys, Clement Molyneux
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
 Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
 Scott, Sir S. (*Murylebone, W.*)
 Seely, Charles Hilton (*Lincoln*)
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
 Smith, H. C. (*North'mb. Tyneside*)
 Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks*)
 Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
 Stanley, Hon. A. (*Ormskirk*)
 Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
 Stewart, Sir Mark J. M. Taggart
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Sturt, Hn. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (*Oxford Univ.*)
 Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Valentia, Viscount
 Walrand, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
 Webb, Colonel William George
 Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (*Taunton*)
 Whiteley, H. (*Ashton und. Lyne*)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Colonel R. (*Dorset*)
 Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
 Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
 Wilson John (*Glasgow*)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*)
 Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart
 Wrightson, Sir Thomas
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir Alexander Acland-
 Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

And, it being after Midnight, the
 Chairman left the Chair to make his
 Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit
 again to-morrow.

ADDENBROOK'S HOSPITAL BILL.

Read a second time, and committed
 for this day.

MILITARY MANŒUVRES (ORDER IN COUNCIL).

Resolved, That an humble Address
 be presented to His Majesty, praying

His Majesty to make the Order in
 Council under the Military Manœuvres
 Act, 1897, a draft of which was pre-
 sented to this House on the 17th day of
 February last.—(*Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*)

To be presented by Privy Councillors
 and Members of His Majesty's House-
 hold.

Adjourned at thirteen minutes
 after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 19th May, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with:—

Hyde Corporation; Nelson Corporation; Cork Harbour.

And also the Certificate that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have not been complied with:—

Coventry Electric Tramways.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

Report from, That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Petition for a Bill by Frederick Ellsworth Kip ought to be dispensed with, and leave given to introduce the Bill.

Read and agreed to.

Coventry Electric Tramways Bill. Examiner's Certificate of non-compliance with the Standing Orders referred to the Standing Orders Committee on Tuesday next.

Dewsbury, Batley, and Birstal Tramways Bill [H.L.] Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Bournemouth Corporation Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Jewish Colonisation Association Bill [H.L.]. Reported, with Amendments.

South Lancashire Tramways Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Seunthorpe Urban District Water Bill [H.L.]; Hove, Worthing, and District Tramways Bill [H.L.]. Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

VOL. CXXII. [FOURTH SERIES.]

Maidstone Gas Bill. Read 3^a, and passed.

Somerset and District Electric Power Bill [H.L.]. The consent of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales signified; Bill read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Dudley, Stourbridge, and District Tramways Bill [H.L.]. Read 3^a, and passed, sent to the Commons.

East Ardsley Gas Bill. Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

Watford and Edgware Railway Bill. Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; and referred to the Examiners.

Midland Railway Bill. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

St. Luke's Church and Parish Quoad Sacra Edinburgh Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.]. A Bill to confirm a Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to St. Luke's Church and Parish Quoad Sacra, Edinburgh—was presented by the Lord Balfour; read 1^a; to be printed; and (pursuant to the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, Section 7), deemed to have been read 2^a; and reported from the Committee. (No. 79.)

Dundee Royal Lunatic Asylum Order Confirmation Bill. Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; to be printed, and (pursuant to the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899), deemed to have been read 2^a—(*The Lord Balfour*), and reported from the Committee. (No. 80.)

PETITIONS.

MARRIAGE LAWS.

Petition for appointment of Royal Commission on; of the Diocesan Conference of Rochester; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

SHOPS (EARLY CLOSING) BILL [H.L.].

Petition in favour of; of the Ruridical Conference of North Meols; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

NAVY (HYDROGRAPHER'S REPORT).

Report on Admiralty Surveys, for the year 1902, by the Hydrographer.

AUSTRALIA.

Correspondence respecting the Constitutional Relations of the Australian Commonwealth and States in regard to external affairs.

COLONIAL CONFERENCE, 1902.

Memorandum on sea power, and the principles involved in it.

AFRICA, No. 4 (1903).

Report from His Majesty's Commissioner for British Central Africa respecting the Anglo-Congolese Frontier in the neighbourhood of Lake Mweru, and the circumstances attending the arrest of the late M. Rabinek.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

NEW BILL.

POLLING ARRANGEMENTS (PARLIAMENTARY BOROUGH) BILL [H.L.].

A Bill to amend the law relating to the arrangement of polling districts in Parliamentary boroughs. Was presented by the Lord Ribblesdale; read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a on Friday next. (No 78.)

ELECTRIC LIGHTING (LONDON) BILL [H. L.].

The CHAIRMAN of COMMITTEES informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The order made on the 26th of March last discharged, and Bill committed for Thursday next.

LAND DRAINAGE PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

House in Committee (according to Order). Bill reported without Amend-

ment. Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3^a on Friday next.

PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN (AMENDMENT) BILL [H.L.].

Order of the day read for the House going into Committee.

LORD ALVERSTONE: Before your Lordships go into Committee on this Bill, I desire to say that my attention has been called to the fact that even in the reduced form in which the Bill comes before your Lordships from the Select Committee, there are many Amendments of the Act of 1890. I shall, therefore, in deference to the wishes of noble Lords opposite, introduce a Consolidation Bill which will make the two measures read together, and which can be sent down to the other House, and be dealt with at the same time as this Bill.

House in Committee (according to Order).

Amendments proposed by the Select Committee made and Bill recommitted to the Standing Committee.

MUSICAL COPYRIGHT BILL [H.L.].

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

THE EARL OF LYTTON: My Lords, the provisions of this Bill are intended to remedy some defects in the Musical Copyright Act of last year, and I do not think I need detain your Lordships for more than a few minutes in explaining its provisions. As your Lordships are probably aware, the practice of printing and selling pirated copies of musical works, has very largely increased of recent years, and at the present moment is carried on to a general and universal extent. I do not propose to enlarge upon the actual extent to which this particular form of property is pirated, but representations have already been made to the Home Office and to the Board of Trade by the large firms of music publishers in which they have set forth in the clearest possible manner, and with the fullest evidence, the way in which their rights have been infringed, their property

stolen, and the trade in which they are engaged practically brought to a standstill. In order to remedy that situation Lord Monkswell introduced a Bill last year, and in the form in which that Bill was first introduced I believe it would have gone a very long way to put an end to this particular practice. But, unfortunately, in order to secure its speedy passage into law, the noble Lord had to submit to certain changes in the Bill and to make certain sacrifices of important clauses, with the result that by the time it reached its final stage it became a shadow with very little substance. The law as it now stands only allows a police constable to seize particular copies which he sees being sold in the streets, and those copies, when seized and brought before a magistrate, according to a recent decision of the High Court, cannot be destroyed until a summons has been served on the hawker. The hawkers, as a rule, are a vagrant body, and it has been found impossible to serve summonses upon them. They invariably give false names and addresses, and though a great many summonses have been issued during the last year it has been found practically impossible to serve them. In fact, the time of the owners of musical copyright who have attempted to put the Act in force has been chiefly occupied in serving summonses on empty houses and in looking up and down streets for houses which do not exist. Therefore, the Act of last year, instead of giving a little needed protection to owners of musical copyright, has merely handed them over still more to the mercies of their enemies. The Memorandum attached to the Bill states that there has been an enormous increase in the repertoire and number of pirated copies of music printed and offered for sale, and, incredible as it may seem, this has undoubtedly been the case, because the passing of the Act of last year, and the various futile attempts which have been made to put it in force, have merely acted as an advertisement of the very lucrative nature of the trade; and the utter failure of its administration has given confidence to the classes engaged in it. I think I can best explain the contempt in which the law is held, by reading an extract from a letter of a facetious hawker, whom the Musical

Copyright Association were endeavouring to prosecute for having pirated music. He writes—

“I am of opinion that the ridiculous Act and its comic results would have made a good subject for the forthcoming Drury Lane pantomime.”

In other words, the Act is denounced as a mere sham by the very people against whom it was directed; and not only the hawkers, but the printers and distributors of this pirated music, have equally gained confidence from the failure of the Act. Advertisements have been sent round to houses, and inserted in the newspapers, offering to sell this music, to use their own words, “at ridiculously low prices.” I trust that your Lordships will agree that it is time this sort of thing was put a stop to, and that some protection should be given to musical authors and publishers. By Clause 1 of this Bill a penalty is inflicted of 5s. for every copy of this kind of stolen music which is printed, hawked, sold, or imported; every copy is liable to a fine of 5s. up to a total of £50 for one offence. I may mention that some protection is given, under Clause 4, to a *bonâ fide* purchaser, because, by Clause 4, the name and address of the printer are required to be placed upon every copy of music which is sold. In that way it is possible for an innocent person to have a very ready means of finding out whether the music has been pirated or not. Clause 2 allows a magistrate to issue a search warrant after he has received satisfactory evidence that pirated music is being sold and distributed on a large scale. After issuing a summons he is then able to issue a search warrant in order that these copies may be seized. The Act of last year, which only authorised the seizure of the copies found upon hawkers in the streets, left the whole root of the evil untouched, and by this clause it will be possible to get at the real offenders—the wholesale distributors and printers of pirated music. Clause 3 really consists of two parts. The first allows the copies of music which have been seized from hawkers to be destroyed without evidence that a warrant has been issued, if the magistrate thinks fit to do so. This is necessary because of the impossibility which has been found under the Act of last year of serving warrants on the people who hawk this

music. At the same time it provides the owner of these copies with the power of claiming his property within a fortnight. Clause 5 proposes to include in the definition of "pedlar" anybody offering for sale music in a public place. The definition of a pedlar in the Act of 1871, is a man who goes to other men's houses, or from town to town; and as this has been interpreted by some magistrates to apply to hawkers of music who go from borough to borough, and as it certainly applies to hawkers of music who go from town to town in the country, it has been thought necessary to apply this definition generally, in order to secure that all hawkers of music shall be on an equal footing. This clause will therefore require in future all hawkers of music to have a pedlar's licence. In moving the Second Reading I would venture to express the hope that His Majesty's Government will see their way to accept the Bill and give some facility for its being passed into law, because the evil which it seeks to remedy is really a very serious one. The sufferers under the present state of the law include, not merely musical authors, who are unable to enjoy the rights which they have acquired, but the class of small shopkeepers who have sought to act honestly and to sell the legal copies of music, but who have found it quite impossible to meet the pressure of competition of musical pirates, and who are bound, therefore, to give up selling this music altogether. In the interests and on behalf of those two classes I commend the Bill to your Lordships' consideration.

Moved, that the Bill be now read 2^a.—(*The Earl of Lytton*.)

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (*The Earl of HALSBURY*): As far as His Majesty's Government are concerned, I do not think there is any objection to the Second Reading of this Bill, though the noble Earl must be prepared for some Amendments, not necessarily of substance, but with respect to drafting, in Committee.

On Question, Bill read 2^a (according to Order) and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

The Earl of Lytton.

UNION OF BENEFICES ACT, 1860,
AMENDMENT BILL (H.L.)

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

*THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY: My Lords, I need not detain your Lordships for more than a few moments in moving the Second Reading of this Bill, first, because it is already familiar to your Lordships, and secondly, because it really deals with a large number of details which, if they are to be considered at all, would have to be considered in Committee, and not, I think, on Second Reading. The point of the Bill is simply this. The Act of 1860 makes provision, under certain stringent conditions, for contiguous benefices in the Metropolis being united, but the provisions of the Act do not extend beyond the Metropolis. The object of this Bill is to extend to other parts of England powers which have been found to work beneficially and happily within the Meropolitan area. The Bill is practically the same as the measure which was introduced into and carried through your Lordships' House by the late Archbishop of Canterbury in 1890, with the exception of one additional provision which deals with the power of selling a consecrated chapel of ease which has become useless—and is sometimes an actual encumbrance. The facilities which the Bill enacts are safeguarded at every turn from the possibility of being used to the unfair disadvantage either of an individual or of a parish. Indeed my only fear in the matter is that the safeguards are so numerous and so potent as to hamper the usefulness of the measure; but that is a fault on the right side. The whole matter was fully explained to the House by the late Archbishop of Canterbury and I need not go over the ground again unless any of your Lordships wish me to do so. I believe the Bill will effect a real and salutary reform, and I hope your Lordships will give it a Second Reading.

Bill read 2^a (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Friday next.

ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSIONERS
BILL [H.L.].

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

*THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY: My Lords, the history of this Bill is as follows. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners, as your Lordships are aware, are a very large body, but by an Act which was passed in 1850 the practical, active, and important business of the Commission was entrusted to a body of five—four laymen and one Bishop. Two of these, including the Chairman, are appointed by the Crown and two by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Bishop is annually elected by the Board. The present Chairman is my noble friend Earl Stanhope. Two of these lay commissioners are paid, of course out of the funds of the Commission itself. Those two commissioners are the chief commissioner, who is appointed by His Majesty's Government, and a lay commissioner, appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The formation of this Executive Committee, or Estates Committee was the outcome of a Report of a Select Committee of the House of Commons which sat in the years 1848 and 1849. The object of this Bill is to empower the Commission, out of its own funds, to pay a salary to an additional lay commissioner, so that there shall be three paid commissioners instead of two. The Select Committee to which I have referred, recommended that there should be three paid lay commissioners, but the Bill of 1850 though introduced to give effect to the Committee's Report, when it emerged from the House of Commons contained the provision that there should be only two paid commissioners. That was fifty-three years ago. In the debate which arose in the House of Commons, an Amendment was moved that the number of paid commissioners should be three; and to that the reply was given that the time might probably come when the business would require the attendance of three paid commissioners, but that it had not come yet. The business of the Commission is gigantic, the funds now administered by it reaching an annual sum of £1,500,000 sterling, as compared with the sum of about £70,000 in 1850. It was prophesied in 1850 that some day

the income might reach £300,000. It is now five times as great as that estimate, and quite an undue amount of responsibility is thrown on the shoulders of the unpaid commissioners. It is vital to the due discharge of these great duties that the number should be increased, and that some one with ripe administrative, and perhaps with legal experience, should be added to the number and paid the prescribed salary. This would, of course, impose no charge upon the public. The whole money would be found by the Commissioners out of the funds at their disposal. The Bill is so drawn as to leave the appointment of this third commissioner with the Archbishop of Canterbury, but I am anxious to make it clear that, personally, I have no desire whatever to claim that this patronage should be in the hands of the Archbishop of Canterbury; and, if your Lordships think it better that it should be vested in the Crown, I should raise no objection. But it has been thought desirable that it should rest with the Archbishop of Canterbury rather than that there should be any risk of its becoming a political appointment.

Bill read 2a (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Friday next.

THE REGULATION OF MOTOR CAR
TRAFFIC.

*THE EARL OF WEMYSS: My Lords, I rise to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he intends to revise the regulations now in force in Scotland with reference to motor-car traffic, and to bring these more in accord with the policy suggested in the following Resolution submitted to him on the 3rd of November 1899, by the County Council of Haddington, viz. :—

"That it is inconsistent with sound and enlightened policy in the matter of motor-car traffic, to lay down any hard and fast rule as to speed, it being ordered and understood that when driving through towns, villages, turning corners, or passing branch roads, motor drivers shall not exceed the ordinary speed in like circumstances of horse conveyances, and that they shall further, when passing or meeting any horse-drawn vehicle, slow down and, if need be, stop, so as not to frighten the horse or horses drawing the said conveyance, but that, subject to these conditions, a motor driver shall be left free to exercise his discretion as to speed when the road is clear, on the understanding that the driving be not

reckless. For the purpose of identification, a large number shall be attached to the motor before and behind, and illuminated at night. That this Resolution be forwarded to the Secretary for Scotland."

Perhaps your Lordships will allow me, in putting this question, to say a few words upon the matter at issue. We boast that we are a very practical nation, but I am bound to say we have not shown it in our dealings with motor-car traffic, because in 1896 it was laid down as a hard and fast rule that these cars, which we now learn can go at the rate of sixty, eighty and even ninety miles an hour, were to be confined under all circumstances to twelve miles an hour. That, my Lords, appears to me to be contrary to common sense, and the result of this retrograde legislation has been that the law is constantly broken, and the great lawbreaker is the present Prime Minister. So much so that Mr. Long has given notice in another place that he intends to bring in a Bill to deal with this question. Mr. Long has no jurisdiction over Scotland, and what I want to know is whether my noble friend, the Secretary for Scotland, intends to legislate also for Scotland, remembering that Mr. Balfour lives in Scotland, that he motors a great deal in that country, and that the law at present is the same as regards speed on both sides of the Tweed. If my noble friend, as I hope, intends to bring common sense to bear on the question, I want to know on what line he proposes to go. The Resolution which was passed by my County Council states that it is inconsistent with sound and enlightened policy in the matter of motor car traffic to lay down any hard and fast rule as to speed. That is what you have done, and Mr. Long has declared that the present state of the law is simply absurd. Therefore it would be a fallacy to lay down any special speed in your regulations, but plenty of security should be taken for the safety of the public and those travelling in motor-cars.

The Resolution goes on to say that it should be ordered and understood that when driving through towns, villages, turning corners, or passing branch roads, motor drivers should not exceed the ordinary speed in like circumstances of horsed conveyances, and that they should, when passing or meeting any horse-drawn vehicle, slow down, and, if need be, stop, so as not to frighten the horse

or horses drawing the said conveyance, but that subject to these conditions a motor driver should be left free to exercise his discretion as to speed when the road is clear. That seems to me the common sense of motor-car traffic up-to-date. It is absurd to say that when the road is clear, and there is no danger, they should not take advantage of the speed that science has given them, and should be tied down to any fixed limit. Take the ordinary road traffic. You may not drive to the injury of human life, but there is nothing to prevent an American trotter going twenty-five miles per hour on your roads. In my own country I have been driving steadily at ten miles an hour, when one of these American trotters, to use an American expression, has passed me like a greased flash of lightning. It did me no harm; the road was clear. Why should not the same rule apply to motor-cars? I think it would be unwise to fix any speed, but there should be a general understanding that when passing through villages motor drivers should not exceed the ordinary speed of horsed conveyances. I think that would be found to work well. My Resolution stopped at the words "when the road is clear," but my County Council added the words "on the understanding that the driving be not reckless." I think it would be difficult to say what was reckless driving; in my opinion, "dangerous" would be a better word. Horses, we know, are getting gradually accustomed to these motors. Some of them do not like the stink any more than we do, and I think that on meeting horses motors should slow down. These seem to me to be the lines on which it would be well to work. A further addition to my Motion was made by my County Council providing that for the purpose of identification a large number should be attached to the motor before and behind. My impression is that it is only behind that the number would be any good. The other day, when leaving this House, I was passed by a motor which was certainly going at thirty miles an hour. It had passed me before I could have detected any number on the side, and I could not possibly have seen a number on the front, but I noticed that it had a low red box behind. If a number had been there I

should have been able to see it. I would suggest that the number should be fixed behind and should be below the foot board. The extent to which the law is broken in London is disgraceful and intolerable. Motor cars are driven, regardless of everyone, at twenty-four miles an hour. In my opinion nothing can keep motor-car drivers in order except some means of identifying the car, and I think some of the police should be provided with cycles so that they could watch these drivers and overtake them. The noise of these machines is a public nuisance, for they groan, grunt, shiver, shake, and stink. The wearing of glasses and leather coats is an affectation, and the use of the word *chauffeur* is intolerable and should be prohibited. The introduction of these needless foreign expressions is odious. Thus we have Hotel Cecil instead of Cecil Hotel, Hotel Albemarle instead of Albemarle Hotel, and even the German word *hinterland* is in diplomatic use. I am afraid my noble friend can hardly deal with this, but I hope he will legislate in the spirit of the first part of the Resolution. We are in the infancy of motor traffic. It is impossible to say, if it is not interfered with by the State, to what it may lead. One thing is certain, that in time all traction will be by motor. Horses will be kept for Rotten Row and for the parks; for traction horses are doomed, and if it were not for the fact that they are wanted for the infantry and cavalry and other purposes I am afraid they would die out. This constitutes a bad look-out for agriculture. We grow corn, oats, hay, and straw. Motors do not eat oats, they do not eat hay, and they do not lie on straw, and when horses are done away with it will not be worth while our growing these agricultural articles of consumption, having lost our best customer the horse. But be that as it may, motor traffic is a great boon to humanity, and I think it is the duty of the Government not to interfere with it needlessly, but to encourage it, at the same time making ample provision for the safety of the public.

*THE MARQUESS OF GRANBY: My Lords, before my noble friend answers the question put to him by the noble Earl, may I, as one who some two years ago took a somewhat prominent part in the discussion with regard to legislation

affecting motor-car traffic, say one or two words to your Lordships on the subject. Although the resolution of the County Council of Haddington only affects Scotland, the legislation which must be introduced before long on this subject must affect all classes of the community on both sides of the Tweed. In the main I entirely agree with the terms of the Resolution. Legislation on this subject is much more important in many ways to the general public than many of the measures with larger-sounding titles that have been brought in by the present Government, because motor-car traffic has come to stay, and undoubtedly the roads will day by day become more and more used by motor-cars. I agree that an unlimited speed should be allowed to motor-cars provided proper precautions are taken to ensure the safety of the public in places such as those mentioned in the Resolution. A horse which is well broken to motor-cars in London is frightened to death by them when it goes into the country. The reason is that the traffic with which horses are surrounded in London is absent in the country, and they see and hear these noisy things coming along, with the result, as I have said, that they are greatly frightened. The size of motor cars is now so large, and their speed so rapid, that they are practically small railway trains; and I think it is a moot point whether it will not be necessary a few years hence to extend or double the main roads in places where motor-car traffic is increasing. With regard to the question of identification, which I had the pleasure of taking up some two years ago in the Press, and for which I was very violently abused by the budding motor-car industry, I am happy to find that the more important motor-car clubs are in favour of identification. In addition to numbering for the purposes of identification, motor-cars should bear the letters indicating the county to which they belong, and they should be registered. Every driver of a motor-car should be licensed. He should always have that licence upon him, and if, after a first offence, he has done serious damage to life or limb, or to property, it should be a question of imprisonment without the option of a fine. I think if those points are carried out in any Bill which the Government may bring forward, you will only be

doing justice to the general public. I think it is most important that there should be means of identification, and I cannot see why the owners of motor-cars should object, as I understand they do. The Chief Constable of one county, Hampshire, reports that he, during the Easter holidays, received thirty or forty complaints as to motor-cars having done serious damage, but in only three or four cases were the police able to identify the drivers; they drove away. Legislation on this subject is undoubtedly necessary.

*THE EARL OF WEMYSS: Do you mean that every man or woman who drives a motor-car should be licensed?

*THE MARQUESS OF GRANBY: I should like to see them all licensed.

LORD LAMINGTON: The other day I had the honour of calling attention to this question in your Lordships' House, and I laid special stress on the point mentioned by the noble Marquess, that drivers should be licensed. I may say that the very next day I was run into by a tyro in the art of motor-car driving, and a very serious accident nearly resulted.

*THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH): My Lords, so far as the actual Question is concerned which appears on the Notice Paper the noble Earl who brought this subject forward, I think, supplied the answer. The question he asks is whether the Secretary for Scotland intends to revise the regulations now in force. The noble Earl knows perfectly well that the regulations as to speed are statutory regulations, which it is not in the power of the Secretary for Scotland or any other official to alter or vary without legislation. The noble Earl went on to say that he did not think we had been very practical in dealing with this matter, and he said the law as it now stands is not observed. So far as the latter of those two statements is concerned, it is a matter of common knowledge that the law as now laid down is not observed; and I am bound to agree with the noble Earl and the noble Marquess that the present state of matters is extremely unsatisfactory

The Marquess of Granby.

and does very urgently call for a remedy. The noble Earl then asked whether the change in the law, which has been announced in another place by the President of the Local Government Board as likely to be suggested to Parliament, would apply to Scotland. My answer to that is, as a matter of course, in the affirmative. I have been in communication with the President of the Local Government Board as to the details of the Bill which is being prepared, and I am sure your Lordships will agree with me that it would be the height of absurdity not to make the law, as far as we can having regard to the different circumstances as to local Government, uniform. I am asked by the noble Earl what lines the Bill is likely to go upon; but I venture to say that it would be irregular for me to attempt an explanation of the whole policy of the Government in regard to this matter or what the Bill is which will probably be introduced in another place. But speaking quite generally, I cannot see that there is much to object to in the suggestions of the noble Earl or in the resolution of the Haddington County Council. I do not bind myself to the absolute terms either of that Resolution or of the suggestions made by the noble Earl and the noble Marquess; but I entirely agree that, while I think there should be some limit to speed in populous places, narrow parts of the road, and under other special circumstances, that if you have distinguishing marks upon motor-cars, so that those who do wrong may be easily identified, a very much more liberal allowance may be made in the matter of speed than exists at present.

I attach the greatest possible importance to having distinctive marks on the motors, so that those who misuse their privileges may be identified, and, if necessary, punished, and that the whole fraternity should not be prejudiced by the action of what I believe to be, comparatively speaking, a small minority. I think there has been unnecessary prejudice created against motor-cars by this evil conduct on the part of some of the drivers. I have had a great many complaints from different counties in Scotland of the action of persons who hire cars for a

limited time and visit districts where they are not known and cannot be identified, with the result that a very bitter feeling has been created in many parts of Scotland on account of this conduct. I think it perfectly reasonable that if there is a liberal limit allowed in the matter of speed there should be a distinguishing mark affixed to the cars in some way that will not be objectionable to the owners. I further say that the obligation to have due regard to the safety of others must be distinctly laid upon those who use and drive motor-cars, and they must be made distinctly responsible for their own acts as far as it is possible to make them. With these conditions, I do not see any reason why there should not be a liberal alteration in the question of the limit of speed. I can hold out no hope that the Bill will deal with the question of the King's English, as suggested by the noble Earl. Nor can I hold out any hope of double roads, at least at the expense of the rate-payers. I would venture to put in a word on that matter for the unfortunate ratepayer, and say that if special tracks are to be made for motor-cars the money must be provided out of some other fund than the rates. It is the desire of the President of the Local Government Board to introduce the Bill at as early a time as possible, and I sincerely hope it will be passed. I have no objection to coming under the obligation of telling my colleague what has passed here to-day, and I have no doubt he will be encouraged in the line which I know he proposes to take in regard to this matter.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: My Lords, I gather from what the noble Lord has said that a Bill is in course of preparation by the President of the Local Government Board, and that it is not far from being ready. At all events, he holds out some hope that it may be introduced during the present session of Parliament. I should like to ask the Government whether it would not be possible to introduce that Bill, when it is ready, in this House, where there is no pressure of business such as exists in the other House. It would be just as well that a matter of this kind, which, after all, is of

great public importance, should receive a considerable amount of public consideration before it becomes law, and with that object I would ask the Government whether they could see their way to introduce the Bill in this House. Enough has been already said to show that it would be amply considered, and from every point of view in this House, and I think it would be to the public advantage if your Lordships had the Bill placed under your consideration. With regard to the question of speed, I quite agree with noble Lords who have spoken, that it is undesirable to limit speed in any unnecessary manner, and that much more considerable latitude should be given than is given by the present law, which makes no distinction between open country and a crowded town. The noble Earl stated that a motor-car passed him outside this House the other day at a speed of nearly thirty miles an hour. Of course, no motor-car ought to be allowed to go at that speed in a crowded place like London, nor is there any reason why it should. There is another matter which has to be considered. It is utterly impossible to train horses to face in the open country a motor-car travelling at thirty or forty miles an hour. That is a point which will have to be considered. In order to enforce any regulation with regard to speed you will have to impose very heavy penalties on drivers who place the public in danger. I believe it is in that way, and in that way only, that you will be able to enforce any provision you may make with regard to speed. I should like an answer with regard to my suggestion that the Bill should be introduced in your Lordships' House.

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: As to the introduction of the Bill in this House, I can, of course, give no pledge, but I think the suggestion is one well worthy of consideration. The Bill is not, strictly speaking, under my control, and I have not exactly in my mind the terms of the pledge which was given by my right hon. friend to the other House with regard to the introduction of the Bill. If the question is deferred till later in this week, or till next week, I will undertake to confer with Mr. Long and see whether the suggestion can be given effect to.

FOREIGN WARSHIPS IN BRITISH HARBOURS.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: My Lords, I rise to ask His Majesty's Government under what regulations and restrictions the ships-of-war of Foreign Powers are admitted to British and colonial harbours and coaling stations; whether any change has recently been made in respect to such regulations and restrictions; under what conditions British ships-of-war are admitted to the harbours and coaling stations of Foreign Powers; and to move for Papers. This subject is one which involves various points of considerable difficulty and great delicacy in relation to international politics, but it is one which is altogether removed from the domain of party controversy; and I hope to be able to show your Lordships that it is one which merits the attention of His Majesty's Government. The question has this peculiarity, that it concerns a number of public Departments. It concerns, of course, both the Admiralty and the War Office—the two Departments responsible for the defence of our harbours and coaling stations. It concerns the Foreign Office, because it deals, as I said, with delicate points of international policy. It concerns the Colonial Office, because many of these places are under the jurisdiction of that Department, and last, but not least, it concerns the Committee of Imperial Defence, over which the noble Duke the Leader of the House presides, and from the re-organised labours of which we all hope so much. I think that if any excuse were required for bringing forward the question, the facts I have mentioned would be sufficient excuse, because questions which concern more Departments than one are just those most likely to escape due attention.

With regard to the first two Questions I have placed on the Paper, I cannot do better than instance a case which came recently under my own observation. The other day, in our harbour of Colombo, there was present for nine days a squadron belonging to a friendly Power, consisting of eleven ships of war. The sight of so many foreign flags in the harbour, and so many foreign faces in the streets, might make one doubt whether one were in a British possession at all. But, that, of course, is merely a matter of sentiment. What is important is the

fact that, if that friendly Power had been transformed into a hostile Power, there could not be, I think, the slightest question that the port of Colombo would have been absolutely at the mercy of that squadron. The squadron consisted of one battleship of nearly 13,000 tons, three cruisers ranging from 6,700 to 7,200 tons, and seven destroyers—all ships very powerfully armed and of the latest pattern. Their complement of crews could not, I imagine, have been less than 2,500 men, and among their armaments were four 12-inch guns, and upwards of thirty 6-inch guns. The available force, so far as I know, for the whole of the Island of Ceylon consists of two battalions of British infantry and one battalion of native infantry, and, so far as the defences of Colombo are concerned, of a battery and a half of artillery. Therefore, this foreign force, in the event of its developing hostile intentions, must have become the master of this supremely important place. It should further be mentioned that a squadron lying in the harbour does not come under the guns of the batteries of Colombo at all. I am not acquainted with the details of the defences of Colombo, and if I were I imagine it would not be proper to describe them in this House. But to anybody who has seen the place, it is evident that if such a squadron came under fire of any of the guns of the batteries it would only be at the risk, in firing on this fleet, of destroying the principal buildings in the town.

I need not dilate, I think, on what the fall of Colombo at the beginning of a war would mean to the Empire. The moral effect of such a loss would be enormous. The relations between Ceylon and India, especially Southern India, are exceedingly close, owing to the fact that hundreds of thousands of coolies pass backwards and forwards from India to Ceylon for the purposes of the tea plantations in the island; and I think it is not overstating the case to say that the fall of Colombo would be regarded in India as a great misfortune as the capture of one of the Indian seaport towns. Again you must remember that Colombo is a very important link in the chain of our fortified possessions between this country and the East. From Aden to Colombo is a distance of 2,093 miles;

from Colombo to Singapore, the next important port on the way to the far East, is 1,673 miles, making a total of 3,766 miles; and I do not know if my noble friend the First Lord of the Admiralty will contradict me when I say that I imagine there are very few ships in His Majesty's Fleet, except one or two cruisers, which are capable of making a journey of 3,766 miles without a stop for coaling. It is, of course, true that Colombo is not the naval station for that part of the world. The naval station there is Trincomalee, but it is a question, I think, how far, under the possible circumstances that I have indicated, Trincomalee would be available for the purposes of the Fleet. For one thing, Trincomalee is nearly 100 miles from the railway. A hostile squadron in the harbour of Colombo would be on the flank of our reinforcements sent out to the East, and it must further be remembered that if some of the heavy guns which I have mentioned were landed from a hostile fleet, Colombo would be made almost impregnable from the sea. I mention Colombo as a single instance, but I am not sure that the observations I have made do not apply with varying degrees of force to other places, particularly to Hong-Kong, and possibly to some extent to Singapore, Mauritius, and the Cape of Good Hope.

I ask your Lordships to consider a hypothetical case, which can be put, I think, by a private Member of your Lordships' House, without involving an offence to any foreign Power. Suppose it to be the case, as it is now, I am given to understand, that these powerful foreign squadrons have unrestricted access to the inner harbours of our important coaling stations; suppose that negotiations of an anxious and critical character were taking place between ourselves and some foreign Power on a question which might conceivably lead to war; and suppose by a singular coincidence that at the moment of those negotiations a powerful foreign squadron appeared off one of those harbours. If it is the invariable habit to admit them in times of peace, would it be possible to exclude them when negotiations of that kind were going on? If it became known

that a foreign fleet had been excluded from a British port, the fact would be telegraphed all over the world; the effect would be felt in every Bourse in Europe, and it is possible that a war which might otherwise have been avoided would be precipitated. It may be said that wars are not declared offhand, and that it would be possible, and, indeed, easy, when war was pending, to refuse these facilities to a foreign fleet; but, after all, there have been in history such things as *coups de main* of a successful kind before wars have been declared. I would mention the action of this country in 1807 against the Danish fleet, and the action of France against China in 1884, while conflicting negotiations were pending and war had not been declared. What has happened once or twice might conceivably happen again, and it cannot be disputed that in some of our colonial ports considerable local uneasiness exists as to possible danger. I would, therefore, add to my Questions one of which I have given the noble Lord opposite private notice—whether any representations have been received from responsible authorities at any of these ports expressing a sense of danger such as I have indicated, and if so, what has been the nature of those representations? So far as I know at present no leave is asked before a foreign squadron of any strength enters one of these colonial harbours, all that is necessary being to ask formal leave of the harbour master, who, of course, is merely guided by the amount of shipping in the harbour at the time, and the possibility of berthing the ships in a convenient way.

Such being the position, the question arises, how do you propose to meet it? I should like to guard myself against being supposed to favour the principle which I know is advocated by some persons interested in the defence of the Empire, that every possible place that might be attacked in time of war should be fortified. There is a school—I think it is chiefly a military school—who would like to see Brighton bristling with big guns, and would urge the noble Duke, in his double capacity of ground landlord of Eastbourne and Chairman of the Committee on Imperial Defence, to turn that watering place

into a sort of Cherbourg. I have no sympathy with those views. But there are two main sea roads, so to speak, with the defence of which we are absolutely concerned; the one, of course, being the route through the Suez Canal, on which our points are Gibraltar, Malta, Aden, Colombo, Singapore, and Hong-Kong; the other the route round the Cape, in which the Southern Seas are reached by way of Cape Town and Mauritius. I therefore leave out of consideration altogether any desire to fortify strongly Australasian and West Indian ports, because I believe, from an Imperial point of view, those places are not likely to be seriously involved in any naval war in which we might unhappily be engaged. That being so, there are, it seems to me, three courses open to us—namely, to make the Fleet everywhere so strong that foreign fleets will have no chance of undertaking such operations as I have suggested, to make each place absolutely impregnable in spite of the admission of foreign men-of-war, or to exclude foreign men-of-war altogether from our harbours. As to strengthening the Fleet, it is very doubtful, in the first place, whether any strengthening of the Fleet would succeed in preventing such a *coup de main* as I have indicated; in the second place I believe it is a maxim of naval strategy that a fleet ought not to be tethered to a port; in the third place it seems to me that it would be more annoying to foreign Powers even than to be excluded from our harbours to have their movements perpetually dogged by a superior fleet in time of peace; and, lastly, in the case of the East India station, the unhealthiness of the station and the impossibility of escaping from extreme hot weather would make it very undesirable to strengthen the Fleet there to any great extent. The second alternative, to make the ports absolutely impregnable, would involve a very large expenditure of money; and consequently I proceed to the third alternative, the exclusion of foreign ships of war from our harbours. This, in my opinion, would be very unwise. In the first place because it would be an act of marked national discourtesy, and in the second place because we should thereby drive

foreign Powers to acquire ports of their own in the Far East and other parts of the world.

The conclusion that I arrive at is that it is necessary in order to secure our safety to combine to some extent the second and third alternatives—that is to say, to increase, probably by degrees, the fortified strength of such important harbours and coaling stations as are at present unsafe under the conditions which I have described, and until that can be done, to place some sort of limitation upon the number of foreign men-of-war to be admitted to any harbour when in the opinion of those qualified to judge there is a risk of its falling into an enemy's hands in the event of war. The fact that foreign Powers do to some extent exclude our ships of war from their harbours has an important bearing on the reciprocal arrangements that may be made. If they exclude us they cannot complain if we place a limit upon them. For instance, I believe that we are excluded altogether from Port Arthur without express permission. I have tried to avoid painting a picture in anything like lurid or sensational colours; but there is a prevalent idea that we are more careless and indifferent in these matters than foreign countries, and are apt to treat these dangers in a more happy-go-lucky manner. The extent of our Empire, and the uncertainty as to the form naval warfare in the future may take, make it imperative, in my opinion, that we should not run any risks. It is just because we are at this moment on good terms with foreign Powers that it seems to me it would be possible to approach the whole question without giving offence in any quarter. In any case I venture to think the question is worthy of the careful consideration of the Committee of Defence, and I hope I may be assured by the noble Earl opposite that such consideration is being fully given to it.

Moved, "That there be laid before the House Papers relating to the regulations and restrictions under which the ships of war of Foreign Powers are admitted to British and Colonial harbours and coaling stations; and the conditions under which British ships of war are admitted to the harbours and coaling stations of Foreign Powers."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

The Earl of Crewe.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (The Earl of SELBORNE): My Lords, my noble friend is quite accurate in charging the Government of this country, using that term as embracing all parties, with a rather haphazard method of dealing with the class of questions which he has brought to your Lordships' notice. But it so happens that this question is one of the exceptions. This is a question that has not been neglected; on the contrary, it has been the subject of frequent and continuous consideration. There have been several changes in the practice of this country in this matter. Up to the year 1887 there were practically no restrictions as to the admission of foreign men-of-war to our ports. In that year, after prolonged consideration between the different Departments concerned, a code of regulations was drawn up restricting the access of foreign men-of-war to our ports, and those regulations were in operation for six years. In 1893, in the light of the experience gained, the subject was again considered with great care and deliberation, and with the concurrence of the colonial authorities, the restrictions were abolished. That was the policy deliberately adopted by the Government of which my noble friend was a member, and adhered to by subsequent Governments. As to the practice of other Powers, so far as I am aware no Power forbids foreign men-of-war to visit their ports. In the case of one or two there are strict regulations in respect of the number of ships that may come at one time without notice, but in most cases I believe there are no regulations or restrictions at all. The noble Earl mentioned Port Arthur as a place to which he understood British ships were not admitted. I am not aware of that restriction; on the contrary, curiously enough, I received a letter only the other day from the British Admiral Commanding-in-Chief on the China station stating where he was going to cruise, and announcing his intention, if possible, of paying a visit to Port Arthur during that cruise. I may say that although it is true that the foreign Powers who mainly use our ports are not those whose ports it is necessary for us freely to use in the ordinary course of the work of the Navy,

yet we do benefit very largely indeed from the hospitality of other Powers who give us perfectly free and unrestricted access to their ports; and, therefore, from the general principle of mutual hospitality of Navy to Navy, our share of gain is very large indeed.

The general view of the Government is that it is to the general interest that friendly Powers should be very accommodating to each other in this matter. Generally, it is certainly to our interest that this interchange of hospitality should exist with as few restrictions as possible. The noble Earl mentioned a rather unusual case of which he had been witness, that of eleven ships of war of a friendly Power lying for some days in the harbour of Colombo. That, I believe, was a completely exceptional case, and one arising altogether from accidental causes. I certainly have never heard of so large a visit of the ships of a friendly Power to one port except as a matter of special invitation, and I do not think it can be taken as any indication of the extent to which these privileges are generally used. The noble Earl has assumed the case of a period of tension between this country and another Power, and has asked what is to hinder that Power, while we were still at peace, from sending a squadron into one of our harbours, and either anticipating by a few hours the outbreak of war by a *coup de main*, or waiting there inside our defences till war was declared, in order to inflict a great blow to our prestige, and *pro tanto* to diminish the value of that port as an accessory of our Navy. I admit that the case is conceivable, but there are considerations which make such action very unlikely. I cannot conceive, in a period of tension, any Power being so foolish as to risk sending away an important fraction of its forces and not concentrating them together. Nothing could be more dangerous to any Power at such a time than to separate and scatter its forces. In war the object of Powers will be to concentrate their forces and not to disseminate them. Besides, I cannot conceive any squadron of a potential enemy of any importance being left unwatched by a corresponding British squadron. As to whether we are liable to this kind of

action when there is no time of tension and no cause of quarrel, I refuse to contemplate such a contention, and I think that is not the case which the noble Earl meant to surmise.

Sound as I believe the general principles I have enunciated to be, yet they are only defensible on the ground of real reciprocity. I do not think it would be possible for one to defend the giving of unrestricted hospitality to the ships of a friendly Power in all our ports, if the same welcome were not extended, in a reasonable degree at all events, to our ships when they wished to visit the ports of that Power. And if the time should come when a Power enjoying our hospitality in no mean measure, endeavoured to put obstacles in the way of our ships visiting their ports, beyond what might be called reasonable regulations, then, I quite admit, the whole subject would have to be reconsidered. Before the Committee of Imperial Defence was created there were two other bodies doing most excellent work, the Joint Naval and Military Committee and the Colonial Defence Committee; and I think either of those bodies would be eminently qualified to thresh out this question further, and, if necessary, to review it up to date, and its decision could eventually be reviewed, if necessary, by the Committee of Imperial Defence. I do not promise that that Committee will change its opinion; all I can do is to take care that the arguments the noble Earl has brought forward, and his plea for what I may call a code of regulations, shall be brought under their consideration. I am not aware that we have ever had any representations on this subject from any colonial authority. I am informed that when the change was made in 1893 the colonial authorities concurred in it on the ground, I understand, of their experience of the working of the restrictions.

The noble Earl touched, in his interesting speech, on some rather large questions on which I cannot now dwell, but which I do not like entirely to pass without notice. He took care to defend himself in advance from the imputation that the natural corollary of his view would be that there should be additional expenditure on fortifications, and he was also careful to make it quite clear that

he was untainted with what I may call the heresy, the vicious, abominable heresy, of the localisation of the Fleet. I think the noble Earl went rather far, however, in the matter of coaling stations. Coaling stations are in themselves no source of strength to the Fleet, the Fleet alone is the source of strength; our fortified coaling stations are merely useful accessories; and the amount of money expended on them, and the nature of their fortifications, have all been carefully worked out from the point of view that, if we once lost the command of the sea nothing could save the coaling stations. All that is required of them is that they should be able, in the temporary absence of the Fleet, to resist naval attack, it being understood that such naval attack might vary very greatly according to the different parts of the world in which our stations are. But under no circumstances is the Navy to be considered as a localised Navy. This question has come up in connection with the Australian naval agreement, and I have seen Australian papers that have combated the arguments of the Admiralty by pointing to the fact that in England we have coast-guard and port-guard ships. According to these writers these are vessels which are anchored off Hull, Portsmouth, or wherever it may be, and would remain there in time of war to defend such places; but, as your Lordships know, there is not a word of truth in that. In time of war the only place you may be perfectly certain a coast-guard ship would not be near is the place with which it is connected in time of peace. We have already abolished port-guard ships. I regret that the purely accidental connection should have given rise to such a misunderstanding, because the so-called coast-guard ships in time of war would be just as liable to be sent to China as a China ship would be to be brought home if wanted in the Channel.

After all, the only thing that matters is general sea power, and in that respect the noble Earl was a little cramped in his perspective of the case. You must consider sea power as one from Suez eastwards; and it is not possible for any foreign Power with which we might be in a state of tension to have a force of the despatch of which to those seas we should not be

aware, and foreign ships could no more be in two places at once than could British ships. And if these foreign ships are taken from European waters and sent eastwards, then British ships of corresponding value can be sent after them; and I do not think there is any prospect, or ought to be any prospect, that in time of war, after the period of tension, we should find ourselves in a position of inferiority in the Far East. And then I would again remind the noble Earl of the extreme unlikelihood of a foreign Power running the risk of scattering and disseminating its forces at the very moment that it was nerving itself for a conflict with us. I hope I have dealt with the points the noble Earl has brought forward, and that he will not press for Papers. I do not think the public interest would be served by the production of those Papers. I certainly would not pledge myself to their production until the matter had been again thoroughly examined by one of the Committees I have mentioned; and I hope that for the present the noble Earl will be satisfied with my assurance that what he has said shall be brought to their notice.

*THE EARL OF CREWE: I need hardly say that I shall fall in with the suggestion of the noble Earl and not press for any Papers on this subject. But there are two points in his speech to which I should like to allude. In the first place, I confess I was not entirely convinced that a *coup de main* was quite such a remote contingency as he seemed to think. With regard to the question of reciprocity, it is not genuine reciprocity unless the risks involved are equal; and I should have thought that from an Imperial point of view we had a great deal more to lose under certain possible contingencies, by admitting foreign ships to our ports than they could conceivably have by admitting our ships to theirs. However, I am grateful to the noble Earl for the exceedingly kind manner in which he has answered my questions, and I have pleasure in withdrawing my Motion.

Motion, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

PORT OF LONDON BILL.

Commons message considered (according to Order).

Moved, "That this House do concur in the following Resolution communicated by the Commons, viz., 'That it is expedient that the Port of London Bill be committed to a Joint Committee of both Houses.'"—(*The Duke of Devonshire.*)

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: My Lords, I do not rise to oppose the Motion which the noble Duke has moved, but I think I am justified in commenting upon, and asking for some explanation of the difference of procedure that has been adopted in this case, and which was adopted in regard to the London Water Bill of last session. That Bill, so far as two Bills can be alike, was exactly the same as this Bill. Both deal with great London interests, and deal with them in the same way by municipalising them, and by appointing a great body on which the municipal authorities are largely represented; both compulsorily take over great services which have been carried on by private companies; both involve heavy charges on the rates, and transfer great interests from private bodies to these new bodies; both are partly public and partly private Bills, and it is recognised that they require to be dealt with in a special manner. Last session we were told that it was impossible for your Lordships to join with a Committee of the other House to consider the London Water Bill without that Bill being first introduced in this House and read a second time. Some of us took exception to that course, and said we thought it altogether superfluous and unnecessary. That, apparently, is the view that has been taken by His Majesty's Government and by the authorities of the House on this occasion. Of course, we are very glad to find that our views have been adopted, but, at the same time, I do think some explanation is required as to the reason for this change of front, and also as to whether this procedure will be adopted in similar cases in the future. The only reason I can conceive for this change, is that possibly it may be said that the present Bill is less contentious than the London Water Bill. But I do not think that the question of procedure should be governed by the consideration as to whether a Bill is more or less contentious or not, but should be

governed by the character of the Bill itself. Indeed, I think that even on this point the Bills are very much alike. It is possible that the London Water Bill did give rise to a little more opposition than the present Bill, but the opposition to both Bills is of the same character. In the case of both Bills the general principle was accepted, and the real contention was and is on the constitution of the authority to be set up. Last year it was rightly insisted that the Committee to which the Water Bill should be referred should be essentially a judicial Committee that should examine it with perfect freedom from bias. I think I am right in assuming that exactly the same sort of Committee will be appointed for the consideration of this Bill, and that it will be a Committee, not chosen so that all sorts of opinions should be represented upon it, but chosen on account of the judicial qualities of the Members to deal with the Bill in an entirely impartial manner. I should also like to ask what will be the form of procedure in the Committee itself. As I understood in the case of last year's Bill, the House of Lords being joined with the House of Commons involved the appointment of a noble Lord as Chairman of the Committee, and also involved the procedure of the House of Lords being adopted in the Committee. I think that gave rise last year to some little misunderstanding which I hope will be avoided on this occasion. At any rate, I should like to be informed as to what the exact form of procedure will be, and whether in the case of this Committee, when the Bill has not come before your Lordships' House, the Chairman will of necessity be a noble Lord.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The Earl of MORLEY): My Lords, perhaps I may be allowed to reply to the observations of the noble Lord, because it was somewhat on my suggestion that the course taken with regard to the London Water Bill last year was adopted by the House. I would point out that at the present moment there is no Standing Order referring to procedure before Joint Committees. A Joint Committee is not recognised by any of the orders of your Lordships' House. The consequence is that the procedure relating to these

Committees is dealt with according to practice, and practice not of a very old date. My noble friend is perfectly right when he says that up to last year, the practice was that when the other House sent up a message to ask your Lordships' House to join in sending to a Joint Committee a Bill that had originated in the other House, that course was adopted without any further step being taken. That was the case in regard to such Bills as the Railway Rates Bill, which was referred to a Joint Committee two or three years running. Latterly the same course was adopted with regard to one or two private Bills, especially the Dublin Bill, and another relating to an amalgamation of railways in Ireland. But none of those Bills contained any definite principle upon which your Lordships' House would desire to express any opinion. The Water Bill of last year was of a totally different character from any Bill, so far as I know, that up to that time had ever been referred to a Joint Committee. It was, as my noble friend said, a Bill of a hybrid character—that is, a public Bill, but involving interference with private property which made it necessary that, in addition to the public stages in the Whole House, it should pass through the stages that are necessary for a private Bill to go through, namely, a Select Committee. I was consulted on the subject, and it seemed to me that there was this difficulty—your Lordships were sending to a Select Committee a Bill the principle of which you had never approved. I still think there was something in that contention, and that your Lordships' House ought to have an opportunity, if it desires to do so, of expressing an opinion on the principle of a Bill before the details of it are sent to a Select Committee. I quite admit that with that view an absolutely unparalleled arrangement was made. Two identical Bills were introduced, one in each House, and when your Lordships had given a Second Reading to the Bill introduced into this House it was assumed that you approved the principle of the Bill, and that when a message came from the Commons begging your Lordships to refer the Commons Bill which was an identical measure, to a Select

Committee, you could do so, having already assented to the principle in your Lordships' Bill. I quite admit that that was an absolutely unprecedented procedure, but, as I say, the object of it was to enable the House, if the House thought fit, to express an opinion on the principle of the Bill on the Motion for its Second Reading. I am bound to say the House did not take that view of it. The House preferred not to discuss the Bill on Second Reading before it went to the Joint Committee, but preferred to defer the discussion until the Bill came up in a matured and altered form from the Commons.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: We only accepted the formal Second Reading on the distinct understanding that we would be able to raise the principle on the Second Reading of the Bill when it came up from the other House.

THE EARL OF MORLEY: I admit that. But I thought myself that it was right that the House should have an opportunity, before the Bill was referred to a Select Committee, of expressing an opinion upon its principles. As the House did not wish to discuss that Bill on Second Reading before it went to the Joint Committee, it seemed to me, and I think to many of your Lordships, unnecessary to repeat that experiment. Although I quite agree with my noble friend that the question of whether a Bill is contentious or not, should make no difference in the matter of procedure, if the House did not wish to take advantage of a Second Reading debate in the case of so contentious a Bill as the London Water Bill, *a fortiori* it would not wish to take advantage of a Second Reading debate in regard to this less contentious Bill. It, therefore, seemed to me that it would be better on this occasion to revert to the procedure which was adopted in the case of the Railway Rates Bill. The matter is not regulated by any Standing Order. The procedure by Joint Committee, which I think is a very useful one in many cases, has not been crystallised sufficiently to form any rules upon it. It is usual for a Member of your Lordships' House to preside over a Joint Committee,

but there is nothing to prevent the Committee from electing any other Member whom they think fit. As to procedure, the procedure which has been invariably adopted is the procedure which prevails in your Lordships' House.

On Question, Motion agreed to.

And a Message ordered to be sent to the Commons to acquaint them therewith.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Seven o'clock, to Friday next, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 19th May, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

LONDON EDUCATION BILL.

Petition of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of London, in Common Council assembled, presented by the Sheriffs at the Bar, for alteration of the Bill; to lie upon the Table.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz.:

Rickmansworth Gas Bill [Lords]; Sutton Coldfield Corporation Bill [Lords]; Birmingham Corporation Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

Crystal Palace District Gas Bill; Ebbw Vale Water and Improvement Bill; Leigh Corporation Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Bill [by Order]. As amended considered; to be read the third time.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11) Bill; Naval Works Provisional Order Bill. Read a second time, and committed.

Broughty Ferry Gas Provisional Order. Bill to confirm a Provisional Order, under The Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892, relating to Broughty Ferry Gas Supply, ordered to be brought in by the Lord Advocate and Mr. Solicitor-General for Scotland.

Broughty Ferry Gas Provisional Order Bill. "To confirm a Provisional Order, under The Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892, relating to Broughty Ferry Gas Supply," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. (Bill 203.)

Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway Bill; Mullingar, Kells, and Drogheda Railway Bill. Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Mr. HALSEY reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures; Mr. Wallace (added in respect of the Licensing (Scotland) Acts Amendment and the Licensing Acts Consolidation (Scotland) Bills); and had appointed in substitution: Mr. George Brown.

Report to lie upon the Table.

Beckenham Urban District Council Bill. Reported, from the Police and Sanitary

Committee, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to: Stoke Newington Borough Council Bill, with Amendments.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to provide for the transfer of the undertaking of the Shepshed Gas and Coke Company, Limited, to the Shepshed Urban District Council; and to confer further powers on the said Council with respect to the supply of gas; and for other purposes." (Shepshed Urban District Gas Bill [Lords]).

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confer further powers on the Belfast City and District Water Commissioners." (Belfast Water Bill [Lords]).

Shepshed Urban District Gas Bill [Lords]; Belfast Water Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

PETITIONS.

BANKRUPTCY LAW AMENDMENT BILL.

Petition from Walsall, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE BILL.

Petitions against: from Brighton; and Tamworth; to lie upon the Table.

COAL MINES REGULATION BILL.

Petitions in favour: from Ebbw Vale; New Tredegar; Cwm Avon; Turton Moor; and Llanelly; to lie upon the Table.

COUNTY COURTS BILL.

Petition from Walsall, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

COUNTY COURTS JURISDICTION EXTENSION BILL.

Petition from Stoke-upon-Trent, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

DETENTION OF POOR PERSONS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Lochbroom, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN BILL.

Petition from Walsall, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

LICENCES RENEWAL AND TRANSFER BILL.

Petition from Battersea, against; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING LAW (COMPENSATION FOR NON-RENEWAL) BILL.

Petition from Battersea, against; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Petitions for alteration: from Lybster; Kirkwall; Camelon; and Keith; to lie upon the Table.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL VETO (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Govan, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FRANCHISE AND REPRESENTATION (EXTENSION TO COMPANIES) BILL.

Petition from Walsall, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

LONDON EDUCATION BILL.

Petition from Bermondsey, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Petitions against: from Elham; Mars-ton; Brighton; and Tamworth; to lie upon the Table.

PORT OF LONDON BILL.

Petition from Battersea, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL.

Petitions in favour: from Birkenhead; Arbroath (three); Parkstone; Port Sunlight; Grahamstown and Bainsford; Hamilton; Apperley Bridge; Rathy; Overtown; Cambuslang; Rhodes; Airedale; Bath; Runcorn; Winsford; Work-sop; Darwen; Glespin; Oxford; Bristol; Kinning Park; Howick; Woolwick; Backbarrow; Walsall; Brandsby; Leaven-seat; Stockton; Sowerby Bridge; and Paisley (two); to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Petitions for alteration of Law: from Runcorn; Bodmin; and Stoke-upon Trent; to lie upon the Table.

RAILWAYS (PRIVATE SIDINGS) BILL.

Petition from Walsall, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RATING OF MACHINERY BILL.

Petition from Walsall, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

REGISTRATION OF FIRMS BILL.

Petition from Walsall, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petition from Camberwell, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE DISPUTES BILL.

Petitions in favour: from Cwm Avon; New Tredegar; Turtton Moor; and Llanelly; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE UNIONS AND TRADE DISPUTES BILL.

Petition from Battersea, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

WAGES BOARDS BILL.

Petition from Walsall, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

WOMEN'S DISABILITIES (REMOVAL) BILL.

Petition from Battersea, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

AFRICA (No. 4, 1903).

Copy presented, of Report from His Majesty's Commissioner for British Central Africa respecting the Anglo-Congolese Frontier, in the neighbourhood of Lake Mweru, and the circumstances attending the arrest of the late M. Rabinek [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (MISCELLANEOUS SERIES).

Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Miscellaneous Series, No. 590 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2979 to 2982 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

AUSTRALIA.

Copy presented, of Correspondence respecting the Constitutional Relations of the Australian Commonwealth and States in regard to external affairs [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

COLONIAL CONFERENCE, 1902.

Copy presented, of Memorandum on Sea Power and the Principles involved in it [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LEELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 7) BILL.

Copy ordered, "of Memorandum stating the nature of the proposals contained in the Provisional Orders included in the Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill."—(*Mr. Bonar Law.*)

LAND REGISTRY.

Return ordered, "showing the work done in the Land Registry under the various Acts hereinafter mentioned, namely:—

"1. Under the Land Transfer Acts, 1875 and 1897:—(a) The number, value, and acreage (where known) of estates the titles to which were registered, on first registration, from the first day of January, 1902, to the 31st day of December, 1902, showing the numbers of estates registered with absolute, qualified, and possessory title, and leaseholds; and also the number of estates registered under The Small Holdings Act, 1892; (b) The total number of separate titles on the register on the 31st day of December, 1902 (i.) by first registration, (ii.) by sub-division of estates already registered, and (iii.) by transfer from the 1862 register; (c) The total number of separate titles which have been removed from the register on the 31st day of December, 1902.

"2. Under the Land Registry Act, 1862:—(a) The total number, value, and acreage (where known) of estates the titles to which were registered on first registration;

(b) The total number of separate titles on the register on the 31st day of December, 1902 (i.) by first registration, and (ii.) by sub-division of estates already registered; (c) The total number of separate titles which had been removed from the register on the 31st day of December, 1902, otherwise than by transfer to the 1875 register.

"3. Under both the Acts of 1875 and 1862:—(a) The total number of separate titles on the register on the 31st day of December, 1902; (b) The total number of transactions registered from the 1st day of January, 1902, to the 31st day of December, 1902, showing the numbers of (i.) first registrations under the Acts of 1875 and 1897, (ii.) conveyances, transfers, and transmissions of land, (iii.) mortgages, charges, further charges, and transfers of mortgages and charges, (iv.) reconveyances of mortgages and cessation of charges, (v.) leases and surrenders of leases, (vi) miscellaneous.

"4. Under the Mortgage Debenture Acts, 1865 and 1870, and the Improvement of Lands Act, 1864: A statement so far as may be practicable of the nature and amount of the work done under these Acts from the 1st day of January, 1902, to the 31st day of December, 1902.

"5. Under The Land Charges Registration and Searches Act, 1888, and The Land Charges Act, 1900:—The number of registrations, official searches, and ordinary searches made from the 1st day of January, 1902, to the 31st day of December, 1902.

"6. Under the Middlesex Registry Act, 1708, and The Land Registry (Middlesex Deeds) Act, 1891:—The number of registrations and searches made from the 1st day of January, 1902, to the 31st day of December, 1902.

"And, showing the amount of fees received and the amount of salaries and expenses in the Land Registry from the 1st day of April, 1902, to the 31st day of March, 1903, distinguishing for the purposes of Section 22 of The Land Transfer Act, 1897, the fees received and salaries and expenses paid under the Land Transfer Acts and the other Acts above referred to (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 304, of Session 1902)."—(*Mr. Henry David Greene.*)

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.**

Statue of James II. at Gwydyr House.

MR. BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield): To ask the hon. Member for North Huntingdonshire, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, if he will state when the statue of James II. that was removed from the garden adjoining Gwydyr House, Whitehall, during the Coronation festivities of last year will be restored to its place.

(Answered by Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes.)

The First Commissioner does not think that the garden adjoining Gwydyr House proved to be a suitable position for the statue of James II. He is considering whether a site can be found in the vicinity of the new Admiralty building in St. James's Park, or whether to replace the statue in its old position behind the Banqueting Hall in Whitehall Gardens. It is not proposed to re-erect it out of London.

Vaccination in Scotland—Supply of Lymph.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Lord Advocate in view of the fact that the Local Government Board for Scotland expended £120 14s. 3d. in respect of glycerinated calf lymph and vaccine lymph during the year ending 31st March last, will he state the quantity of each of the two classes of lymph thus obtained, the source from which each class was procured, and to whom the cost in each case was paid.

(Answered by Mr. A. Graham Murray.)

419 tubes of vaccine lymph were obtained from Dr. Cadell, of Edinburgh, and 2,220 tubes of glycerinated calf lymph from Dr. Blaxall, of the Government Bacteriological Laboratory in London. The amounts paid to these gentlemen respectively were £15 14s. 3d and £105.

Overcrowding in the Royal Edinburgh Asylum.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Lord Advocate, seeing that in the West House of the Royal Edinburgh Asylum there are 142 patients in excess of the number

which the building was designed to accommodate, and in view of the outbreak of dysentery, will arrangements be made to secure temporary premises for the accommodation of the surplus patients pending the erection of Bangour Asylum.

(Answered by Mr. A. Graham Murray.)

I am informed that as many patients as accommodation could be provided for have been removed as boarders to other asylums, and that the new asylum buildings will be ready within as short a time as would be required for the acquisition and adaptation of temporary premises.

Corn Duty—Rebate.

MR. GODDARD (Ipswich): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the duty will be refunded on malt, maize meal, flaked maize, flaked rice, lamb food, etc., made from duty-paid grain, in the same way in which the duty is to be refunded on flour made from duty-paid wheat.

(Answered by Mr. Ritchie.) Stocks of malt, maize meal, flaked rice, lamb food, and kindred milled products of duty-paid cereals will be eligible for rebate within the limits of the recent concession. Regulations on the whole subject will be issued by the Board of Customs in due course.

"Central African Times."

SIR BRAMPTON GURDON (Norfolk, N.): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been called to the action of Mr. Nunan, Judge of the High Court of British Central Africa, in forfeiting the bonds of Messrs. Hynde and Rutherford, the proprietor and editor of the *Central African Times*, in consequence of an article which appeared therein on the 13th December, 1902; and, if so, will he say what steps, if any he proposes to take in the matter.

(Answered by Lord Cranborne.) The matter to which the hon. Member refers has been brought to the notice of the Secretary of State, and is under the consideration of His Majesty's Government.

Telegraphic Communication between Listowel and Tralee.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether his attention has been called to the fact that inconvenience is caused by the fact that there is no direct telegraphic communication between Listowel and Tralee, a distance of about twenty miles, and that telegrams to or from Tralee and Listowel must go by Killarney, Mallow, and Limerick to either place, a distance of about 150 miles; and, if so, whether, seeing that the telegraphic system is already extended from Tralee to Lixnaw, a point only five miles from Listowel, he can take steps to grant this extension.

(Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.) The circumstances have not materially changed since the hon. Member called attention to this subject on the 2nd July, 1900.† The telegraphic communication between Tralee and Listowel is certainly somewhat circuitous. The number of telegrams passing between the two towns is, however, very small, and, as the average time occupied in their transmission is only seventeen minutes, there is at present no case for incurring the considerable expense which the carrying out of the hon. Member's suggestion would involve. The matter will, however, be borne in mind in case an opportunity should present itself of effecting in an economical way any improvement in the service.

Irish Equivalent Grant.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he proposes to devote part of the equivalent grant for Irish education to the reduction of the average necessary for the services of an assistant teacher; and whether any will be used in heating and improving schools and in providing apparatus for the proper working of elementary science.

(Answered by Mr. Wyndham.) I stated yesterday, in answer to a similar Question by the hon. Member for East Clare,‡ that inquiries in this matter, generally, are still proceeding, and that

until these have been completed it will not be practicable to allocate the money.

Irish National Teachers' Pension Fund.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the fact that the Irish National Teachers' Pension Fund was revised in 1901, he will lay a Report upon the Table so that the present position of the fund may be known.

(Answered by Mr. Arthur Elliot.) Yes, I will do so.

Treatment of Two English Girls by Police at Cape Town.

MR. NORMAN (Wolverhampton, S.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if his attention has been called to the case of two English girls from Bilston named Laura and Agnes Hyslop, who were taken under arrest through the streets of Cape Town by the police, charged with absenting themselves from their employment, and subsequently discharged by the magistrate on the ground that they have been sufficiently punished by this exposure; and, if so, will he say if he can take any steps to prevent in the future such action, as calculated to deter young women from emigrating to South Africa.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.) I have seen a newspaper report of the case referred to, but I am not otherwise acquainted with the incident. I am not in a position to interfere in such a matter occurring in a self-governing colony beyond instructing the Governor to call the attention of his Ministers to the subject, which will be done.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Somaliland.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will state whether the Government have received General Manning's Report, and whether they intend to go on with the military expedition in the interior of Somaliland; whether they have applied to the Italian Government for military co-operation; and, if so, with what result; will he lay

† See (4) *Debates*, lxxxv., 281.

‡ See page 933.

upon the Table the text of any treaties or formal engagements made by the Government with the Ishak or other tribes of the interior of the Somaliland Protectorate obliging the Government to continue to them military protection; and can he state what is the position of the Abyssinian force co-operating with the British expedition.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): As regards the first and last part of the Question concerning the present condition of the operations in Somaliland, His Majesty's Government, as I stated yesterday,† have given orders to concentrate the British force at Bohotle, and pending the receipt of further information from General Manning I cannot make any further statement on the subject. As regards co-operation with the Italian Government the hon. Member will find the information he requires in Paper, Africa No. 1. 1903 (Cd. 1394) presented in January, and as regards treaties or engagements with the Ishak and other tribes, in State Papers Vol. 76, pages 101 to 107, and Vol. 77, pages 1263 to 1267.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Will the right hon. Gentleman answer that portion of my Question relating to the position of the Abyssinian force. I wish also to ask whether there have been any negotiations with the Italian Government in respect of Somaliland since those mentioned in the Papers to which the right hon. Gentleman has referred me.

MR. BRODRICK: With regard to the Abyssinian force, as I stated yesterday, our information is that it is operating from the south and is driving the Mullah's forces to the north. That coincides with the determination of the Government to concentrate their forces at Bohotle, where they will be available for the protection of British territory.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Will the right hon. Gentleman be good enough to say whether there have been any negotiations in respect of Somaliland between the Government and the Italian Government since those mentioned in the Papers of last January.

MR. BRODRICK: His Majesty's Government are in continual communication with the Italian Government. Their communications throughout have been of the friendliest character, and the Italian Government have given such co-operation as they have been able to give throughout.

Imperial Yeomanry.

MR. MANSFIELD (Lincolnshire, Spalding): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state how many companies of Imperial Yeomanry went to South Africa in 1901, and the date when the last company returned; whether the orders that the accounts of each company should be settled before embarkation on their return, and that the chief paymaster for Imperial Yeomanry should report to headquarters at Johannesburg that the accounts had been adjusted were carried out; how many officers commanding companies of the 1901 batch of Imperial Yeomanry have received their gratuities in full to date, and how many remain to be settled with; have the offers of officers commanding companies of their services in adjusting these accounts been accepted; and will he state the position in the Army Pay Department, pay, and pension of the chief paymaster for Imperial Yeomanry, and what his position will be when the work of the Imperial Yeomanry Pay Office is completed; and can he state when this work will be finished.

MR. BRODRICK: The 1901 Imperial Yeomanry consisted of 17,243 non-commissioned officers and men who were despatched as drafts and subsequently organised into companies; the last of these companies was demobilised on 15th September, 1902. The orders as regards the accounts were that they should be brought up to date, and under great pressure they were sufficiently brought up to date to enable the men to receive the bulk of what was due to them prior to their being discharged at Aldershot. No less, however, than 14,000 men appealed against their captains' assessment, and in nearly every case their complaint was justified. The blame, therefore, for the delay in final settlement rests entirely with the captains, and the action of the

† See page 922.

War Office in withholding the officers' gratuities until the accounts were examined has been amply justified. Of the 1,451 officers commissioned for the Imperial Yeomanry, 370 officers in charge of companies have not yet received their gratuities. Officers have offered their services to clear up the accounts and their information has been duly utilised. The officer acting as chief paymaster is a very able and experienced re-employed officer from the retired list; he is drawing the same emoluments as a chief paymaster on the active list, and when his employment ceases will return to the retired list. His pay is £638 15s., and his retired pay, when he reverts to it, is £500 a year. He hopes to complete the 1900 accounts by June and the 1901 and 1902 accounts by the end of the year.

Scots Fusiliers—Officers' Uniforms.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state what will be the average cost of the alterations in the uniform of the Scots Fusiliers to individual officers.

MR. BRODRICK: The cost of alteration by London tailors is 18s. 6d. and by regimental tailors 12s. 6d.

Gilbert and Ellice Islands—Mr. Lodge's Case.

MR. CATHCART WASON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he is aware that a Mr. Lodge was illegally deported from the Gilbert and Ellice Islands to Fiji; and, if so, can he state whether any compensation has been paid to him in respect of his deportation or any reprimand upon those who were responsible for it.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): Mr. Lodge was sent to Fiji in September, 1901, to be sentenced by the High Commissioner on a charge of being an idle and disorderly person. This action was taken by the Resident Commissioner of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Protectorate, under a misconception of the powers vested in him by the Pacific Order in Council, 1893, in order that he might not have

to deal with a man against whom he might be supposed to be prejudiced. The attention of the Resident Commissioner was drawn to the technical illegality, and the cost of Mr. Lodge's maintenance in Fiji and return passage to the Gilbert and Ellice Islands was defrayed from Protectorate funds. The circumstances, in my opinion, do not call for a reprimand of the Resident Commissioner.

Administration of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands.

MR. CATHCART WASON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if his attention has been called to the fact that the Resident at the Gilbert Ellice Islands has deprived chiefs of their land, ordered floggings for delay in payment of taxes, and has organised a system of forced labour; and, if so, will he state what steps the High Commissioner at Fiji has taken to exercise control over the administration of justice at the Gilbert and Ellice Islands.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Allegations, of the kind mentioned by the hon. Member, against the Resident Commissioner of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Protectorate were fully investigated in September, 1901, and were reported to be unfounded, as I informed the hon. Member in reply to a similar Question from him on the 14th February, 1902.† I have recently received other complaints of maladministration in the Protectorate from a former officer of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, whose appointment as the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific terminated in 1900. The complaints have been referred to the High Commissioner for investigation.

Government Shipments to South Africa.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in the interest of British manufactures and for the development of British trade to South Africa, he will consider the advisability of directing the Crown Agents to discontinue shipments of cargo by the Conference lines until such time as the Conference lines cease their methods of penalising traders who desire to send goods by other lines.

† See (4) *Debates*, ciii., 40.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I stated in answer to a Question by the hon. Member for the Otley Division of Yorkshire on the 24th April† that public tenders for the transport of freight would be called for. Meanwhile the contract at present in force does not admit of the action proposed by the hon. Member.

Massacre of Jews at Kischineff.

*MR. STUART SAMUEL (Tower Hamlets, Whitechapel): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he is able to give the House any information respecting the massacre of Jews at Kischineff in Russia.

THE UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord CRANBORNE, Rochester): According to information received by His Majesty's Government disturbances arose in the district of Kischineff shortly before the Greek Easter, from the murder of a Christian lad, which was wrongly attributed to the Jews. The latter retaliated on their assailants. The result was a general attack on the Jews by a mob on Easter Sunday and Monday, in which it is believed that about 100 Jews lost their lives and many more were wounded.

Preferential Railway Rates.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether cases have been brought under his notice in which railway companies in the United Kingdom make lower charges on the carriage of foreign than on home produce and manufactures; and whether, seeing that the Board has not power to insist on uniform rates for all goods, British and foreign, he will initiate legislation to give the Board such power.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): A complaint of the nature referred to was made to the Board of Trade and fully investigated by the Department in 1900 under the conciliation provisions (Section 31) of the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888, with the result that the allegations made against the railway companies concerned were not sustained. Since that date no specific cases (as distinguished from merely

general allegations) have been brought to the notice of the Board, of differential treatment of home and foreign merchandise in respect of the same or similar services. Such treatment is explicitly prohibited by Section 27 of the Act of 1888, and apart from the action which the Board of Trade are always ready to take under the conciliation clause to which I have referred, the prohibition may be enforced by the Railway and Canal Commissioners upon proceedings before that Court. I am not prepared to initiate legislation designed to transfer the power of enforcement from a judicial Court to an administrative Department.

Kingston Motor Accident.

MR. CATHCART WASON: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if any inquiry has taken place into the recent motor accident at Kingston, and, if so, will he state what action he proposes to take.

THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. GRANT LAWSON, Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk): My right hon. friend the Home Secretary has obtained from the Police a report as to the accident referred to and I have had an opportunity of reading this. The case does not seem to call for any further inquiry or for any action by me.

Castlebaldwin Postal Facilities.

MR. O'DOWD (Sligo, S.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General, whether his attention has been directed to a memorial forwarded in June of last year from the Castlebaldwin district of county Sligo to the effect that letters posted in Sligo could not be delivered in the neighbouring county of Roscommon until two days afterwards; and, if so, will he state what steps, if any, are being taken to remove this grievance.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): I have looked into the official Papers relating to the memorial referred to by the hon. Member, forwarded in June of last year by certain residents in South Sligo, and I find that an answer was sent to the hon. Member from my Department on the 6th August last to the effect that it was not practicable to improve the postal service between the districts in question. I will, however, make further

† See (4) *Debates*, cxxi., 358.

inquiry on the subject and I will communicate the result to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Donaghadee Post Office.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he has considered the petition lately addressed to him by the inhabitants of Donaghadee praying that the post office should be removed to a more convenient and central part of the town; and, if so, whether he has arrived at any decision.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The memorial received on the 25th ultimo from certain inhabitants of Donaghadee, asking that the post office should be removed to a more convenient and central part of the town, is under consideration, and two schemes are being examined, but I have not yet been able to come to a decision.

Whitsuntide Recess.

DR. FARQUHARSON (Aberdeenshire, W.): Can the right hon. Gentleman now give the House any information as to the Whitsuntide holidays?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I do not think there is any chance of our being able to rise for the Whitsuntide recess before the Thursday before Whit Sunday. I should greatly regret if anything were to keep us after that.

SIR JOSEPH LEESE (Lancashire, Accrington): When are we to meet again?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am afraid I cannot say.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): Will the Prime Minister say what Supply he proposes to take next Thursday?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I understand it will best suit the convenience of the House that I should put down

the Vote for Law and Justice first on Thursday, and the Revenue Votes second.

In answer to Mr. GIBSON BOWLES (Regis Lynn)—

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said, although he was anxious to get on to the Finance Bill, they must go on in the meantime with the London Education Bill.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

PORT OF LONDON BILL.

That they concur with the Commons in their Resolution, "That it is expedient that the Port of London Bill be committed to a Joint Committee of both Houses."

NEW BILLS.

COTTAGE HOMES BILL.

"To authorise the provision of Cottage Homes for the Aged Deserving Poor," presented by Mr. John Hutton; supported by Mr. Wharton, Mr. Brigg, Sir Walter Foster, Mr. Goulding, Mr. Paulton, Mr. T. W. Russell, and Mr. Wilson-Todd; to be read a second time upon Friday, and to be printed. (Bill 204.)

BANKERS' (IRELAND) ACT REPEAL BILL.

"To repeal an Act passed in Ireland in 1759 relating to Bankers," presented by Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. (Bill 205.)

MARINE STORE DEALERS (IRELAND) BILL.

"For regulating the business of Marine Store Dealers and Dealers in second-hand goods in Ireland," presented by Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. (Bill 206.)

IRISH VALUATION ACTS COMMITTEE.

Ordered, That Mr. Hozier be discharged, and that Mr. William Maxwell be added to the Committee.—(Sir Alexander Acland-Hood.)

LONDON EDUCATION BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 1.

SIR JOHN GORST (Cambridge University) moved to omit the words "so far as applicable and subject to modifications made by this Act" in order to insert "subject to the provisions of this Act." In regard to the words "so far as applicable" he thought they were unnecessary. But his chief objection was to the word "modifications." It appeared to him that the adoption of the word would pledge the Committee in advance to some very important questions of principle which were to be dealt with on later clauses of the Bill. He suggested that the Government should substitute some neutral word so as to leave to the Committee an unfettered discretion with respect to the modifications of the Act of last year which might subsequently be made in the present measure. One modification which they would be called upon to discuss was that the education authority for London, alone of all education authorities, was to delegate its powers to bodies over which it was not absolutely supreme. Over and over again the Prime Minister said the managers mentioned in the Act of last year were to be the creatures and servants of the local education authority, but under this proposed modification, instead of being the creatures and servants of the education authority in London, they were to be an entirely independent authority with a right of appeal to the Board of Education. The Committee ought not to be asked to pledge itself to adopt these important modifications hereafter.

Amendment proposed

"In Clause 1, page 1, line 6, leave out from 'shall' to 'apply' in line 7, and insert 'subject to the provisions of this Act.'"

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

*THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir WILLIAM ANSON, Oxford Univer-

sity) said that if the word "provisions" would satisfy the right hon. Gentleman the Government were prepared to abandon "modifications" and thus make the phrase read "subject to the provisions of this Act." But he still felt that the words "so far as applicable" were necessary because the references to non-county boroughs and urban districts were not applicable, and, if these words were not inserted, would involve changes wherever they occurred. It was not desirable that the Committee should have to consider a great number of small changes or that the Bill should be overloaded with a number of small Amendments, and the insertion of these words was therefore desirable.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) urged that in a matter of this kind—the retention of the words "so far as applicable"—they ought to accept the advice of the Secretary to the Board of Education. As to the term "modification," it was one not usually used in Acts of Parliament, and "provisions" would be more suitable. He was glad the hon. Baronet was willing to make that change.

MR. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.) said he had on the Paper an Amendment somewhat similar in terms, and he was glad the hon. Baronet was prepared to make the suggested change.

SIR JOHN GORST said he could not agree with the hon. Baronet that the words "so far as applicable" were necessary, but the question was not one worth discussing at any length, and if the other change were made he would be satisfied.

Question put, and agreed to.

MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland) then moved to omit the words "and subject to modifications made by this Act" in order to insert "except as regards non-provided schools." He said the object of the Amendment was to exclude the voluntary schools from the scope of the Bill. He thought the Committee ought to be grateful to him for withdrawing the discussion from the unattractive regions into which it wandered yesterday, and for raising a good square fight upon a question with regard to

which they could use the English language, and not such barbarous terms as "inco-ordination," "de-democratise," and "*ad hoc*." He was aware that his action might be displeasing to the Government, who had put forward the Bill as if it were only a piece of machinery involving no great principle. His contention was that it involved exactly the same principle as the Bill of last year, and the Government must not expect to avoid the discussion of most important questions by framing the measure in such a way as to make it difficult to raise these vital points. The Prime Minister, in answering a Question on the previous day, used contemptuous language in reference to the movement in progress among the Nonconformists against the payment of the education rate under the Act of last year. He declared that the movement was against sound logic, sound morality, and sound constitutional law. But they were not concerned with any such questions as that. They were concerned with the fact that a rebellious feeling had grown which was inducing a large body of the most respectable citizens to refuse to discharge their civic duties. He had got into trouble with some of his constituents for having said that he did not entirely approve of that action. But they were bound to recognise the fact that such a movement existed, especially in the large towns. It was useless saying that the movement was not a great movement. There were already 150 committees of citizens who were determined not to pay their rates, and in places like Leeds thousands of citizens had announced their intention not to pay. He asked the Committee to hesitate before it extended the movement to a great metropolis like London, by placing the voluntary schools on the rates. He did not like the way in which they were forced to raise the question, for he agreed with the hon. Member for North Camberwell that the way in which voluntary schools had to depend upon private subscriptions was deplorable. He would say at once that if the Government could bring forward any kind of concordat which would offer any promise of a settlement of this question, he would withdraw his Amendment.

This situation had changed in another way since the Act of last year; not only was there a civic rebellion on the part of the Nonconformists of this country, but those

who cared had been watching a settlement of the question shadowed and outlined, though not actually accomplished, in Wales. Church laymen and Nonconformist laymen had put their heads together and made offers to the Church managers of the voluntary schools. They had come so nearly to an agreement that it was whispered that one of the most eminent bishops thought a settlement could be easily arrived at on the Welsh lines. The only thing which had prevented a definite settlement in the Principality was that the clergy, and the clergy alone, had refused to give up the patronage of the schools. Thus a most desirable settlement was blocked by one small section of the Church of England community. Why could not the Government devise some plan for London which might eventually be made applicable to the whole of England, and which would settle that disagreeable question. Everybody knew that the Bill of last year would continue to be the cause of religious and political friction until the difficulty had been settled in some such way as the Welsh people had come to the opinion it was possible to settle it. London was a particularly good place for making the experiment he suggested, because the educational representatives of London had always shown themselves devoid of denominational feeling. There had only been one attempt to introduce religious controversy on the London School Board and that was promptly suppressed by the action of the majority of the members and by the electors as well. In the case of the Jewish schools they had demonstrated their willingness to respect religious convictions by appointing, as far as possible, Jewish teachers, and in the selection of managers generally they had adopted a similar policy. For instance, they had appointed no fewer than 348 Church of England managers, and thus they had shown themselves eminently capable of giving denominationalists fair treatment. He did not believe that the body which the Government now proposed to set up—a body which would be largely composed of members of the London County Council—directly elected by the people of London—would be any more influenced by denominational feeling than the School Board had been.

Mr. Trevelyan.

Indeed, if anything, he thought it would be less liable to be influenced. He therefore invited the Government to try some scheme which would, on the one hand, give full opportunity to the religious denominations of having the religious teaching they wanted for their children, and on the other, give full control to the public authority.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, lines 6 and 7, to leave out the words 'and subject to modifications made by this Act,' and insert the words 'except as regards non-provided schools.'—(*Mr. Trevelyan.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'and subject to' stand part of the Clause."

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON pointed out that the proposal of the hon. Member was practically to exclude the voluntary schools from the operation of the Bill, in order that at some later stage the Government might devise a concordat—the conditions of which the hon. Member did not in any way shadow forth—which would solve the religious difficulty in London and possibly be an example to the rest of the country. If there was one part of the United Kingdom where the religious difficulty was less present than another it was in London, where every sort of school, of every sort of denomination, was open to the children of any and every religious belief. Had the hon. Member considered the number of schools that would be excluded by his proposal, and the proportion of them which would hardly be amenable to any such concordat? There were more than 300 Church of England schools, and more than 100 Roman Catholic schools. The latter were not likely to fall into line with any solution which would probably be agreeable to the hon. Member. There were more than 468 voluntary schools which would, by the Amendment, be excluded, and, as was well known, they had to work under very considerable difficulty. The proposal was, for the sake of a possible solution of the religious difficulty—if it existed at all in London—to retard the efficiency of all those voluntary schools, and keep them outside the control of the local authority—that complete control

over secular instruction which was given by the Act of last year. He asked the House, was it worth while to embark upon a problem so difficult, so likely to excite animosity—and so calculated to prolong indefinitely the debates on that Bill? He thought not, therefore on behalf of the Government he refused to accept the Amendment.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) said that while he held strongly that the Bill last year was a great educational reform in one respect, in so far as it put the whole cost of education on public funds, he felt that it ought to have been accompanied by two concomitants (1) full and complete public control, and (2) the teachers should be relieved from theological tests. Unfortunately those two conditions had not been satisfied. The result would be that every voluntary school in London would be more and more the cock-pit of contention and faction. That would be entirely unsatisfactory, and could not but be disastrous to education. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education called attention to the hopeless condition of the London voluntary schools if they were excluded from the Bill. They were in a hopeless condition. Most of them were in a chronic state of bankruptcy; their apparatus was very scanty; and the teachers were nearly all juvenile drudges, as the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Cambridge University used to call them, or uncertified teachers. He would mention two facts about them. The School Board for London had one certified teacher for every fifty-one children on the roll; the voluntary schools had only one certified teacher for every 131 children on the roll. That showed the hopeless condition of voluntary schools from an educational point of view. Therefore, he agreed that they should be taken over sooner or later, and the sooner the better; but on terms fair to the ratepayers who provided the money. He sympathised with the hopeless condition of those schools; but the House would do them more harm than good if it insisted upon thrusting them on the rates on terms not fair to the people finding the money. They would be more starved than before. He desired education to be a popular charge.

That was why he supported the principle of the Bill of last year to maintain all public education out of public funds; but the terms must be fair. They could take a horse to the stream but they could not make him drink; they could lay down schemes for aiding the voluntary schools but they would not work unless the terms were fair. Therefore, while he agreed as to the essential necessity of putting the voluntary schools on public funds, he was bound to point out that if the Government desired to see those schools maintained financially they would frustrate their own end unless the terms were fair.

What were the terms proposed? Every voluntary school was to have six managers, of whom the public were only to send two. That, to his point of view, was entirely unsatisfactory; and he believed the people of London would resent it. They would resent it as much as Durham, the Isle of Wight, and Wales resented it. The expenditure of London money by persons not responsible to the people of London was a very acute question; and therefore, in this endeavour to aid the voluntary schools, the terms should be fair, or else the scheme would not work. His second point was that there were 468 blocks of buildings with 1,500 departments; and, therefore, 1,500 head teachers, who in the past had been partly paid by voluntary contributions, which justified, in the minds of the donors, the right to superimpose theological tests. The voluntary contributions would disappear under the Bill, and with them would also disappear the last claim to superimpose theological tests. It would not be right to pay the salary of a teacher entirely out of public funds, and then superimpose a private test. The public authority should be the only authority to superimpose any test. There was no answer to that. The public would say, "Here we are finding all the money, and only getting two managers out of six; here we are paying the salaries of the teachers, on whom the clergy of all denominations are imposing tests." The public would not have that. They might have to have it for the moment; but they would take the earliest opportunity of upsetting it, which would cause a lot of acrimony and friction, and

the setting back of the work of education. As he understood his hon. friend who moved the Amendment, he did not desire that the voluntary schools should remain out for all time. The Amendment was only to be a temporary expedient; and his hon. friend admitted that he had to move it in a way which did not entirely commend itself to him. His hon. friend did not think the scheme was the best scheme, but let it be adopted, and then let them excogitate a new concordat which would satisfy the people who would have to provide the money. That was a wise proposal which would be better for the voluntary schools in the long run. If they were to be thrust on the rates now, they would be starved as they were being starved under the Act of last year in many parts of the country. The Secretary to the Board of Education asked what would be the condition of the voluntary schools in the meantime. He agreed it would be bad and hopeless; but the scheme in the Bill would not make it better, as it would cause bitterness and acrimony and make the schools a cockpit for contention. He would gladly, with both hands, support any proposal, for the time being, to give these starving schools in London an additional Exchequer grant for the next twelve months in order that they might not lose by the non-application of the Bill during that period.

During the year they themselves might be able to do two things, and do them successfully. First of all, they might be able to get a good education authority for London. They might be able to get together a number of persons who would submit to the Government a good scheme for education in London. In addition to getting a good authority, which he thought was easily possible, for they had the time and the circumspection to deal with it, they might prepare a scheme by which the denominational schools might be taken over so as to make their finance sound, and to do it fairly to the people who found the money. There was no finality about the scheme of last year. The only thing certain about it was that it was giving a great deal of trouble and causing a great deal of irritation, which was bound to retard education. The

Secretary to the Board of Education said that the Committee had no scheme other than that in the Bill before them; but, before the Clause was disposed of, he would ask the Committee to consider such a scheme. Its four broad principles were—firstly, that in return for public money the voluntary schools should be under complete popular control—no proportion of two out of six, or nonsense of that kind, which could not stand for any length of time; secondly, that as the voluntarists had the buildings, he would be prepared to pay them a generous rental for the hours they would be occupied; thirdly, that the local authority should appoint the teachers without reference to tests; and, fourthly, that every facility, outside the hours appropriated by the public authority, should be given to the denomination to gather together the children of their faith, and teach them the tenets they desired to teach, altogether irrespective of public money. He did not think that the teaching of denominational tenets could be justified except in that way. That was what was now called the Welsh concordat. He recommended it in the First Reading of the Bill of last year; and he believed it was bound to prevail, as it had prevailed in the colonies. There was now a very good opportunity of trying it in London. It would allay bitterness; and then it could be extended to the whole of the country, and the whole controversy would be got rid of. He supported the Amendment which would take the voluntary schools out of the Bill for the present, in order that they might not rush into a scheme which would frustrate the object in view. If hon. Members thought that they were settling the question by applying last year's Bill to London, they would be only importing the acrimony from the provinces into London. He was afraid it would be so; he deplored it very much. He desired to do the best he could for the voluntary schools; and he hoped they would come upon the public funds on the lines he had suggested.

*SIR FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan) said that, perhaps, he ought to apologise for intervening, having taken so much

part in the Education Bill of last year. But he had been in the Metropolis for forty years, and had acted as a guardian and a vestryman in the parish in which he lived. He therefore had some connection with the Metropolis, and he desired to express his regret, in the interests of education, that this discussion should have been inaugurated. He was very strongly in favour of a uniform system of education, so far as it could be obtained, for the whole of England and Wales. There was one great reason for uniformity, and that was that if they once departed from uniformity they must enter into the widest fields of discussion, and raise probably some of those bitter controversies which he believed to be profoundly dangerous to the cause of education and religion. The population with which they had to deal with regard to elementary education was to a large extent a migratory one. He believed that in the local legislation of the country—in the administration of municipal affairs—it would be of the greatest advantage to the working man to have uniformity. It was a very great hardship on the working man when he had moved, in pursuance of his calling, from one town to another, that he should find the education of his children conducted under widely different conditions. The hon. Member for Elland, when he spoke of a desire on the part of the clergy to dominate these schools, must have forgotten that where there were six managers of a voluntary school only one was a clergyman, and to say under those circumstances clerical influence was to predominate and tyrannise was one of those monstrous propositions which any one with a less active imagination than the hon. Member for Elland could not for a moment conceive. With regard to the suggestions made as to the bitter controversies that had been raised in the country, so far as he had been able to observe, all the bitterness existed in this House. They had great discussions in the House and brave declarations, but when he went into the country he did not observe any bitter discussions or brave declarations. So far as he could see, there was a desire to make the Act of last year work well, and an Act of Parliament could not work well if there were to be bitter controversies on all sides.

*MR. NUSSEY (Pontefract), who was almost inaudible in the gallery, was understood to say he supported the Amendment, as he failed to see how a uniform scheme could in any way remove these bitter controversies. In the interest of education he deplored the fact that there should be any danger of involving this great Metropolis in similar controversies to those which were now raging in the country. The Education Act of last year was not a success. The Church party did not thank the Government for it, and he was not sure that the Roman Catholics were satisfied, whilst it was well known the Nonconformists were not. He hoped, in the interest of education in the voluntary schools, that some modifications which should be satisfactory to the ratepayers would be made. He much deplored the unsympathetic speech of the hon. Gentleman who represented the Education Department, and for that reason he should vote for the Amendment.

*MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR (Liverpool, E. Toxteth) said, so far as he could judge, the Bill was skilfully devised to evade all the bitter controversies which had been referred to. Why had the religious controversy again obtruded itself? He had considered so far as he could the Amendment of the hon. Member for Camberwell, and he could not see his way to support it. He should vote against it on two grounds. In the first place, in his opinion the religious controversy was fairly well threshed out last year. He did not favour the Government method of treating this controversy. The Government had two alternatives. They could have adopted the dual system of the School Board and the voluntary school system, or in the alternative the system sketched by the hon. member for Camberwell — that they should take over the schools or rent them, and put them under complete public control, and then place them in the hands of religious teachers for religious instruction at certain times. The Government elected, rightly or wrongly, to adopt the former. The proposal of the Amendment was to refuse to apply to London the principle which had been adopted for the rest of the country; a course for which he

failed to see any argument. If they were to have war in the provinces over last year's Act, surely it would be better to have it all over the country at once and have done with it. There was nothing in the relations between the board and voluntary schools in London to differentiate them from those in the rest of the country; why, therefore, should Parliament refuse to make London the subject of this interesting experiment? He was not at all sure that by proceeding on the lines of the Bill they would not eventually get a good education authority for London. It appeared from the debate that the Committee was not yet clear as to what the constitution and powers of that authority should be, and he was not without hopes that by the assistance of the Government they would get a much better authority than at one time was foreshadowed. He also opposed the Amendment from the point of view of the London County Council. If the Amendment were adopted, the County Council would be left in a shorn and truncated condition. Already it was not in the best of positions under the Bill. There was need both to confirm the authority and to enlarge the powers of the Council as the new education authority, and, certainly, to take away a large proportion of the elementary schools was not the way to magnify its office.

He had been much perplexed to understand why the County Council should be so obnoxious to many Members of the House; and he would much like to know why that body was thus cribbed, cabined and confined, and placed in what an ordinary man fresh from the provinces would consider was not altogether the position in which it ought to be. He remembered having a conversation in the Lobby with an hon. Member who said he had an infallible recipe for deciding Parliamentary action. On being pressed to state it he said it was to vote against the London County Council whenever and wherever he saw it. That was an extremely simple rule of life, and explained much that had previously been somewhat obscure. Under the Bill, as regarded the voluntary schools the authorities would be able to appoint two managers for each school, to group schools under one body of

managers, to give directions which the managers were bound to carry out, and to consent to the appointment of or to dismiss teachers on educational grounds. But the position was very different with regard to the provided schools. The authorities could not appoint managers, group schools, or appoint or dismiss teachers; they could only give general directions, and they had nothing to do with equipment. That was an anomaly, and if the Secretary to the Board of Education would explain the extraordinary difference it would greatly help hon. Members from the provinces who really thought the Act of last year might have been applied in its fulness to London without the qualifications and modifications proposed. By its action of last year Parliament had relegated the religious question to the decision of the municipalities, and he failed to see why it should again be raised now. With many points in the religious policy of the Government he did not agree, but he was strongly of opinion that in the hands of the great municipalities throughout the country the question would be settled on more progressive lines than at one time seemed likely, and he hoped the problem in London would be solved in a similar vigorous fashion.

MR. RUNCIMAN (Dewsbury) said the hon. Member for East Toxteth was entirely mistaken in supposing that the Act of last year had dismissed the religious controversy from the minds of the people of England. He need scarcely remind the hon. Member that there was nothing in which the English people were more interested than a good sound religious fight.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR explained that what he said was that the Act of last year dismissed the question, not from the country but from Parliament.

MR. RUNCIMAN thought the hon. Member hardly understood the business of Members of the House. Their business was to represent the opinion of the country, and it was because they on that side believed they represented the opinion largely held by the country that they were opposing the

Bill. He did not particularly care whether the management of education in London was entirely in the hands of the Borough Councils or of the County Council; doubtless some way out of the difficulty would be found, whichever body took the work in hand. There were important municipal questions involved, but the matter in which he was mainly interested was in frustrating the object of the Bill to place voluntary schools on the rates. The hon. Member for East Toxteth had stated that for the sake of uniformity he would prefer, if there was to be a religious struggle over education, that it should involve London as well as the rest of the country. That was a singularly unkind thing to say. What was desired in London was that the educational system should go ahead, unimpeded by religious controversy, and when the Opposition were taunted with having raised the religious question on this Bill, their retort was that it was not they but the Government who were responsible. The hon. Member opposite had also said that it was not altogether generous to propose to take away from the County Council the control of half the elementary schools of London. He thought the hon. Member had misread the duties of the London County Council. He did not think the London County Council would be particularly grateful for receiving powers to raise extra money for voluntary schools from the ratepayers, when the spending of that money was handed over to a management over which they had no adequate control; nor did he believe that they would enjoy paying salaries to teachers whom they had not themselves selected. He was one of those who deprecated the passive resistance movement being used as a political weapon. He had stated to his constituency that he thought this was a matter for the private conscience of those concerned, and should not be used as a political weapon. Hon. Members should not get it into their heads that the action of those who refused to pay education rates was wild, hare-brained action. Now, was this action being taken by men who were not worthy of respect? The Secretary to the Board of Education altogether underrated the amount of feeling which had been raised in this country over the Education Bill of last year. He should like him to test

the feeling of the London constituencies in regard to this Bill. Was it possible for the hon. Gentleman to lead a crowd to Hyde Park to express their unbounded enthusiasm for this Bill?

*THE CHAIRMAN: I must remind the hon. Member that we are not now discussing the Bill as a whole, and he must confine himself to this Amendment.

MR. RUNCIMAN said he was speaking with reference to non-provided schools, and he could not do it without importing religious controversy into it. If the Secretary to the Board of Education wished to know the opinion of London he should take the earliest means of testing it, because the people regarded it as an effort to throw the non-provided schools of London on to the rates without granting popular control of those schools. He should be glad if the voluntary schools could receive larger assistance from the Exchequer. But if they were to exist purely on public funds, they should submit to public control. The strong feeling raised on both sides of the House on this subject must indicate to the hon. Gentleman that it was not possible to keep this consideration out of their discussions. The people of this country did not wish to carry this fight on upon religious lines, and if the Church of England would make up their minds that the patronage of the voluntary schools was not worth fighting for, they would be able to set about their business with a great deal more efficiency than they had got at the present time.

*MR. C. R. DEVLIN (Galway) said he wished to explain why he could not support this Amendment. During the course of the debate reference had been made to the bitterness of the controversy over school matters in Canada, the country from which he came. He knew what was at the bottom of all that bitterness, for it was due to those who opposed the system of denominational schools entirely, and to those who took very much the same line which was now being followed by certain hon. Gentlemen on the Opposition side of the House, who wished to destroy a system of schools which had existed during a great number of years, and which system

was created by an Act passed by this Parliament known as the British North America Act. Those who supported the denominational schools of Canada were perfectly satisfied and content with the provisions of that Act. What was the position to-day? They were now asked why should they give public rates to schools which were not under public control. Who paid the rates? Did those parents who sent their children to denominational schools not pay rates? Who did pay those rates if not the very people who sent their children to denominational schools? Why should they not get in return their share of those rates to which they contributed? He hoped they would hear a little bit less about the public rates, because in the case of voluntary schools the money was only going back again to those who were paying the rates. He should vote against this Amendment, not because he was hostile to those who introduced it, but because it was a proposition which would deal a blow against a system of schools which had worked very well in the past. He did not refer to the denominational schools of the Church of England, about which he knew nothing, but he did know something about the Catholic schools, and he questioned if those schools would not compare very well with the schools which received so much praise from hon. Members who would like to see Catholic schools done away with. [Cries of "No, no."] But they would as far as they could render inefficient the schools if they withdrew all contributions to them from public rates, as was proposed by this Amendment. By this proposal they practically said to Catholic parents, "If you want a school according to your own religious ideas, to which you have a perfect right, you need not expect for the support of that school any of those taxes which we take from you. You can support it yourself, and then turn round and also support a school which we shall establish for you."

He understood perfectly well that he belonged to the unpopular minority in this country. [An HON. MEMBER: Religious minority]. Of course he did not mean that he belonged to an unpopular political minority, because they were at present the popular political

party. He found in the papers only that morning the most bitter assaults possible upon the religion to which he belonged, and it arose over this very question. He had only to go to Hyde Park on a Sunday to see how unpopular was the religious body to which he belonged. He came from a country where religious rights were generally respected, and those who attacked them would be very quickly put down. He remembered a time when men holding the same opinions as those which had been expressed on the Opposition Benches brought about a very bitter state of things in Canada, but that was not due to any effort made by the advocates of a denominational system, but entirely due to those who had crushed that system out in certain sections of the country. That was the case in 1886 in Ontario, and in 1890 in Manitoba, and that was the state of things which would be brought about in England by those hon. Members who had introduced this very question. He simply rose to explain why in this matter he should give his vote against the Amendment which had been proposed, which, if carried, would deal a very serious blow at the schools which in conscience Catholics were bound to support, because they believed that they ought to send their children to schools managed according to their own ideas. They did not object to inspection, or to thorough and close examination, by the representatives of the public authority, for nothing would be taught in those schools that would in any way be offensive to the constitution of the country. He was perfectly sure that nothing would be taught that was in any way hurtful or injurious, and even if they decided to take away that share of the public money to which Catholic schools were entitled, they would still have the schools in any case. They were the schools to which Catholic children would go, the schools for which Catholics would pay, and for which they would struggle. He hoped that a more generous view would be taken of the whole subject.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) said the hon. Member had rather misunderstood the effect of the Amendment. It would not deprive any of the schools to which

he referred of a single shilling of the support they now enjoyed. The hon. Member for the Elland Division, and the hon. Member for Camberwell, both dealt with the necessities of these schools and said they were anxious to make provision for all their requirements. No one had proved more completely than the hon. Member for Galway City that there was something which the managers desired quite as much as State support. Under this Bill a certain amount of control over these schools would be taken away. He could assure the hon. Member that there was the most friendly feeling on this side of the House towards the particular schools he represented. He believed it was a fact that not a single Catholic school in this country was ever transferred to the Board School system, and therefore Catholics could make their plea more consistently and conscientiously than any other sect on behalf of denominational schools. He agreed with the statement that if the Government accepted this Amendment it would be necessary to make provision immediately for these schools in the sense the hon. Member for Camberwell suggested. He thought they ought to look at the Amendment somewhat more closely from the London standpoint. The hon. Member for the East Toxteth Division of Liverpool presented a curious argument. He admitted that the Bill passed last year was calculated to create controversy throughout the country and stated that he did not see why the area of controversy was to be restricted. "No," he said, "as there is to be a row in the country, let there be a row in London also." It was hardly too much to call it a monstrous speech. If they had made a mistake in the country they ought to have the battle excluded from London. The hon. Baronet who was in charge of the Bill stated truly that there was very little religious controversy in London. In connection with the great work of the London School Board, he himself did not think a parent had complained that his religious feeling, or that of his child, had been unfairly treated in a Board school. The hon. Baronet thought that statement supported the Amendment. What they feared was that they were going to introduce religious controversy

in a field which was free from it at present. They could not but think that when the duty of supporting these 468 schools was thrown upon the ratepayers it would evoke in London, as elsewhere, a feeling of popular hostility. There was the same number of Board schools in London, but the voluntary schools had only half the number of scholars. That showed that the schools were much smaller and that they were much less qualified for the great educational work they had to carry on, yet they were to be thrown over to the public authority with almost no, or at least with slight, popular control. Surely, in view of the burden that would be suddenly thrown on the people of London, they ought to consider carefully how they dealt with the question. Surely they might go step by step, and if at first they handed over the School Board system to the new authority that would be enough. Many of the voluntary schools were very ill-fitted for the educational work they carried on. They were in localities where the schools were not wanted, and where they were quite unnecessary. The Government would have to lighten the Bill in some way. He thought the spirit of this Amendment ought to be accepted, and that the Government ought to promise that the subject would receive a little more consideration at a later stage of the Bill.

MR. BARRAN (Leeds, N.) said this Amendment did not take away the assistance of the rates from the voluntary schools of London. It merely forced on the Government the absolute necessity during the present session of reconsidering the whole of their position with regard to the voluntary schools, and in any such reconsideration of their position it would be absolutely necessary for them to act fairly and rightly to the Roman Catholic schools, while at the same time giving the proper treatment demanded for the Nonconformists of the country. When the hon. Member for Galway City drew a picture of the happy state of religion in Ireland, as against the sectarian disputes and bitterness in England—

MR. C. R. DEVLIN: I did not refer at all to the condition of Ireland.

Mr. Lough.

MR. BARRAN begged the hon. Gentleman's pardon; he thought he had referred to Ireland. The point he wished to draw attention to was precisely the same. In Canada there was no established Church as there was in England, and therein lay the whole difference. Their object in this Amendment was to bring before the Government the reasons entertained in the country why, having passed the Bill last year for the whole country, they should not repeat the religious clauses for London. Everything that was prophesied as to the results of that Bill in the large cities of England had been more than proved. In every large city there was at the present time a bitter and violent agitation against the religious clauses of last year's Bill. Almost every city council had been occupied, and was occupied to-day, with a religious discussion, and it was perfectly evident that this discussion would not subside until some fresh legislation on the religious question had been enacted. That was surely a sufficient reason why that legislation should not be extended to London. He ventured to suggest to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education that he should follow the wise course of his colleague on the Treasury Bench, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and apply to this measure the persuasive arguments which had come from the country, as had been done in regard to the corn tax. Precisely the same arguments applied to the religious question in education. The withdrawal of the corn tax was due to the strong and vigorous protest from the country. The opposition and the bitterness which existed to-day in the towns in regard to the Education Bill would to-morrow exist in London if this Bill was passed in its present form.

The Parliamentary Secretary stated that London less than anywhere was subject to these religious difficulties, because in London there was such great variety of schools. He supposed the hon. Gentleman's suggestion was that they were so widely distributed that if a child or a teacher wished to go to one kind of school or another he was at liberty to do so. But he should like to point out—and he spoke

with considerable practical experience of School Board work in a large city—that this was not at all the case, and if they took the 460 denominational schools in London they would find that they covered such large areas that it was impossible for every child or teacher to move from one district to another. The hon. Member must be perfectly aware that the distance a child could travel to school was very small indeed, and it was a well-known fact that to-day in London a child wishing to go to a school other than a denominational one, in tens of thousands of cases could not find that school within reasonable distance of his home. Under this Bill a teacher who wished to have an equal opportunity of taking a position in the schools paid for entirely out of the rates, would be unable to find these positions in schools in their own locality. They would, in London, just as they were in the provinces, be practically excluded from the profession in any but their own district, because the expense of removing to another district was practical exclusion. In London there was one difficulty from the religious point of view, which, in many ways he thought, was more acute than it was in any part of the country. He referred to that difficulty where people had been driven from the English Church, and where they did not desire to send their children to the schools of that Church. They had to look at this from a parent's point of view. If a certain number of people in a district or parish were driven out of the Church and from any management of the Church by practices which this Government absolutely refused to put down—[MINISTERIAL cries of "Oh, oh!"]

*THE CHAIRMAN said that the hon. Gentleman was wandering very far away from the Amendment.

MR. BARRAN said he would then go on to another point. He wished to emphasise that the parents here would have no control over the teaching in their own district. In certain districts large numbers of parents would be absolutely excluded from being one of the four trustees of the school out of the six, and they could not vote for them, as they did

not belong to the Church. These were the men who were good Anglicans, but who had been driven out of the Church by the action of those who had remained inside. That was in many ways a more acute matter in London to-day than in many towns in the provinces. Therefore he supported the Amendment. They ought to have a full reconsideration of the system of managing the voluntary schools after the thorough condemnation it had received in all the large cities and towns in the country, before it was applied to the City of London.

*MR. CHARLES ALLEN (Gloucestershire, Stroud) said that the hon. Member who introduced the Amendment claimed the gratitude of Members on that side of the House, but, speaking for himself, he did not think the hon. Gentleman deserved any gratitude at all, for he looked upon it with a considerable amount of difficulty. Of course the Amendment was right; if the managers objected to popular control, they ought to object to popular money. He was not quite sure, however, that the hon. Member for Elland was not, at the moment, the best friend of the Government; for surely it was an undeniable fact that the Government had been losing election after election by putting the voluntary schools on the rates on their own terms, and here was an Amendment to try and prevent them doing the same in London. Rather they ought to encourage the Government in their evil ways, and, if they did not trip over the corn tax—which he thought they would—they would find the Government putting the Churches on the rates as well as the schools, and then their cup would be full. If the Government were clever and wise, they would be inclined to take the advice of the hon. Member for Elland; but, luckily, he had a very confident belief in their un wisdom. He was pretty sure they would not accept the Amendment, and, therefore, they could look upon it from the point of view of principle, and not of party politics. The Government had no mandate from the country to bring in any Bill of this kind. They all knew what the Government were elected for at the last election.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that the right hon. Gentleman must come a little closer in his remarks to the Amendment before the Committee.

*MR. CHARLES ALLEN said he bowed to the Chairman's ruling, but it did seem to him that the proposal of the Government, which this Amendment was to do away with, could not possibly commend itself to the feeling of the country in any way whatsoever. The proposal was that one-half of the people of this country—if the Amendment were defeated—would be placed in a position of inferiority in regard to the teaching profession in a very large number of schools. That was a point not before the public at the last General Election. The Government, in pressing this proposal at this time, were making a mistake, as they had done in the Act of last year; and for this reason, that the sense of the country had been shown to be against them. The bye-elections proved that. They had now got an opportunity, by the Amendment, to pause for a moment, to give the voluntary schools in London a grant which would carry them over the hard times which all knew they suffered from, while the irritation and quarrels in the country wore themselves down. If that happened the Government could follow the example of the previous Bill, but if it did not, they could search and, mayhap, find a more excellent way.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) said that the Amendment moved by the hon. Member for Elland would no doubt require some subsequent Amendment in order to make it work; but there could be no difficulty in introducing these Amendments if the Committee accepted the Amendment now under discussion. At this stage he wished to raise a question of principle, but his hon. friend would be ready to bring forward Amendments so as to put his proposal into shape. He supported the Amendment on the very simple broad ground of principle, that the less they had of a bad thing the better. If this clause passed in its present form the Bill would bring into London the same controversies whose exasperating effect they had all watched with so much regret in all parts of the country. The raising of these controversies had been predicted on that side of the House, and

the prediction had unhappily proved true. They desired to spare London from them. The Government made a great mistake if they supposed that the soft and dulcet tones in which this question had been discussed to-day represented the feeling of the country. He could assure the Government that there was a larger, stronger, and deeper feeling in the country on this subject than had yet been realised by the Ministry, and that that feeling, which was gathering to a head in this campaign, would find very forcible expression as soon as a General Election arose. The best friend of the Government would be he who endeavoured to save them their London seats by preventing the application of this clause to London. His hon. friend the Member for Wigan, with his usual sweet reasonableness, said: "Now that the Act of last year has been passed, let us have an end of controversy. We have had a fight, you have been beaten, knocked down, left helpless, and been compelled to pay the school rates. But all that is past. Let us now kiss and be friends, and make up our minds to forget the past and work in an amicable spirit." He knew that had been said frequently, and that there was a human sentiment of amity which would incline to agree to it. But the best way to avoid controversy was not to pass unjust Bills. If good feeling were wanted Bills should be passed which were not only constitutional but also appealed to the natural sense of justice in all people. The Bill had by large sections of opinion in the country been conceived to be an unjust measure, and whenever they were asked to record their protest against it, as they were now, they were bound to record that protest. He did not desire to go into any of the arguments used last year. His hon. friend had declared all they had said last year about the obnoxious and unconstitutional character of the Principal Act, and they were bound to support him in his protest. They delivered that protest in the full belief that they represented the view of the majority of the people of London.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.) said that in

rising to make an appeal to the Committee he did not intend to answer at length the arguments advanced in support of the Amendment. He based his appeal on the speech of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Aberdeen. The right hon. Gentleman stated that he supported the Amendment on the ground of principle; that he was opposed to the inclusion of the voluntary schools in this new system, but that under existing conditions he did not wish to state over again the opinions against the Bill because, he admitted, the question had been fully debated last year, when the educational policy of the Government was decided. Everybody must realise that there had been a great air of unreality in the debates. [OPPOSITION cries of "No!"] He did not mean unreality in the sense that hon. Gentlemen opposite did not honestly feel all that they had said, but unreality in the sense that everyone must know perfectly well that the broad lines of the educational policy of the Government had been settled and laid down last year, and no one could seriously believe that they would be likely now to exclude the voluntary schools of London from the educational system which had been applied to the rest of the country. He would point out that the suggestions that they should make this alteration had come from gentlemen who were not London Members.

MR. TREVELYAN said there had been no defence from London Members.

MR. WALTER LONG said that the London Members probably felt that the question had been fully discussed last year, and decided that this was not the occasion to present their case over again. At all events, there had been no defence of the Amendment from those who represented London constituencies.

MR. TREVELYAN said that one-third of the hon. Members from London on that side of the House had spoken in its defence.

MR. WALTER LONG said that he noticed that the majority of the London Members were absent from the debate altogether. The controversy had been fully discussed last year, and it would be undesirable to re-discuss it now. Therefore, having

regard to the very important questions which remained to be considered, he hoped hon. Gentlemen would be content with making a protest, and allow the Committee to arrive at a decision.

SIR MICHAEL FOSTER (London University) said that as he understood the Amendment, it was not to pronounce an opinion on the policy to be adopted but to defer it. He felt very strongly that the voluntary school question was not so urgent in London as it was in the country, and, on the other hand, that the educational question in London was of extreme urgency, especially in those branches of education which passed up from the elementary towards the higher education. He therefore ventured to appeal to the Government whether it would not be in the circumstances statesmanlike to accept this Bill so far as it referred to provided schools, and not let them get once more entangled in those dreadful theological discussions under which education seemed destined entirely to sink. Was it not better to leave these over for a year or more and to frame a Bill which would start efficiently and effectively that sound education for which London was thirsting, and which was absolutely necessary if London was to maintain its place in the world?

*MR. CORRIE GRANT (Warwickshire, Rugby) said he could not claim to be a London Member, but he had lived all his life in London; and had had a great deal to do with its School Board work; and he strongly hoped that the Government would consider the attitude they were taking in regard to the denominational schools. The Government could not have it both ways. London was left out of the Bill of last year because it required special treatment; and when the Government were now asked to give special treatment to London, they could not ride off on the argument that the matter had been discussed last session. The Government were, he thought, justified in making a special departure with reference to London. In London the denominational schools were managed by men who were largely of a higher type than the managers of denominational schools in the country. This was not a religious controversy; it was a denominational controversy; and that

made all the difference in considering the Amendment. Those denominational controversies were fought out most bitterly in the little towns, where personal animosities came in behind denominational animosities, and where the interests of the children and of education were lost sight of altogether. In London, however, the denominational schools were in the hands of men who were in the forefront of the denomination to which they belonged, and they might be expected to treat this question in a different way to that in which it was treated in small country towns. Again, the denominational controversy did not press in London in the same way that it did in the provinces. Any parent who wished to give denominational teaching to his child had no difficulty in finding a school for that purpose. Travelling on any of the East End overground railways, one must be struck by the noble school buildings to be seen on all hands. He had heard them called the cathedrals of the East End, and the words were never better applied. To his mind the Amendment raised one of the broadest issues that could be discussed on the Bill. It was broad and also important, and it should be settled by the House of Commons. He did not believe in denominational controversies; they were not real; they did not stir the parents; they belonged to the sects; and he hoped before very long the parents would step forward and take the management of their own schools into their own hands, and sweep the denominational question out of the way. For that reason, he asked the Government to consider whether they could not accept one of the many methods of settlement which had been suggested. Two or three of them would certainly be accepted by the common sense members of the Committee, shutting out the men who spoke from the denominational standpoint alone. This controversy would have to be settled apart from the clerics and the clerical laity, who were worse than the clerics. On the London School Board there was a five months wrangle as to how the denominational question could be settled, and finally it was settled; and the system had been adopted in many School Boards throughout the country. To-day the

Bishop of St. Asaph, in attempting to arrange terms with the Nonconformists in Wales, suggested that they should adopt the syllabus drawn up by the London School Board. Was not that fact in itself one of the greatest hopes for the settlement of the question in London? The attitude of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education was timid and hesitating, and not such as was to be expected from a man who had done such splendid work in another Department. There was no law student who was not indebted to the hon. Gentleman for his work on contracts; and if the hon. Gentleman only showed the same firmness of principle now, and settled this denominational question, he would write an enduring mark in the legislation of this country. Everyone knew that half the denominationalists were ready to settle it if rent were paid for the schools. He hoped the hon. Member for the Toxteth Division was not going to repeat in the House all the foolish things he heard in the Lobby. If he might venture to make a suggestion to the hon. Member, it would be never to repeat the foolish things but always to repeat the wise things he heard there. He would have less to say but his reputation for statesmanship would at once increase.

The hon. Baronet the Member for Wigan said that this question was put forward largely as a matter of patronage. He himself would not like to put it so strongly. Many of the Anglican clergy were as anxious for good education as were the Nonconformist clergy; but he could not conceal from himself the fact that there was not quite that high standard which he should like to see, and that some of the clergy did make it a matter of patronage. He knew a case in a small town where a Churchman and a Liberal was one of the managers of the denominational schools for thirty years. The clergyman, his curate, his coachman, and his wife were now managers; and the Liberal manager having differed from them the curate, who had been only eighteen months in the parish, told him if he did not like the proposal he could resign. How would the hon. Baronet, after his many years of hard work in this House, feel if a new Member told him that if he did not like

a particular Amendment he could resign. The hon. Baronet the Member for Wigan said it was not a matter of patronage. He would read a letter from a Church of England clergyman to one of his schoolmasters, in which he said that he was now sending in his return to the County Council of the salaries paid to his teachers. This schoolmaster had £74 a year and 30s. for doing some small work on Sundays. The schoolmistress was receiving £45 and £5 for playing the organ. The clergyman wrote saying that if the schoolmaster would undertake to do the work he was now doing, for nothing, he would return his salary at £75 10s and he added that the schoolmistress had already agreed that her salary should be returned at £50, and consented to play the organ in future for nothing. Was that the sort of thing to improve the standard of morality in the villages of England, which were supposed to be the care of the clergy? He did not believe they could match such an instance from among any other sect. He did not believe they would ever find a Nonconformist or a Catholic who would make such a proposal as that. He was glad to know it was an isolated case, but when they were told there was no patronage behind this question he pointed to instances such as this as showing the temper of mind and the trickery to which the clergy would descend to save themselves a few shillings. Hon. Gentlemen made the mistake that the Borough Councils in the provinces were the same as the Borough Councils in London.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Is this relevant to this Amendment? I cannot see it.

MR. CORRIE GRANT said he was answering an argument.

*THE CHAIRMAN: If hon. Members insist on answering every irrelevant observation in the speeches of other hon.

Members it will be impossible to be ever relevant.

MR. CORRIE GRANT said he would do his utmost to support the authority of the Chair; and, therefore, he would not say another word on the irrelevant portion of the hon. Gentleman's speech. With reference to the speech of the hon. Member for Galway he hoped the hon. Member was not going to draw any conclusions from what he heard in Hyde Park on Sunday afternoons. Hyde Park was on Sunday afternoons the blow-hole of English politics. Catholics, Anglicans, the Government, the Opposition, and every constituted authority were condemned on Sunday afternoons; and he hoped the hon. Gentleman would not put any gloss on the Amendment from what he happened to hear in Hyde Park. He thought the hon. Gentleman had misunderstood the Amendment. The hon. Gentleman thought that the Amendment would deprive the Catholics of this country of something they now possessed, but that was an entire mistake. It proposed simply that the question should be postponed. It did not take from Catholics anything they had. He entirely agreed with what had been said by his hon. friend the Member for North Camberwell; and in supporting the Amendment he was prepared to vote for a grant which would bring the denominational schools of London up to the level of the denominational schools in the country, while a settlement, which they believed they would get, would be worked out if the Government would only take the advice of the sensible section of their supporters.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 235; Noes, 117. (Division List No. 89.)

AYES.

Abraham, W. (Cork, N.E.)
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Aug. Henry Eden
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope

Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Right Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon Sir H
Austin, Sir John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy

Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Man'r
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch

Banbury, Sir Frederick George
 Bartley, Sir George C. T.
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Bhowaggree, Sir M. M.
 Bignold, Arthur
 Blondell, Colonel Henry
 Boland, John
 Bond, Edward
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Bowles, Col. H. F. (*Middlesex*)
 Bowles, T. G. (*Lynn Regis*)
 Brown, Sir Alx. H. (*Shropsh.*)
 Brymer, William Ernest
 Bull, William James
 Burdett-Coutts, W.
 Campbell, J. H. M. (*Dublin Univ.*)
 Cavendish, V C W (*Derbysh.*)
 Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
 Chamberlain, Rt Hon J. (*Birm*)
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A (*Worc*)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Charrington, Spencer
 Clive, Captain Percy A.
 Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
 Coddington, Sir William
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Cox, Irwin Edwd. Bainbridge
 Cranborne, Lord
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Cross, H. Shepherd (*Bolton*)
 Crossley, Sir Savile
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Cullinan, J.
 Cust, Henry John C.
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Denny, Colonel
 Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (*Galway*)
 Dickinson, Robert Edmond
 Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir J. E.
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
 Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
 Duffy, William J.
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Esmonde, Sir Thomas
 Farvell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Ed.
 Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (*Man'r*)
 Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
 Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
 Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
 Flaunery, Sir Fortescue
 Flower, Ernest
 Forster, Henry William
 Fryler, John Arthur
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Garfit, William
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (*City of Lond*)
 Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (*St. Albans*)
 Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
 Gordon, Hon. J. E. (*Elaine & Nrm.*)
 Gordon, Maj Evans (*Tr. H'm'ts*)
 Gore, Hn. S. F. Ormsby- (*Linc*)
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Gunter, Sir Robert
 Hain, Edward
 Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.

Hamilton, Rt Hn. Ld. G. (*Midx*)
 Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashfd*)
 Harris, Frederick Leverton
 Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick G.
 Hay, Hon. Claude George
 Hayden, John Patrick
 Heath, James (*Staffs., N. W.*)
 Helder, Augustus
 Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert I.
 Hoare, Sir Samuel
 Hobhouse, Rt. Hn. H. (*Som's't, E*)
 Houlst, Joseph
 Howard, John (*Kent, Faversh'm*)
 Hudson, George Bickersteth
 Hutton, John (*Yorks., N. R.*)
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
 Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
 Johnstone, Heywood
 Joyce, Michael
 Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*)
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*)
 Kimber, Henry
 Laurie, Lieut.-General
 Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
 Lawrence, Sir Joseph (*Monm'th*)
 Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks. N.R*)
 Leamy, Edmund
 Lee, A. H. (*Hants., Fareham*)
 Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
 Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
 Leveson-Gower, Frederick, N.S.
 Llewellyn, Evan Henry
 Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Chas. W. (*Evesham*)
 Long, Rt. Hn. W. (*Bristol, S.*)
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*)
 London, W.
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Maconochie, A. W.
 M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*)
 M'Killop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)
 M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Maple, Sir John Blundell
 Maxwell, Rt Hn. Sir H. E. (*Wigt'n*)
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Molesworth, Sir Lewis
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 More, Robt. Jasper (*Shropshire*)
 Morgan, David J. (*Walthamstow*)
 Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
 Mount, William Arthur
 Mowbray, Sir Robt. Gray C.
 Murphy, John
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (*Bute*)
 Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
 Myers, William Henry
 Newdegate, Francis A. N.
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 O'Brien, K. (*Tipperary, Mid*)
 O'Brien, Patrick (*Kilkenny*)
 O'Connor, Jas. (*Wicklow, W.*)
 O'Connor, T. P. (*Liverpool*)
 O'Dowd, John
 O'Malley, William
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 Penn, John

Percy, Earl
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Plummer, Walter R.
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Rattigan, Sir William Henry
 Redmond, William (*Clare*)
 Reid, James (*Greenock*)
 Ridley, S. F. (*Bethnal Green*)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
 Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
 Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
 Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
 Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
 Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
 Seely, Chas. Hilton (*Lincoln*)
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*)
 Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
 Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks.*)
 Simon, Hon. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
 Spear, John Ward
 Stanley, E. Jas. (*Somerset*)
 Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
 Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir Jn. M.
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Stroyan, John
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Sullivan, Donal
 Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (*Oxford Univ.*)
 Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
 Thorburn, Sir Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. E. M.
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
 Valentia, Viscount
 Walrand, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. H.
 Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (*Taunton*)
 Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (*Notts*)
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. J. Lloyd
 Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Rt. Hn. J. Powell (*Birm.*)
 Williams, Colonel R. (*Dorset*)
 Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
 Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
 Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (*Yorks.*)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart
 Wrightson, Sir Thomas
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir Alexander Acland-
 Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allan, Sir William (*Gateshead*)
 Allan, Charles P. (*Glouc. Stroud*)
 Asher, Alexander
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Barran, Roland Hirst
 Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Bell, Richard
 Black, Alexander William
 Brigg, John
 Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
 Bryce, Right Hon. James
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Burt, Thomas
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Robert
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Craig, Robert Hunter (*Lanark*)
 Cremer, William Randal
 Crombie, John William
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davies, Alfred (*Cardmarthen*)
 Davies, M. Vaughan (*Cardigan*)
 Dewar, John A. (*Inverness-shire*)
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
 Duncan, J. Hastings
 Edwards, Frank
 Elibank, Master of
 Emmott, Alfred
 Evans, Sir F. H. (*Maidstone*)
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert
 Ferguson, R. C. Munro (*Leith*)
 Foster, Sir Michl. (*Lond. Univ*)
 Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*)
 Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Grant, Corrie
 Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E. (*Berwick*)
 Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton

Hardie, J. Keir (*Merthyr Tyd*)
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
 Hayter, Rt Hon Sir Arthur D.
 Helme, Norval Watson
 Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristol, E*)
 Hope, John Deans (*Fife, West*)
 Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (*Morley*)
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, David B. (*Swansea*)
 Jones, Wm. (*Carnarvonshire*)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kitson, Sir James
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lambert, George
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Leese, Sir Jos. F. (*Accrington*)
 Leng, Sir John
 Levy, Maurice
 Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
 McKenna, Reginald
 McLaren, Sir Charles Benj.
 Mansfield, Horace Rendall
 Mappin, Sir Fredk. Thorpe
 Mellor, Rt. Hn. John William
 Middlemore, Jn. Throgmorton
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Cardmarthen*)
 Morley, Charles (*Breconshire*)
 Morley, Rt. Hn. John (*Montrose*)
 Newnes, Sir George
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 Palmer, Sir C. M. (*Durham*)
 Partington, Oswald
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pease, J. A. (*Saffron Walden*)
 Perks, Robert William
 Philipps, John Wynford
 Pirie, Duncan V.

Price, Robert John
 Priestley, Arthur
 Rea, Russell
 Reckitt, Harold James
 Rigg, Richard
 Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
 Robertson, Edmund (*Dundee*)
 Roe, Sir Thomas
 Rose, Charles Day
 Runciman, Walter
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Shaw, Charles E. (*Stafford*)
 Shaw, Thomas (*Hawick B*)
 Shipman, Dr. John G.
 Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
 Sloan, Thomas Henry
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Soares, Ernest J.
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, A. (*Cardmarthen, E.*)
 Thomas, Sir A. (*Glamorgan, E.*)
 Thomas, F. Freeman- (*Hastings*)
 Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
 Tomkinson, James
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Wallace, Robert
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay, T.
 Wason, John Cathcart (*Orkney*)
 White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
 Whiteley, George (*York, W. R.*)
 Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, Osmond (*Merioneth*)
 Wilson, F. W. (*Norfolk, Mid*)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
 Mr. William M'Arthur.

Question proposed, "That Clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

DR. MACNAMARA said that this clause was the heart and essence of the Bill, and in the three-and-a-half lines of which it was composed the Government practically disposed of the whole educational problem of London. As a London Member he vehemently protested against such a course of procedure. London was entitled to a self-contained Bill, setting up the London authority and dealing with London finance, instead of being fobbed off by a reference to last year's Act. He had never heard a more unjustifiable contention than that the question of London was settled by the 1902 Act. By Clause 27 of that statute it was enacted that the Act should not apply to London except as expressly provided, and the express provision was

for carrying on the Cockertonised schools for twelve months. Lord Balfour of Burleigh had practically promised a Bill for Scotland next year. The Scotch education system was not bigger or more important than that of London, but would the Government venture to deal with it by a three-and-a-half-line reference to the Act of 1902? If not, why not? And if not for Scotland, why for London, whose system was quite as special and peculiar? Of this he was certain—that although the *ad hoc* principle was killed in England, the Scotch people would insist on it being kept alive in Scotland. The Government were trading on London's apathy. Londoners were apathetic, indifferent, and unconcerned in these matters, and they got the government they deserved. But apathetic and indifferent though they were, he honestly believed

that at the next General Election they would make short work of many of the Members who were treating the education problem in this contumelious way. According to the Secretary to the Board of Education, the objection to an *ad hoc* authority was its extravagance, but under this proposal that extravagance would be multiplied twenty-nine times. The Bill was financially disastrous, municipally irresponsible, educationally deplorable, and administratively unworkable, and it had only to be put on the Statute-book to necessitate its repeal at the earliest possible date. He had no objection to the County Council being the authority, provided its membership was increased to enable it to do the work. That increase could not be effected now, but it would have to be done at an early date. In the debate on the previous evening the President of the Local Government Board had stated that not only Moderate but Progressive members of the London County Council had told him the Council could do this work without any increase of membership if they reduced the size of their Committees. It appeared, therefore, that, in framing their scheme, the Government entered into *pourparlers* with the Progressive members of the Council.

MR. WALTER LONG said the question of increased membership was not directly raised, but the assurance was that the Council could do the work, subject to decreasing the size of the Committees.

DR. MACNAMARA said there must have been some measure of duplicity and intrigue on the part of certain Progressive members of the London County Council, because they must have known that that was not the view of their authority at all, for the London County Council as a whole had resolved that they could not do this educational work.

MR. WALTER LONG: The hon. Member has made a rather startling charge, but perhaps he will allow me to say that the Progressive members of the Council I refer to spoke for themselves, and did not pretend to represent the

Dr. Macnamara.

London County Council as a whole. They admitted that there were different views held by members of the Council, and they stated that many of them did not share their view, and in fact were in favour of an *ad hoc* authority.

DR. MACNAMARA said that the Progressive members of the London County Council to a man had voted that the County Council could not take on this educational work, and therefore the Government had obviously been misled by Progressive members of the London County Council. This was a very important matter, because the members of the Council referred to, on their own responsibility, went behind the back of their authority, and told the right hon. Gentleman that the County Council could do this work by merely reducing the size of their Committees. If he were a member of the London County Council he should press this matter to the bitter end. Of course he could not ask for the names. [AN HON. MEMBER: You can guess them.] He should like to know who were the Progressive members who voted at the Council meeting in favour of a Resolution that this work could not be done, and who afterwards came and told the Government that it could be done. The County Council could not possibly do this work without increased membership. They were now drifting into rather a serious position. The County Council and the Borough Councils were represented on the Central Committee for London, and the Borough Councils were to have certain functions locally. The general opinion expressed yesterday was that it would be desirable to strike the borough councillors off the Central Committee. (MINISTERIAL cries of "No.") At any rate there appeared to him to be a growing opinion in favour of striking the borough councillors off the Central Committee.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I think it would be better to reserve the constitution of the Committee until the next Clause.

DR. MACNAMARA said if they pursued the general trend of the opinion expressed in Committee it was in favour of taking the borough councils off the Central Committee. In that case there

would be a tendency not to reduce the powers proposed to be given to the Borough Councils locally. He thought they had too much power locally already, and he would rather have thirty-one borough councillors instead of twelve, than increase the power to be given in each locality. This clause did not deal with the London problem fairly, for it dealt with the Metropolis in about three and a half lines. It was because he thought that the scheme of last year was entirely inapplicable to London, and because he thought this measure was bound to be followed by disaster educationally, and wastefulness in regard to finance, that he felt compelled to move the rejection of this Clause.

* MR. YOXALL said he agreed with what his hon. friend had said in regard to wishing that this clause should not be added to the Bill. This clause proposed to apply the Education Act of 1902 to the County and City of London. An Education Act which was applicable to England and Wales was not necessarily suitable to the Metropolis. The measure of last year dealt with various kinds of areas in the provinces, and when it was passed the Government, by exempting London, were of opinion that last year's Act was not a measure which could be fairly applied to the metropolitan area. Now what did they find? They were now to pursue the evil practice of legislating by reference and quotation. If they had had any experience of the Act of 1902 there might be something said in favour of applying it to London. It was true that in the majority of provincial areas the authorities had taken up their duties with something like avidity. A great number of schemes had been brought before the Board of Education, but they had not yet begun to work and no appreciable proportion of those authorities had begun their work; consequently, they had no experience of the working of that Act either before Parliament or the country. It was too soon to suggest that that Act was going to work well, and that it should be applied to London. Many of the details of that Act might prove, after experience, to be quite inapplicable to the metropolitan area. The

London education problem was a separate and peculiar one, and it was entirely different to the problem of the areas dealt with in the Act of 1902. As a whole the London area was well provided with Board schools. Therefore the difficulty in this respect of the Act of 1902 did not apply in the same degree to the London area. The Act of last year did not provide the best possible procedure for London. A better course for the Government to pursue would have been not to extend to it the Act of 1902, but to bring in a Bill dealing, from the first to the last clause, with the London area alone.

The position of London was peculiar and special, and surely the Metropolis was important enough to be dealt with entirely by itself. The Bill was couched in a form to avoid debate, to shirk the real question, and to avoid the great issue, and on that ground he certainly opposed the clause. He also opposed it on the ground of the treatment which the clause had received in Committee, and on the First and Second Reading debates from the Government. Hon. Members on the Opposition side had moved Amendments for the purpose of convincing the Government of the validity and necessity of their criticism. Their criticism had been echoed from the other side of the House by hon. Members representing London constituencies. They had again and again asked that the Act of 1902 should not be applied to London until they knew in what particular respects it should be modified, and until they were assured that the Education Committee for London would be constituted in such a manner as would give some prospect of success. They had been met with a desire on the part of the Government to hasten furiously, and to legislate in a hurry. He protested against so great a problem as the education of London being dealt with in that way. It was a problem which demanded full consideration on educational rather than party or theological grounds, or with reference to the squabbles between the London County Councils and the Borough Councils. It must have been obvious to the Committee right through the discussion, as it had been to him, that the question in the mind of the Government was not

what was best to be done in regard to this great problem of London education, but how they could best reconcile the views of this and that set of their supporters, how they could bargain with the Bishops, how they could baffle the ambitious aspirations of the London County Council, and how they could make it impossible to have a directly elected education authority for London. He condemned and repudiated the way in which this clause had been proposed. No opponent of the Government could say that the Prime Minister and the Secretary to the Board of Education did not approach the great problems dealt with in the Bill of last year with due deliberation and a grave sense of the issues involved. He asked the Committee to contrast their attitude last year with their attitude now. This subject was being dealt with by the Government without due consideration, with haste, and with levity, and for that reason he heartily supported the Motion for the rejection of the clause. He hoped that even at the last moment the Government would relent and consent to the adjournment of the clause to enable the Committee to consider the important Clauses 2 and 3.

MR. TRITTON (Lambeth, Norwood) : said he was not in full sympathy with the Education Act of 1902, and he had occasion, to his regret, not infrequently to separate himself from those with whom he was usually associated, and he must confess that he was not desirous of seeing that Act extended to London. He did not quite know who was. He had difficulty in finding a genuine friend of this Bill. It had been condemned by the Press; it had been condemned in this House, and right and left by the man in the street. He could not see that it would in any way be an advantage to London to have the Bill extended to it, and, for his own part, he would very much rather that they would go on as they were. They were getting on very happily in London, and their children were having a most excellent education accorded to them. Personally, he did not believe any better education could have been given to the children of this great Metropolis than had been given by the London Board schools during the last thirty years.

Mr. Yoxall.

It was perfectly true that voluntary schools were in many places in very great difficulty for want of funds, and that, no doubt, was a good reason for doing something. But in this age in which we lived there was a movement—a growing movement—which must command the respect of all thoughtful Londoners—a movement for linking together rich parishes and poor parishes; and he could not help thinking that our National Church ought to be able to support our national schools and that the scheme of linking rich parishes with poor parishes might be carried out to a very much greater extent, so that those voluntary schools, which were short of funds and unable to carry on their good work of education might be assisted by those wealthier parishes, and be able to get on without rate aid of any kind whatever. They were getting on very happily in London, and then this Bill came in and brought an end to their tranquillity and their peace.

He was opposed to the Bill, and he would give two reasons why he did not wish to see it applied to London. He did not believe it would give the children of London a more efficient education than they had at present, for if its modifications—they did not know what they were to be—were going to consist in putting the education of the children into the hands of a body whose very form was suggestive of confusion and conflict, then he could not for the life of him see where greater efficiency in education was to come from under the Bill. He would rather see a fresh body, elected *ad hoc*, on different lines, perhaps, from the present Board, than vote for the Second Reading of a clause which would relegate this most important subject—he believed there was no more important subject for the citizens of London to consider—into the hands of an overworked and unwilling body. His second reason was that he believed that if the Act of last year were applied to London, it would be a very fruitful source of religious animosity and sectarian bitterness. If there was one thing in the world that, personally, he hated, it was a religious fight. For many years they had been drawing

closer together instead of going further apart, and there had been a spirit of mutual appreciation and fraternal feeling among all branches of the Christian Church in London. London was not an ordinary city. It might be called the headquarters of Christianity; it was the headquarters of those religious societies which were carrying their blessed influence all over the world, and which were an honour to the British Empire. It was sad to think that this period of peace and tranquillity, which had been enjoyed so long, was to be rudely disturbed and broken up by the passing of an Act which must introduce, more or less, sectarian rancour and denominational differences. For his part he would rather that they went on not seeking to find out where they differed, but seeking to find out where they agreed. This Act would mean that many estrangements would take place; that many a cold attitude would be taken up, and that many friends, who had been living for years and working together for the common good would be driven into opposing camps. It was because he did not think this Act would tend to the efficient education of the children of London, and because it would tend to the accentuation of their unfortunate differences, that he felt bound, with very great regret indeed, to separate himself from those with whom he usually acted, and to vote against the clause.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON (Yorkshire, W. R., Morley) said that when a short time ago the President of the Local Government Board expressed the desire that more London Members should speak, he had not long to wait in having his desire gratified. The hon. Gentleman who had just sat down represented a London constituency, knew very intimately the common opinion which was held by the citizens of London in numerous parts of the City, and he had made a speech in which he struck the key-note of the real purpose of the clause the Committee was now discussing. There could not be a member of the Committee who believed that they would have spent five minutes in discussing the Bill, or that the Government would have wasted any time in its preparation, had it not been the determination of the Government to put the Church of England schools on the

rates of this city. That was the main and only object of the Bill; and in doing that two great principles had been destroyed which ought to be cherished in regard to education. The one was public control and the other was religious equality. The hon. Baronet who represented the Education Department said that he was not sure that there would be any religious feeling or religious controversy. Perhaps the hon. Baronet, if he would not believe the statements of hon. Members on that side of the House as to the probability of religious conflict, would believe the hon. Gentleman who had just spoken, not as a Nonconformist but as an Anglican, and from a knowledge of the working of the voluntary schools, when he offered his testimony as to the certainty of the growing feeling of religious controversy in regard to the measure which the Government was forcing down their throats. If the Government would persist in their wilful blindness and would never take any notice of the warnings Members on that side of the House gave them, if the Government continued to offer suggestions that these warnings or threats, if they liked to call them so, came from men who were of no principle, of no high character, who had no sound logic, no sound morality, and no sound constitutional principles—that meant that no one who ventured to oppose this Bill would ever listen to the First Lord of the Treasury when he taught them anything about sound morality, sound logic, or sound constitutional doctrines. He did not suppose there was any man in the House who was a more extraordinary opportunist than the Prime Minister of this country, and for a man who was in that unchallengeable position to lecture them on political and public morality and constitutional doctrines, was an attitude to take up in this House most astonishing and most regrettable. He had said that it was absolutely necessary to preserve public control. That was why they stood by the principle of the School Board. That was the only security against all the grievances and injustices of which they complained. There was the other principle—that of religious equality. He maintained that the introduction of religious tests, and the strengthening of them in the

schools up and down the country and in this city, was deplorable. Here was an advertisement which appeared in the *Schoolmaster* newspaper of May 2nd:—"Wanted mistress, trained or certificated"—if she was trained or certificated it was at the public expense—"must be confirmed and a communicant. Average forty."—he supposed that meant the average attendance—"Superintendence of the Sunday School on alternate Sundays, and every Sunday must keep order among the children in the Church." But the most extraordinary statement in the advertisement was—"The salary to be arranged in consultation with the county authorities." They were now asked to advance that principle of calling on the county authorities to further the imposition of religious tests in the schools of the country and of London. He insisted that it was intolerable the Government should have brought them face to face with such a state of things when they were only anxious for a peaceful and efficient scheme of education in the schools of the country.

CAPTAIN JESSEL (St. Pancras, S.) said he would not follow the hon. Member who had just sat down in regard to the religious character of this question. In common with many hon. Members on that side of the House he had been in favour of the Bill of last year because they believed that it would be for the advantage of the education of the country, and because they thought it afforded greatly needed financial assistance to the voluntary schools. He was surprised at the attitude taken up by the hon. Member for Nottingham, for many on that side of the House thought that the matter would have been much more easily dealt with if London had been included in the Bill of last year. That, however, was not his own opinion, because he believed that the special conditions of London required different treatment from the rest of the country. Though the Bill was a short one it had been now for some time before the House; and, after all, what was the House called upon to decide? In the first place, whether the School Board of London should continue to exist, and in the second place, if not, what was the

best authority to take its place. He denied that the Bill was being rushed through and not duly considered. He reminded the Committee that all during the autumn the Government had been carefully considering the Bill; the London County Council, the Borough Councils, and the School Board had been working out all sorts of schemes connected with London education. Any hon. Member who represented a London constituency must be well aware of the numerous letters and resolutions which he had received from experts and others dealing with this subject. As to the remarks of the hon. Member for Camberwell, he thought the Committee would agree with him that that hon. Gentleman had died gallantly in the last ditch on behalf of the School Board. He had made a splendid case for it and had shown the good work it had done; but at the same time the hon. Gentleman should recognise, what many of them did recognise, that further progress had got to be made, and that education had to be co-ordinated in London on similar lines as in the rest of the country. He could not agree with the hon. Member when he said that the London County Council would find it impossible to do the work. Two hon. Members of the London County Council in the House had declared that with its present members it was quite capable of undertaking this work. He most respectfully urged that if the London County Council took the advice that had been given to it of reducing the size of its Committees; if it would give to the Borough Councils a good deal of the details of administrative work, as might easily be done, there would be no difficulty in the London County Council being the educational authority for London. As the President of the Local Government Board had shown, the London County Council last session was most anxious to undertake the water supply of London, and did not then complain of overwork; but when the Unionist Government asked them to take over education they were unwilling to do so. Surely they must think that there was something behind the Government, some ulterior motive to overload them and break down the machine. He could not conceive anything of the sort. He thought the

Mr. Alfred Hutton.

Government had given them the work of education simply because it was the rating body, and the only body which could do the work properly.

The hon. Member for Nottingham objected to this clause being passed until he had seen the modifications to be proposed later on in the Bill. To his mind, once the educational authority was settled, the rest was detail, and it would have been impossible to settle on detail before deciding on the principle. No doubt some parts of the Bill were the result of compromise; but the London education question was so complicated that it was absolutely necessary that some sort of compromise should be come to. Therefore, he thought the modified proposals, as they now stood, were the best that could have been made to meet a very difficult situation. Country Members, he knew, felt somewhat differently, and argued that the county authority alone should be the education authority. They did not seem to recognise that there were other bodies in London desirous of taking their fair share of the work and of doing their duty in the municipal life of London. He thought that there was a very unfair prejudice in some quarters of the House against the members of the Borough Councils. Knowing the County Councils and the Borough Councils, he could not see any great difference between them and their work. He hoped the Government would continue with their Bill as they had now put it down on the Paper. He was in favour of the original proposal, but he recognised the importance of the principle that the municipal government should have a majority on the Committee.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that would come on in the next clause.

THE CAPTAIN JESSEL said he thought, taking all the difficulties into consideration, the Government scheme was the best.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) said the whole Committee listened with considerable sympathy to the hon. Member for Norwood. It was a pity the hon. Member had not spoken earlier; if he had, the Committee

would have listened to him with even greater sympathy. On the Second Reading of the Bill some of them had ventured to say that one of the reasons why the religious question was so much less acute in London was the wise action taken by the London School Board. If the non-provided schools were to be placed under a local authority, he did not believe any authority would deal with them in a more delicate and tactful way than the London School Board would if left in existence. What they felt now was that this matter, instead of being left in the hands of one authority which could deal with it, would now be left to a municipal body and would get mixed up with municipal affairs, and that the religious difficulty would become more pronounced. He associated himself with what had been said as to the drafting of this clause, which was a clause by reference. That had made it almost impossible to deal with the matter as a whole, or in the way in which such an important question should be dealt with. And the matter had been made still more difficult owing to the ignorance of the Committee with regard to the views of Government on this matter. The hon. Member for Norwood had said that both the Government and the local authorities had had an opportunity of considering this Bill since last autumn. The local authorities had certainly not had such an opportunity, because the Bill had only been recently introduced; but if the Government had, they might throw some light upon the various Amendments put down by the Government from time to time. The hon. Gentleman who represented the Board of Education first of all said the number of the representatives of Borough Councils he had included in the Committee was the lowest he could possibly include, but now they had almost disappeared.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that that argument was relevant to Clause 2, but not to Clause 1.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said the Committee was put in a very difficult position in regard to this matter. The original idea was to treat London separately, now they were told that this Bill

was to carry out the Act of last year ; to apply it to London and not to treat London exceptionally, and that therefore it could be included in one clause. It was too late to allude to the alternative, the *ad hoc* authority, but he would like to refer to one matter which had been referred to by the hon. Member who had just sat down, and that was the question of how far the London County Council could undertake this work and why the London County Council, which had been so anxious to undertake the water question, should have declined to have this duty passed upon them. One would have thought the hon. Member would have appreciated the difference between dealing with municipal and non-municipal work. There was another thing—the difference between the amount of work entailed in dealing with the water question and with the education question was enormous. He believed the County Council would be able to deal with this matter if it was placed upon them in the proper way, though it might cripple them in some of their other work. The only way in which this Bill could be worked by the London County Council was by their being absolute masters in their own house and having a free hand to deal with the entire thing. They could only carry out a system of devolution and decentralisation in that way. It must be done by themselves, and there must be no conflicting statutory right with any other body. The London County Council must have complete control, and so far as any devolution was concerned it must come from themselves. As the Bill stood, the London County Council would be in a greatly inferior position to the position of the County Councils under the Act of last year. The London County Council would not be the supreme authority, and he could not help thinking that the checks of the Bill which placed difficulties in their way of attaining supreme control were dictated by jealousy or dislike of the London County Council. He would vote against the Clause on the ground that it was rather a large order for the Government to deal with the whole question of elementary education in London in one clause and by reference.

SIR J. BLUNDELL MAPLE (Camberwell, Dulwich) said that those who talked
Mr. Sydney Buxton.

about religious controversies being raised in London by the abolition of the School Board seemed to have forgotten the object of the Education Act of last year. That Act had been passed because it was necessary that something should be done for the voluntary schools. If they had not kept the voluntary schools going the School Board rate in London would in all probability have risen to 2s. 6d. in the £, and it was the same throughout the length and breadth of the land. He could not understand why the hon. Member for Norwood should suggest the keeping of the old School Board unless he was prepared to have brought in an Amendment substituting the School Board for the London County Council. The measure which had been brought in by the Government was a good measure, from the very fact that they not only had the members of the London County Council but had also twenty-five experts put upon the Education Committee. He thought when the Act was passed everybody in London would be delighted with it. The denominational schools were suffering from, and had been affected very greatly by, the better education given in the Board schools, and the principal object of this Bill was to maintain the denominational schools and what were now called the Board schools at the same high level. The Bill had been well thought out, and it had been decided that they were not to have the old London School Board, and if that was so, and if they could not place the management of education in the hands of the London School Board, the only authority and the right authority to take it was the London County Council.

MR. OSMOND WILLIAMS (Merionethshire) opposed the clause because he considered that the destruction of the London School Board would be one of the worst outrages that a Government could commit. When they thought of the immense deal of work which the London School Board had accomplished, of the difficult problems with which they had to deal, and of the subtle spirit of opposition with which it had to contend, he maintained that its record was an honour to the public spirit of this great city, and a monumental triumph of honest public work. It had been condemned for its virtues, but thank goodness it had not been executed. He

was perfectly certain that the Opposition, and Members on the other side of the House also, would not see the outrage perpetrated in the provinces, inflicted on this great city without a struggle.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said the heartiest expression of disapproval of this clause had come from the hon. Member for Camberwell. He thought he might summarise the language of condemnation used by the hon. Member by saying that the Bill, in the opinion of hon. Gentlemen opposite, was like Dr. Johnson's leg of mutton—ill-fed, ill-killed, ill-cooked, and ill-dished up. And yet the hon. Member's main complaint was as to the shortness of the clause; but when it was stated that they had put so much into one clause, it was forgotten that that clause embodied the result of a very long and careful discussion during the spring, summer, and autumn of last year. They had framed a scheme and enunciated principles which they believed were applicable to London. That being so, what was the object of setting them forth again *verbatim et literatim*, when they had them in the Act of 1902? Various motives had been alleged as having animated the framers of the Bill, and something was said about bargains with Bishops. He had had something to do with the framing of the Bill, and he had had nothing to do with any bargain with Bishops or a suggestion of a bargain with Bishops. As to the allegation that the framers of the Bill wished to baffle the London County Council, his great desire had been to make the County Council the supreme authority; and so far from the Borough Councils being introduced to baffle the Council, or to set up an opposition to it on its own Education Committee, his hope was that the association of these great local authorities with one another in the work of education would result in nothing but goodwill. When it was said that the Government had created discord where hitherto peace had prevailed, that discord was reigning throughout the country and would reign in London, he could only reply that prophecies of that sort were apt, to some extent, to bring about their own fulfilment. He had had something to do with the action of local authorities in the matter of bringing into operation the Education

Act. He had seen the schemes of nearly all the local authorities, he had had to scrutinise them carefully to see that the conditions of the Act were carried into effect, and that the educational and other interests within the area were all satisfied; and what had struck him throughout had been the honest intention of the local authorities to deal justly with all the interests with which they were brought into contact within their area. The House spent a great part of last year in developing educational principles which it was thought were applicable to London. Having embodied the principles in the clause the question to consider was, what was to be the authority and what were the modifications necessary. The Government hoped that, having put the principles in the clause, and having assigned the County Council as the authority for London, they would be allowed to proceed to deal with the provisions and the modifications which might be necessary to adapt the general principles of last year to London. It was said that the County Council was disinclined to undertake this great work, and that it was idle to pass the clause, because the Bill would never work. All he could say was that, if, the Committee being constituted, the County Council should refuse to undertake the work, the County Council would neglect the greatest opportunity in the educational field that had ever fallen to the lot of any municipality in any country in the world.

MR. M'KENNA (Monmouthshire, N.) said the hon. Baronet had not been so candid as the hon. Member for Dulwich, who had openly declared, and it had not been denied, that the purpose of the Bill was to bolster up the voluntary schools with public money from the moment of its introduction. That had been declared by the Opposition to be the purpose of the Bill, and the speech of the hon. Member ought to be learnt by heart by hon. Members opposite and explained by them to their constituents. The Government had a peculiar knack of calling things by wrong names. It had taken the Prime Minister a year to learn that the duty on corn was a bread tax, and doubtless a year hence, when this Bill had proved

an absolute fiasco, the country would be told that inasmuch as it was a violation of two important principles which a great party in the State could not agree to see violated, therefore the Act must be repealed. The Opposition would make no compromise on this point. They would not consent to see the principles of public control of public expenditure, and the abolition of religious tests violated by any Act of Parliament, and so long as this Bill violated those principles they would resist it by every means in their power. There had been no religious controversy of late years, but the Party opposite were now arousing it; the rate-war would be extended to London, and there would be chaos instead of order in London's educational system. The Committee were asked to accept a principle when the machinery by which that principle was to be carried into effect was undoubtedly not yet on the Notice Paper. After the debate of yesterday the Government could not adhere to their existing proposals. This clause was exactly the same as the preamble of a private Bill, before the acceptance of which the details of the Bill were always considered. He, therefore, appealed to the Committee not to tie their hands at the present stage but to reject the clause, and preserve to the last moment educational peace in London.

*MR. HUGH SMITH (Northumberland, Tyneside) said so many references had been made to the Act of 1902, that it might interest the Committee to know how that Act had worked in the county a portion of which he had the honour to represent. Last year they had this religious conflict in the county. Meetings were held in the constituencies, and supporters of the Bill were challenged to meet the Free Church Council to discuss the matter. He accepted the challenge, and at the close of the debate the Council had the candour to admit that he had put before them arguments which they had not previously heard, and that there was much to be said from his point of view. The only result of the Act in that district was that the School Board had been decently buried and its place taken by the Education

Committee, and the rate which last year was 2s. 3d., would this year be 1s. 3d. in the £. After all their declarations of last year, he had not heard that any of the members of the Free Church Council were desirous of going to prison rather than pay a rate a shilling less in the £. He supported the present Bill because of the advantage it would be to the education of the children. Under the existing system it was absolutely impossible to co-ordinate elementary and secondary education, but when both systems were under one body, they would be able to pass children from the Board to the secondary schools, and thus the education would proceed stage by stage. At one time he would have preferred to see the School Board have the control of both primary and secondary education, but, as that could not be adopted all over the country, he was perfectly content to leave it in the hands of the County Council, and he hoped the Government, after giving the Council a majority on the Committee, would stand fast to that portion of the Bill.

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY (Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey) said the Committee had listened to a remarkable and momentous speech from the hon. Member for Norwood, and one which the Government could not ignore. If other hon. Members on that side of the House would equally freely unburden their minds, there would be little necessity for the constitutional Opposition to exert themselves. He did not agree that this was a debate in which only London Members had a right to take part. As a London ratepayer, he had the good government of the Metropolis deeply at heart, and because he believed this Bill to be a retrograde measure he raised his voice in opposition to it. By passing Clause 1 the Committee would be taking a very serious step. This was the one great operative clause in the Bill, in fact it was the mainspring of the whole measure. Once they passed this clause, rightly or wrongly, they were committed to the principle. After the adoption of this clause they might say good-bye to the *ad hoc* authority. He was very much struck with some of the speeches made by hon. Gentlemen opposite, but he was more struck with the reply of the President of the Local Government Board. The debate upon

this question was opened by a closely-reasoned speech from the hon. Member for North Camberwell, but the right hon. Gentleman did not debate the question then before the House, although he threw on their heads the contention that in a previous debate they had decided not to give London the control of its own water. The control of the water undertaking of a town was something germane to municipal government, but until the fatal step was taken in the Bill of last year it had never been contended that the educational control of a borough or a city should be the work of a municipality. In London, education was a matter so colossal and grave as to almost exceed in importance all the work of the London County Council. The only palliative suggested to this scheme was that in all probability the Government would have to increase the number of the London County Council. Unless that increase was made, they were really placing upon the County Council a greater burden than it could possibly bear. To increase the membership of the London County Council would practically mean that they would be driven to the adoption of an *ad hoc* authority in a different fashion.

The Government were simply forcing down their throats a scheme to which they strongly objected. The School Board for London did not ask permission to commit suicide, and the London County Council had put on record its wish that these new powers should not be committed to it. There was no public demand on the part of the electors generally for this change. The Government was forcing upon London a new educational system which the people did not desire, and if there happened to be a single redeeming feature in the Bill, he would gladly have supported the measure. Had the School Board for London so ill-managed the extensive work of education that they were going to requite it by abolishing them? The work of the School Board for London had been the marvel of the whole educational world. In the face of that fact, and because there was no popular demand for this change, the Committee would do very wrong by adopting it. As the hon. Member for Norwood had said, the present state of peace and tranquillity in education in London would be upset by this clause, and work which had hitherto been carried on satisfactorily would be performed

indifferently, and the last state of educational matters in London would be worse than the first. Why was it desirable to make this great change at the present juncture? Why did the Government not let a few years pass over in order to find out whether education under the new Act was being carried on better than it was before. Until they had that experience, he thought the Government would be ill-advised in pressing this measure through the House, and he should never record a vote with more sincere pleasure than in voting against this Motion.

MR. TREVELYAN said the hon. Member for Tyneside had just stated that he was sanguine in regard to the popularity of this Bill in Northumberland, and he stated that the School Board in his division had been decently buried. So had the publicity of debate there. In that county the County Council, under aristocratic influence, closed its doors to the public and the Press, and unless they possessed another Dr. Johnson to report the debates they would not know anything about the eloquence of the Duke of Northumberland. The hon. Member spoke of a deputation of Nonconformists who were friendly to his view, but he had been told that some of those Nonconformists had already decided not to pay the rate. He then went on to say that the Education Rate had already been reduced from 2s 3d. in the £ to 1s. 3d. That might be so in some parts of his constituency, but they would have to increase the rate in other parts of Northumberland in order to pay for the voluntary schools. Two hon. Members representing London had spoken. The hon. Member for South St. Pancras said this matter was debated last year on the principle of the Bill, but he wished to remind the Committee that hardly a single Member for London took any part in the debates at all. The hon. Baronet the Member for Dulwich said the voluntary schools had been kept going simply for the sake of cheapness. He wondered whether the ratepayers would believe that statement now. Owing to the Port of London Bill and the Water Bill and the London Government Bill the rates of London were going up by leaps and bounds. [AN HON. MEMBER: It is due to the London County Council and the School Board.] The shares of the London Water Companies were shooting up to an

enormous premium. [Cries of "Question."] That was the question, because they were still going to add a further increase of rates by this clause. They now had the Borough Councils revelling in their new-fledged grandeur. Who were responsible for most of the increase in the rates? Why the Borough Councils. [Cries of "No."] The rates in the different metropolitan districts had gone up on an average 5d. in the £, and this was almost entirely due to the Borough Councils, who were to be given most of the powers under this Bill. By this clause they were adding another 3d. or 4d. to the rates of London at a time when Londoners could hardly bear it. He noticed that the City Council of Westminster was petitioning in favour of a clause to limit the Education Rate. The City of Westminster was ready to put up the rates for other municipal purposes, but it desired to have the Education Rate limited. Why did the City of Westminster not petition Parliament against putting the voluntary schools upon the rates? Hon. Members sitting on the Opposition side of the House were not opposed to a wise increase of the rates for educational purposes if it was accompanied by public control. This immense increase of the rates was not accompanied by any of that adequate public control which practically all the citizens of England wanted, and which the citizens of London well knew they were being deprived of, simply owing to a clerical conspiracy.

MR. WHITLEY (Halifax) said the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education had told the Committee that this clause only contained principles which had been discussed during the spring, summer, and autumn of last year. On this side of the House they believed that those principles were bad, and they fought against them during the whole of last Parliamentary session. They would continue to fight against them in the country until they got them wiped out of the Statute-book. But there was one thing which the hon. Baronet did not tell the House, namely, that this clause, which he was pressing them to allow to be passed, included one third of the Bill of last year which was passed through Committee by means of the closure and which had never been discussed. By the

ingenuity of the Government draftsman they had been precluded this year from discussing that third part of the Bill. The hon. Baronet had boasted that this Bill contained no bargain with the Bishops. There were many good reasons for that. In the first place the Government, he imagined, had had enough of bargains last year when they remembered what took place in the House of Lords. He would remind the Secretary to the Board of Education that this Bill contained not only the original bargain with the Bishops of last year, but also what was known in the country as the Bishops' trick, which was introduced at the last moment. The hon. Baronet would remember also that the late President of the Board of Education stated publicly a short time ago that if the Government had consulted the country after the passing of last year's Bill they would undoubtedly have met with defeat. The Duke of Devonshire acknowledged in so many words, speaking in the last recess, that the country was not in favour of the Bill of last year. Yet the Government proceeded to take further advantage of their majority, and, in a manner which precluded discussion in this House, proposed to apply to London principles which the Duke of Devonshire stated the country, if it had had the opportunity, would have certainly rejected. That was, he thought, trading on the temporary majority which the Government had, and if they carried this clause by that method they certainly could not claim that they had had any popular support behind it. The hon. Baronet omitted to tell the Committee another very interesting fact, which he wished to draw attention to before the clause was finally done with, and that was that there was one body which had had a good deal to do with the framing of the Bill. In January last there was a meeting held in London of the managers of the voluntary schools, and they came to the decision that they would have nothing to do with the Borough Councils. They petitioned the Government not to put them under these Councils, but to put them under the County Council. In the Bill, as introduced, that principle was recognised, and the Government had given to the voluntary schools conditions which were not meted out to the public schools.

Mr. Trevelyan.

The President of the Local Government Board, when recently addressing a meeting of bankers in the South of England, said that if the Government had muddled it was because the people had not brought sufficient pressure to bear, and had not shown them what they ought to have done. That was another interesting theory of government. They had first held the theory that it did not matter how they managed so long as they muddled through in the end. What kind of pressure had been brought to bear in connection with this Bill? First of all they had the voluntary schools seeking public money in support of their schools without public control. The managers passed a Resolution, and the Government at once, with the utmost fervour, incorporated their request in the Bill. The second stage of the pressure was from hon. Members on the other side of the House representing London constituencies. The London Unionists had had, not one, but several mysterious confabulations with the Secretary to the Board of Education, and some of the results were to be seen in the curious Amendments which had been put down on the Order Paper by the Government. In response to that pressure, the number of county councillors had been increased by twelve, and the borough councillors had been reduced, and the boroughs had been partitioned out in combinations of electorates which were difficult to understand. There was a third form of pressure on the part of those public bodies which had been entrusted by this House with educational duties, namely, the London County Council and the School Board, both of which contained persons of experience. What kind of response did they meet with? They had the greatest claim on the consideration of the Government, but they had met with nothing but blank refusal. The Government listened to the private interests, and they rejected the public interests. They listened to the backstairs pressure, and they took no account of the public feeling of this country. It was the duty of the Committee before the clause passed to give the Government clearly to understand that those who

fought last year's Bill from the beginning right to the end objected utterly to the principle which was embodied in the clause. They warned the Government that the religious controversy which they had aroused, and which they might profess to regard with contempt, had raised a feeling in the country that would never die out, until the domination of one set of religious opinions had been entirely swept away. Whether inside this House or out of it, they were determined that they would not rest until the Bill of last year, and the Bill of this year, if it was going to contain this vicious principle, had been removed finally from the Statute-book.

MR. BRIGG (Yorkshire, W. R., Keighley) said the Government had learned nothing from the experience of the Bill of last year. One would have thought that, having that experience, they would have learned that it was an entire mistake to apply the principles of last year's Bill to London. They had mistaken the opinion of the people of London and of the country generally. In London there was a large body which was carrying out the educational work in a very satisfactory manner. By this Bill it was proposed that the School Board should be entirely dispersed, and that another body should be called in which had no experience in the management of the education of London. He thought that was a very great mistake, and one which ought to have been avoided. It would have been wise on the part of the Government to wait and see how far the Act of last year worked in the country before bringing forward this Bill for London. They might have learned a great deal more, and been able to introduce a Bill which would have avoided the difficulties which were now found in the country.

MR. LONG rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 230 ; Noes, 112. (Division List No. 90.)

AYES.

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
 Allhusen, Aug. Henry Eden
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Arkwright, John Stanhope
 Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
 Arrol, Sir William
 Atkinson, Right Hon. John
 Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
 Austin, Sir John
 Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
 Baile, Colonel James Robert
 Baird, John George Alexander
 Balcarres, Lord
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Man'r*)
 Balfour, Capt. C. B. (*Hornsey*)
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*)
 Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch*)
 Banbury, Sir Frederick George
 Bartley, Sir George C. T.
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
 Bignold, Arthur
 Bigwood, James
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bond, Edward
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Bowles, Col. H. F. (*Middlesex*)
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brymer, William Ernest
 Bull, William James
 Burdett-Coutts, W.
 Butcher, John George
 Campbell, J. H. M. (*Dublin Univ.*)
 Cautley, Henry Strother
 Cavendish, R. F. (*N. Lancs.*)
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbysh.*)
 Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
 Cecil Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (*Birm.*)
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A. (*Worc*)
 Chapman, Edward
 Charrington, Spencer
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Clive, Captain Percy A.
 Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
 Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
 Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Cross, H. Shepherd (*Bolton*)
 Crossley, Sir Savile
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Cust, Henry John C.
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Denny, Colonel
 Dickinson, Robert Edmond
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph C.
 Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
 Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir J. E.
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Doxford, Sir William Theodore
 Duke, Henry Edward
 Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart

Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Faber, Edmund B. (*Hants, W.*)
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellows, Hon. Ailwyn Ed.
 Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (*Man'r*)
 Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
 Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose
 Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Flower, Ernest
 Forster, Henry William
 Fyler, John Arthur
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Garfit, William
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (*City of Lond*)
 Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (*St. Albans*)
 Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nrn*)
 Gordon, Maj. Evans- (*Tr. Hmfts*)
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
 Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Gray, Ernest (*West Ham*)
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Guthrie, Walter Murray
 Hain, Edward
 Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
 Hamilton Rt. Hn. Lord G. (*Midd'x*)
 Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashfd*)
 Harris, Frederick Leverton
 Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick G.
 Hay, Hon. Claude George
 Heath, James (*Staffs., N. W.*)
 Helder, Augustus
 Henderson, Sir Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
 Hoare, Sir Samuel
 Houl, Joseph
 Howard, Jno (*Kent, Faver'hm*)
 Hudson, George Bickersteth
 Hutton, John (*Yorks, N. E.*)
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
 Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
 Johnstone, Heywood
 Joyce, Michael
 Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*)
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*)
 Kewick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
 Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks, N. R.*)
 Lee, A. H. (*Hants, Fareham*)
 Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
 Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
 Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
 Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Chas. W. (*Evesham*)
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (*Bristol, S*)
 Lonsdale, John Brownlee
 Lowe, Francis William
 Maconochie, A. W.

M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
 M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*)
 M'Killop, James (*Stirlingshire*)
 Maple, Sir John Blundell
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Molesworth, Sir Lewis
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 More, Robt. Jasper (*Shropshire*)
 Morrison, James Archibald
 Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
 Mount, William Arthur
 Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (*Bute*)
 Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
 Myers, William Henry
 Newdegate, Francis A. N.
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 Peel, Hn. Wm. Robt. Wellesley
 Pemberton, John S. G.
 Percy, Earl
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Plummer, Walter R.
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pretymman, Ernest George
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rattigan, Sir William Henry
 Reid, James (*Greenock*)
 Remnant, James Farquharson
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Ridley, Hn. M. W. (*Stalybridge*)
 Ridley, S. F. (*Bethnal Green*)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
 Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
 Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
 Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Roys, Clement Molyneux
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford.
 Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
 Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
 Seely, Chas. Hilton (*Lincoln*)
 Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (*Isle of Wight*)
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*)
 Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Smith, H. C. (*North'mb. Tyneside*)
 Smith James Parker (*Lanarks.*)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
 Spear, John Ward
 Stanley, Hon. A. (*Ormskirk*)
 Stanley, Edw. Jas. (*Somerset*)
 Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
 Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stock, James Henry
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strayan, John
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hn. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. Oxf'd Univ.

Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
 Thorburn, Sir Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
 Valeria, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir CEH (*Sheffield*)

Walrond, Rt.Hn. Sir William H.
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (*Notts.*)
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. J. Lloyd
 Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
 Williams, Colonel R. (*Dorset*)
 Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
 Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)

Wilson John (*Glasgow*)
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES.—
 Sir Alexander Acland-
 Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allen, Sir William (*Gateshead*)
 Allen, Chas. P. (*Glos., Stroud*)
 Asher, Alexander
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbt Hy.
 Athley-Jones, L.
 Barran, Rowland Hirst
 Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Bell, Richard
 Black, Alexander William
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Brigg, John
 Bryce, Right Hon. James
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Burt, Thomas
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Robert
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Craig, Robert Hunter (*Lanark*)
 Creiner, William Randal
 Crombie, John William
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
 Dewar, John A. (*Inverness-sh.*)
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
 Edwards, Frank
 Elibank, Master of
 Emmott, Alfred
 Evans, Sir Francis H. (*Maidstone*)
 Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*)
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Grant, Corrie
 Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E. (*Berwick*)
 Griffith, Ellis J.

Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
 Harmsworth, R. Leicester
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
 Hayter, Rt Hon Sir Arthur D.
 Helme, Norval Watson
 Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristol, E*)
 Hope John Deans (*Fife, West*)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (*Morley*)
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, Dav. Brynmor (*Swansea*)
 Jones, William (*Carmarv'nshire*)
 Kearley, Hudson, E.
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lambert, George
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Leng, Sir John
 Levy, Maurice
 Lough, Thomas
 Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
 McKenna, Reginald
 McLaren, Sir Charles Benj.
 Mansfield, Horace Rendall
 Mappin, Sir Fredk. Thorpe
 Markham, Arthur Basil
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*)
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Norman, Henry
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 Palmer, Sir C. M. (*Durham*)
 Partington, Oswald
 Pease, J. A. (*Saffron Walden*)
 Perks, Robert William
 Philipps, John Wynford
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Price, Robert John

Priestley, Arthur
 Reckitt, Harold James
 Rigg, Richard
 Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Roe, Sir Thomas
 Runciman, Walter
 Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
 Shaw, Charles E. (*Stafford*)
 Shaw, Thomas (*Hawick, B.*)
 Shipman, Dr. John G.
 Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
 Sloan, Thomas Henry
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Soares, Ernest J.
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, A. (*Carmarthen, E.*)
 Thomas, Sir A. (*Glam., E.*)
 Thomas, F. Freeman (*Hastings*)
 Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
 Tomkinson, James
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Wallace, Robert
 Walton, J. Lawson (*Leeds, S.*)
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Wason, J. Cathcart (*Orkney*)
 Weir, James Galloway
 White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
 Whiteley, G. (*York, W. R.*)
 Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, O. (*Merioneth*)
 Wilson, F.W. (*Norfolk, Mid*)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES.—
 Mr. Herbert Gladstone
 and Mr. William
 M^rArthur.

Question put accordingly, "That
 Clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."
 The Committee divided; Ayes, 242;
 Noes, 114. (Division List No. 91.)

AYES.

Abraham, W. (*Cork, N.E.*)
 Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
 Allbusen, Aug. Henry Eden
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Arkwright, John Stanhope
 Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
 Arrol, Sir William
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt.Hon.Sir H.
 Austin, Sir John
 Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
 Bain, Colonel James Robert
 Baird, John George Alexander
 Balcarres, Lord
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. A.J. (*Manch'r.*)

Balfour, Capt. C. B. (*Hornsey*)
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. Gerald W. (*Leeds*)
 Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch*)
 Banbury, Sir Frederick George
 Bartley, Sir George C. T.
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Bhownagree, Sir M. M.
 Bignold, Arthur
 Bigwood, James
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Boland, John
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John

Brymer, William Ernest
 Bull, William James
 Burdett-Coutts, W.
 Butcher, John George
 Campbell, J.H.M. (*Dublin Univ.*)
 Cantley, Henry Strother
 Cavendish, R. F. (*N. Lancs.*)
 Cavendish, V.C.W. (*Derbyshire*)
 Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
 Chamberlain, Rt Hon J (*Birm*)
 Chamberlain, Rt.Hn. JA (*Worc.*)
 Chapman, Edward
 Charrington, Spencer
 Clare, Octavius Leigh

Clive, Captain Percy A.
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
 Cranborne, Lord
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Cross, Herb. Shepherd (*Bolton*)
 Crossley, Sir Savile
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Cust, Henry John C.
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Denny, Colonel
 Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (*Galway*)
 Dickinson, Robert Edmond
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph C.
 Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
 Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir J. E.
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
 Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
 Duffy, William J.
 Duke, Henry Edward
 Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Faber, E. B. (*Hants, W.*)
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellows, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (*Man'r*)
 Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
 Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
 Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Flavin, Michael Joseph
 Flower, Ernest
 Forster, Henry William
 Fyler, John Arthur
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Garfit, William
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (*City of Lond.*)
 Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (*St. Albans*)
 Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nairn*)
 Gordon, Maj. Evans (*Tr'r H'mlets*)
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Gray, Ernest (*West Ham*)
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Guthrie, Walter Murray
 Hain, Edward
 Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G. (*Mid'tx*)
 Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashfd*)
 Harris, Frederick Levertton
 Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick G.
 Hay, Hon. Claude George
 Hayden, John Patrick
 Heath, James (*Staffs., N. W.*)

Helder, Augustus
 Henderson, Sir Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
 Hoare, Sir Samuel
 Houlst, Joseph
 Howard, John (*Kent, Favr'sham*)
 Hudson, George Bickersteth
 Hutton, John (*Yorks. N. R.*)
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur F. F.
 Jes-el, Captain Herbert Merton
 Johnstone, Heywood
 Joyce, Michael
 Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (*Denbigh*)
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*)
 Keswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
 Law, H. Alex. (*Donegal, W.*)
 Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks. N. R.*)
 Leamy, Edmund
 Lee, A. H. (*Hants., Fareham*)
 Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
 Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
 Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
 Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (*Evesham*)
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S*)
 Lonsdale, John Brownlee
 Lowe, Francis William
 London, W.
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
 Macdonochie, A. W.
 McArthur, Charles (*Liver. ool*)
 McIver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*)
 McKillop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)
 McKillop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
 Maple, Sir John Blundell
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Molesworth, Sir Lewis
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 More, Robt. Jasper (*Shropshire*)
 Morrison, James Archibald
 Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
 Mount, William Arthur
 Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (*Bute*)
 Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
 Myers, William Henry
 Newdegate, Francis A. N.
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 O'Brien, K. (*Tipperary Mid*)
 O'Connor, T. P. (*Liverpool*)
 O'Malley, William
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 Peel, Hn. Wm. R. Wellesley
 Pemberton, John S. G.
 Percy, Earl
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Plummer, Walter R.

Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rattigan, Sir William Henry
 Reid, James (*Greenock*)
 Remnant, Jas. Farquharson
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Ridley, Hon. M. W. (*Stalybridge*)
 Ridley, S. Forde (*Bethnal Green*)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
 Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
 Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Roys, Clement Molyneux
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
 Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
 Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
 Seely, Chas. Hilton (*Lincoln*)
 Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (*Isle of Wight*)
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*)
 Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Smith, H. C. (*North'mb Tyne side*)
 Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks*)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
 Spear, John Ward
 Stanley, Hon. A. (*Ormskirk*)
 Stanley, Edw. Jas. (*Somerset*)
 Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
 Stewart, Sir Mark J. M. Taggart
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir Jn. M.
 Stock, James Henry
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Stroyan, John
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (*Ox'f'd Univ*)
 Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
 Thorburn, Sir Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H. (*Sheffield*)
 Walrand, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (*Notts*)
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. J. Lloyd
 Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
 Williams, Colonel R. (*Dorset*)
 Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
 Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
 Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir Alexander Acland-
 Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allan, Sir William (*Gateshead*)
 Allen, Chas. P. (*Glos., Stroud*)
 Asher, Alexander
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry

Atherley-Jones, L.
 Barran, Rowland Herby
 Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Bell, Richard

Black, Alexander William
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Brigg, John
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn

Burt, Thomas
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Robert
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
 Craig, Robert Hunter (*Lanark*)
 Cremer, William Randal
 Crombie, John William
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
 Dewar, John A. (*Inverness-sh.*)
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
 Edwards, Frank
 Elibank, Master of
 Emmott, Alfred
 Evans, Sir Francis H. (*Maidstone*)
 Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*)
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Grant, Corrie
 Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (*Berwick*)
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
 Hardie, J. Keir (*Merthyr Tyd*)
 Harmsworth, R. Leicester
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale
 Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
 Helme, Norval Watson
 Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristol, E*)
 Hope John Deans (*Fife, West*)
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.

Hutton, Alfred E. (*Morley*)
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Joicey, Sir James
 Jones, David Brynmor (*Swansea*)
 Jones, William (*Carmarvonshire*)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lambert, George
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Leng, Sir John
 Levy, Maurice
 Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
 McKenna, Reginald
 McLaren, Sir Charles Benj.
 Mansfield, Horace Rendall
 Mappin, Sir Fredk. Thorpe
 Markham, Arthur Basil
 Morgan, J. Ll. yd (*Carmarthen*)
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Norman, Henry
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 Palmer, Sir C. M. (*Durham*)
 Partington, Oswald
 Pease, J. A. (*Saffron Walden*)
 Perks, Robert William
 Philipps, John Wynford
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Price, Robert John
 Priestley, Arthur
 Reckitt, Harold James
 Rigg, Richard
 Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Roe, Sir Thomas

Runciman, Walter
 Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (*Stafford*)
 Shaw, Thomas (*Hawick, B.*)
 Shipman, Dr. John G.
 Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
 Sloan, Thomas Henry
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Soares, Ernest J.
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, A. (*Carmarthen, E.*)
 Thomas, Sir A. (*Glam., E.*)
 Thomas, F. Freeman (*Hastings*)
 Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
 Tomkinson, James
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Wallace, Robert
 Walton, J. Lawson (*Leeds, S.*)
 Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
 Wason, J. Cathcart (*Orkney*)
 Weir, James Galloway
 White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
 Whiteley, G. (*York, W. R.*)
 Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
 Whittaker Thomas Palmer
 Williams, O. (*Merioneth*)
 Wilson, F. W. (*Norfolk, Mid*)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES.—
 Mr. Herbert Gladstone
 and William M'Arthur.

And, it being after half-past Seven of the Clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

LONDON EDUCATION BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the chair.]

Clause 2.

*MR. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.) said in moving the postponement of Clause 2, he might base his Motion on the terms in which Clause 2 was expressed. This was only another example of the inveterate reluctance of the framers of the Bill to put into the body of it a definite statement of what it was they wished the House to enact. Clause 2 referred to a schedule, and he did not think, in view of the

debates which took place on the Act of last year, that it was quite a safe thing to defer such an important matter as the precise constitution of the Education Committee of the London education authority, to a schedule which might, or might not, be discussed, and which they might, or might not, be able to amend, and the discussion on which would depend upon the exigencies of Parliamentary time. He suggested the further consideration of Clause 2 and the setting up of the Education Committee of the London education authority because, in the present proposal, the Committee was to contain some representatives of the Metropolitan Borough Councils. So far as he could see, the reason for the proposal of the Government that the Education Committee and the London education authority should contain representatives of the Borough Councils was that, in Clause 3 the councils of the Metropolitan Boroughs were to be given certain managerial powers over certain elementary schools. It might be perfectly right and proper that there should be a representative of each Metropolitan Borough on the Education Committee if the Borough Councils were, by the

Bill, or the discussion on Clause 3, made an integral and essential part of the management or administration of the education of the Metropolis; but the Committee did not and could not determine, until they got to Clause 3, whether these Borough Councils should become an integral and essential part of the administration of education for London. For his part, on the discussion which would take place on Clause 3 would depend very largely the vote he intended to give on Clause 2. The Bill drew a distinction between the local management of one class of elementary and the local management of another Class of elementary school. That distinction having been set up, it might be necessary, in order to maintain that co-ordination, the principles of which he had endeavoured to vindicate against the attacks made upon them, not only between elementary and secondary education but also between the two forms of elementary education, that of the provided schools with which the Committee of the London education authority had to deal directly and in a managerial manner, and that of the voluntary schools which are to be handed over to the representatives of the Borough Councils, to deal directly with in a managerial manner. If that distinction was to be maintained he foresaw a great danger to proper co-ordination. He was opposed in principle to the representation of Metropolitan Borough Councils on the Education Committee of the London County Council. So far as Clause 2 was concerned he was opposed to it and would have to vote against it, but his view might be profoundly modified by the discussion on Clause 3. He submitted to the hon. Baronet that he was pursuing a less desirable and less logical course in proceeding from the educational authority downwards, setting up the constitution of the educational authority which was involved in the nature of the work which the various units of that education authority were to represent on it, and last of all to proceed to consider what, if any, managerial work those representatives were to possess and represent on the managerial Committee. The proper plan would have been to proceed the other way. The Committee should first of all decide whether any managerial work of the schools should be taken out of the hands of the central authority and put

into other hands except by the will of the central authority, with power to devolve such part as it chose. In this matter they had departed from the principles of the Act of 1902. He submitted that the Committee ought to consider Clause 3 before proceeding to consider how the education authority should be constituted. Until they considered Clause 3 they did not know the amount of work which had to be done by the Committee, and that was obviously a reason why they should discuss Clause 3 first. He appealed to the Committee therefore to postpone Clause 2. He begged to move that Clause 2 be postponed.

Motion made, and Question proposed
"That Clause 2 be postponed."—(*Mr Foxall*.)

*THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (*Sir WILLIAM ANSON*, Oxford University) said no doubt the postponement of one clause in order to take the discussion of another first was a matter of convenience which might be discussed without going into the details of the clauses. He was rather at a loss to understand the ground on which the hon. Member had moved the postponement of Clause 2, because, although he had dwelt at great length upon the importance of discussing Clause 3 before Clause 2, he had noticed that having postponed Clause 2 the hon. Member had an Amendment on the Paper to postpone Clause 3 in order to discuss Clause 4, so that very great importance could not be attached to the hon. Member's argument in favour of postponing Clause 2. He asked the Committee to proceed at once with the discussion of the clause. The first clause, he said, determined the elementary education authority; Clause 2 determined the Education Committee, with the assistance of which the authority should work. He proposed, as soon as the Committee came to the discussion of Clause 2, to propose an Amendment which would bring the constitution of the Committee into the clause. It was the natural course after determining the education authority to determine the Education Committee, and then to pass on to details of management.

Mr. Foxall.

Mr. CORRIE GRANT (Warwickshire, Rugby) said no doubt the arguments of the hon. Baronet were effective from his point of view, but when they looked at the Bill the arguments of his hon. friend for the postponement of the clause were very strong indeed. One of the errors into which students of the Bill had fallen was the common error that the constitution of the Committee was the important part of this Bill; it was nothing of the kind. The vital point in the Bill, if it was to be effective, was the question of management as entrusted to the Borough Councils, and it was of great importance to settle the question of local management before proceeding to the question of the Education Committee. The House was groping its way in semi-darkness, created by the Government, and men were voting for propositions on the distinct understanding that they were not to mean what they apparently meant now. That was the reason why he ventured to suggest that there was very great and sound reason for the proposal to postpone Clause 2.

Mr. LEVY (Leicestershire, Loughborough) thought that the Committee ought to be made acquainted with the intentions of the Government before passing the clause. It would be an absurd thing to allow this clause to pass unless the Committee had some definite understanding from the hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill. There was hardly a Member in the House who had a really true knowledge of what the ideas of the Government were in this matter, and it was not too much to ask that there should be some definite understanding as to what the Government meant before they passed Clause 2.

*Mr. THORNTON (Clapham) said that if the clause were not discussed it would be useless to take up the following clause. He made an appeal to the hon. Member for Nottingham not to persist in his Motion for the postponement of the clause. He asked that the clause should be immediately discussed because of the desire in all parts of London to understand what the Government really meant. His constituents were anxiously waiting to know what the Government intended

to do about the London Boroughs, who all had representation on the Committee in the Bill, but were unfortunately threatened with a grouping into eleven electoral districts, the local details of which were injurious to his constituents.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is not in order in 'now discussing the composition of the Committee.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar): The argument for postponing Clause 2 until they had discussed Clause 3 was that until they knew what were going to be the local powers of management they were not in a position to know how far they were entitled to double representation. They could not discuss the merits of Clause 3 because they had not the faintest idea what the Government meant. They knew that, as the clause stood, the Borough Councils would have control—

*THE CHAIRMAN: Surely it will be better to wait until the clause is brought on. Hon. Members must limit their remarks strictly to the question of postponement.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON said that until they got to Clause 3 they really did not know how far they were prepared to give the County Council double representation. It was on that ground that he should support his hon. friend's Motion.

Mr. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea District) said it was quite right that all the arguments should be limited to the question as to why this clause ought to be postponed. The effect of this clause was to constitute a schedule, but there could be no schedule until some provision authorising it had been carried. He should support this Motion because he was not certain that there need be a first schedule. He did not think that was a thing which the Chairman could rule out of order.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The proper course is to move to strike out the reference to the schedule.

Mr. BRYNMOR JONES said he was now arguing whether Clause 2 ought or ought not to be postponed. He was not

satisfied that there ought to be a schedule to the Bill at a.l. Clause 2 seemed to him to be a meaningless clause until they knew whether Clause 3 would be part of the Bill.

Question put.

The Committee divided; Ayes, 68; Noes, 133. (Divis. on List No. 92).

AYES.

Allan, Sir William (*Gateshead*)
Allen, Chas. P. (*Glos., Stroud*)
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Bell, Richard
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cremer, William Randal
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Edwards, Frank
Emmott, Alfred
Fenwick, Charles
Foster, Sir Michael (*Lond. Univ.*)
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton

Hardie, J. Keir (*Merthyr Tydfid*)
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristol, E.*)
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Hutton, Alfred E. (*Morley*)
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, D. Brynmor (*Swansea*)
Jones, William (*Carmarvonsh.*)
Lambert, George
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
McArthur, William (*Cornwall*)
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Pease, J. A. (*Saffron Walden*)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Runciman, Walter

Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
Schwann, Charles E.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (*Stafford*)
Shaw, Thomas (*Hawick, B.*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Soames, Arthur W. Hlesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Thomas, A. (*Carmarthen, E.*)
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glam., E.*)
Thomas, F. Freeman (*Hastings*)
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. *Huddersfd*

TELLERS FOR THE AYES.—
Mr. Yoxall and Mr.
Corrie Grant.

NOES.

Allhusen, Aug. Henry Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Right Hon. John
Austin, Sir John
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (*Manchester*)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (*Leeds*)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bhowaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigold, Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bousfield, William Robert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Campbell, John (*Armagh, S.*)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasg.*)
Cranborne, Lord
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cullinan, J.
Davies, Sir H. D. (*Chatham*)
Denny, Colonel
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (*Galway*)
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph C.

Donelan, Captain A.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellows, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (*Manchester*)
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fison, Frederick William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flower, Ernest
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (*St. Albans*)
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nairn*)
Gordon, Maj Evans (*Tr. Hmsts*)
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Graham, Henry Robert
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hayden, John Patrick
Heider, Augustus
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert I.
Hoult, Joseph
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hutton, John (*York, N. R.*)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Joyce, Michael
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop.*)
Kewick, William
Kimber, Henry

Lawrence, Sir Joseph (*Monmouth*)
Lawson, John Grant
Leamy, Edmund
Lee, A. H. (*Hant., Fareham*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (*Bristol, S.*)
Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*)
London, W.
McArthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
McKillop, James (*Stirlingshire*)
Manners, Lord Cecil
Maple, Sir John Blundell
Middlemore, Jn. Throgmorton
More, Robt. J. Ape (*Shropshire*)
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (*Bute*)
Murray, Charles J. (*Covenry*)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Peel, Hn. Wm. R. W. Hlesley
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretymann, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rankin, Sir James
Redmond, Jn. E. (*Waterford*)
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, H. (*Hackney*)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.

Mr. Brynmor Jones.

Smith, H. C. (*North'mb. Tyneside*)
 Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
 Spear, John Ward
 Stanley, Edw. Jas. (*Somerset*)
 Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
 Stewart, Sir Mark J. M. Taggart
 Stock, James Henry
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier

Sullivan, Donal
 Taylor, Austin (*East Torloth*)
 Thorburn, Sir Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. E. M.
 Tuke, Sir John Batty
 Valentia, Viscount
 Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir W. H.
 Wanklyn, James Leslie

Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
 Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES.—
 Mr. Alexander Acland-
 Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said that in moving this Amendment he thought he should be in order in discussing the further consequential Amendments which stood in his name, the object of which was to bring into this clause the constitution of the Committee which it was proposed to provide for the local education authority. When the Bill was introduced the provision for the constitution of the Committee was in the schedule. It was thought necessary, as he explained at the time, that the Committee should be constituted by Parliament, because the interests of London were so different from those of other parts of the country with respect to the various bodies, persons, and educational interests which needed to be represented, and that the matter should not be settled between the London County Council and the Board of Education. The Government had, therefore, decided to provide for the constitution of the Committee in the Bill. It would not have been desirable that the Board of Education should be called on to decide whether or not the boroughs should be represented on the Education Committee, and it was better that a matter on which there was a considerable difference of opinion should be settled once for all by Parliament. In the composition of the Committee they had to consider what were the main objects of this Bill. As stated by the Prime Minister in the debate on Second Reading those objects were, first, that the London County Council should be the central educational authority for London, and, secondly, that they should endeavour to relieve the London County Council of some of the burden of administration by devising a decentralising process which would confer the duties of management, as distinguished from educational control, on the boroughs. That being so, it was fairly obvious that the Committee should consist of three groups. There was, first of all, the group con-

sisting of those members of the education authority itself who must represent it on the Committee; next there was the miscellaneous group of persons, who had to be appointed by the education authority, who were to represent the various bodies who contributed to the education of London; the voluntary schools, women, and the great schools and universities with which London was studded; and, lastly, there were the boroughs. There were several reasons why the boroughs should be represented on the Committee. It was not an unknown practice—though he would hardly call that a practice, which had sprung into existence since the Education Act became law—for English counties to provide on their Committees for a representation of large boroughs within their area. Cambridgeshire, for instance, had provided for the representation of the town of Cambridge; both divisions of Suffolk had provided for the representation of boroughs within their area, Derbyshire had given a place on its Committee to the county borough of Derby, and Westmorland to the borough of Kendal.

All these illustrations showed that the counties had been not unwilling to place the large urban districts within their area upon their Committees; and they had many demands by smaller urban districts to be represented on the County Committee, these representations which had been laid before the County Councils, not having always been accepted. There was another reason, which he thought was the reason why these boroughs were constituted—namely, that it was desirable in London to endeavour to excite local interest in matters of local concern, and that boroughs, which had much to do with the detailed local government of London, should be interested in what must be not merely a matter of general London interest but also of local concern, the education of the children in the respective boroughs. Lastly, if the boroughs were to have the powers of management which it was the principle of the Bill to

assign to them, with a view of relieving the County Council of the excessive burden of administration, it was important that there should be links on the Committee between the central authority and the boroughs. The Committee as first constituted in the Bill consisted of thirty-six representatives of the County Council; each borough had one member with the exception of the City and Westminster, which had two members; and there were twenty-five representatives of outside bodies, whom for shortness he would call outsiders. It had been suggested frequently in the course of the debate that one purpose in the mind of those who framed the Bill was, in the composition of the Committee, in some way or other to baffle or interfere with the free action of the London County Council. It had been suggested that they desired to place the boroughs on the Committee as a counterpoise to the County Council. As far as he was concerned, no such idea had been present to his mind. It was very important that the boroughs, from their local interest and the duties they would have to discharge as managers, should be represented on the Committee; and it did not occur to him that the County Council, having so large a number as thirty-six of its members on the Committee, and also appointing twenty-five other persons, would have any hesitation in accepting the position as one which gave it a dominant influence, if not an actual majority, on the Committee. That, he was afraid, was not the view of the London County Council, and it was not the view of many of their friends on that side of the House, as well as of many Members on the other side. Many of their friends on that side, having in view the fact that the counties throughout England had been allowed to have a majority in most cases—he might say that in all cases they had provided themselves with a majority on their Committees—thought that the London County Council should not be in a different position and should have a majority on its Committee. That being so, the Government were prepared to accept that view of the matter, and to constitute such a Com-

mittee as would assure to the London County Council not only that it was the dominant influence, but that it was to have a majority and the control of this Committee; and thus to show that there was no sinister desire to baffle its influence on its own Committee. That having been decided upon, there came a difficult arithmetical problem—how to represent the boroughs consistently with the London County Council having a majority on the Committee. It was possible to remove the boroughs, but that, for the reasons he had stated, they were unwilling to do. It was possible to increase the size of the County Council, but that was a matter which could hardly be dealt with in this Bill. It was possible also to invite the County Council to place as many of its members as it pleased on the Committee; but it was thought, he believed with reason, that would make too large a demand on the resources of the County Council. Having set aside various other fancy schemes and devices which naturally occurred to them in the course of the solution of this problem, they had to fall back on the method of grouping the boroughs. It was not an unfamiliar practice in our constitutional development. By this means they provided the City with one member, and there would be eleven other representatives of the boroughs on the Committee, grouped in accordance with the schedule which was now before the House. He would not now enter into the merits of that schedule, which would have to be discussed hereafter.

They proposed to ask the London County Council to contribute forty-two members; there would be the twelve representatives of the boroughs, and the twenty-five outsiders would remain. The County Council could choose members, not exceeding five, of the present London School Board if they so pleased. By this means the County Council would be assured of a permanent working majority on its own Committee, and it would thus be able to have the expert advice of persons of experience in education and the management of schools. They hoped that the boroughs, whose local interest it was desired to stimulate, would be able to give further assistance in the work of management; but this he would explain on the next clause, and he

Sir William Anson.

trusted his explanation would clear up some of the misunderstandings which were perhaps inevitable. They hoped that the Committee, under the great authority of the London County Council, would be able to work together for the benefit of the education of London.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 8, at beginning, to insert the words 'as ordinarily constituted.'"—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said it was a little difficult to discuss this great change on the present Amendment. He thought the position of the Borough Councils on the board of management was more important than their representation on the statutory Committee. He did not think the hon. Gentleman quite appreciated the position in which the Committee stood. A few weeks ago they had a Bill introduced to which, they were entitled to assume, the Government had given considerable thought and care. The hon. Gentleman then laid down two propositions as absolutely uncontroversial in regard to Borough Council representation. One was that the Borough Councils should be represented on the central authority, and the other was that the members of the Committee ought to be members of the Borough Council. The idea of the Government clearly was that each Borough Council should have one representative—and, in some cases, two—on the central authority. In the course of the debate that was seen to be an untenable position, and the Government, having re-considered the matter, had now produced another scheme. He confessed that there was something to be said for the original scheme of the Bill giving direct representation to each Borough Council on the Education Committee, but he could find nothing to say in favour of the proposal now submitted by the Government. If the original proposal was somewhat ludicrous, the present one was surely grotesque, viz., that the boroughs should be grouped without any reference to any local considerations, or without any local

connection with one another. To ask twenty-nine boroughs to elect between them twelve members of the statutory Committee was an extraordinary proposal.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education had spoken of his desire to get rid of fancy devices. His proposal was about the fanciest of fancy devices, and the most ridiculous they could possibly conceive. Surely a simple solution of the difficulty would have been to adopt the principle of the Act of last year and put the London County Council in the same position as the provincial County Councils had been placed. He asked the Committee to seriously consider what advantage could accrue from the proposal of the Government—what would be the advantage to the County Council, to the Borough Councils, or to the ratepayers and others who took an interest in London education. It was quite true that in other parts of the country the County Councils had elected outsiders to the Education Committee, and no doubt that was intended by the Act of last year. But the difference between the Act of last year and the present Bill was that, under the former there was no compulsion to elect a single outside person, while under the present Bill there was no control over the selection of twelve, and a very limited control in regard to twenty-five others. The question had been raised whether the London County Council could undertake the enormous work of elementary education in London. In his opinion it would only be possible for it to do so by delegation to an enormous extent. No central body, hampered and controlled in the way the Bill proposed, could do it. In moving the Second Reading of the Bill, the hon. Gentleman said he was giving the London County Council the fullest assistance in regard to their work, but it appeared to him that the present proposal gave them no assistance in any sense of the term. The twelve borough councillors who were to be brought into the work would lead to friction; they would hamper the County Council in its work, and, so far as they were representative, they would not help to unity and co-ordination, but would lead to disunion. The hon. Gentleman said the House had decided that the

County Council ought to have a majority, and that he was in this proposal falling in with the views so expressed. The proposal was that there should be forty-two county councillors, twelve borough councillors, and twenty-five outsiders. In the appointment of its ordinary committees, the County Council gave about one-third of the representation to the Moderates, who were the minority. If this method were adopted in regard to the Education Committee, the County Council representation would consist of twenty-eight Progressives and fourteen Moderates. The representatives of the Borough Councils, especially under the grouping now proposed, would be in almost every case Moderates. [MINISTERIAL cries of "No party politics."] Unfortunately there would be party politics. [MINISTERIAL cries of "No," and "Why?"] The constitution of the Committee would then be twenty-eight Progressives and twenty-six Moderates. That, he feared, would be a most fatal thing for the work of the London County Council in regard to education. He was afraid the result would be that, in selecting its own representatives on the Committee, the County Council would feel it its duty to appoint all Progressives and no Moderates, and that when it came to the appointment of what the hon. Gentleman had called "the outsiders," they would, instead of basing their choice on purely educational grounds, see how far they could get supporters of their own Party. [MINISTERIAL cries of "No."] The Water Board afforded them an object-lesson in this respect. No one would deny that the last County Council election turned on the water question—on whether the London County Council should be the water authority. [Several HON. MEMBERS: "No."] Well, he took some part in the election, and he ventured to assert that a majority of Progressives was returned chiefly on the water question. But the voice of the electors had been absolutely disregarded, and the Water Board created by the Government was in the hands of the Moderates. That was what he was afraid of in regard to education. He would be sorry to see political questions raised in connection with the election of the education authority, but he maintained that that would be the result of bringing in the Borough Councils. What advantage would the

Bill give to the Borough Councils themselves? It seemed to him that the Government were giving the Borough Councils too little and too much. They were not giving them enough to give them an interest in education or any practical control of the educational policy of the central body, but they were giving them enough to lead to considerable friction. He would like to know how the twelve councillors to be chosen by the grouped boroughs were to be elected.

*THE CHAIRMAN: We are now discussing the general principle of the Amendment. That point must be raised on the Schedule.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: But surely it is of great importance when we are wondering whether there ought to be twelve borough councillors or not on this central body, to know how they are going to be elected, and if they are likely to be really representative.

*THE CHAIRMAN: That is dealt with in the Schedule, and it cannot be raised here.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said he would not press the point further. What he wished to point out was that the twelve borough councillors would not have as good a knowledge of the educational needs of the districts they would represent as members of the County Council would have, and the ordinary ratepayers would have no opportunity of expressing their opinion in reference to the selection and the conduct of these twelve borough councillors. The President of the Local Government Board had more than once said that he wanted to bring local knowledge into these matters. Did he think the proposal of the Government would secure that? He for one would not oppose it, but he would like to ask how one representative from Battersea, representing an area with half a million of population, could have any local knowledge of the educational requirements of that district? How was popular control to be had over the twelve borough councillors? There was something to be said in favour of interesting the Borough Councils in the work of education by giving them some practical representation on the central

Mr. Sydney Buxton.

body, but it would be absurd to suppose their interest in education would be aroused by placing twelve councillors out of 1,500 on the education authority. The Government had refused to accept an *ad hoc* body, and the only possible mode of carrying on the work of education was to make the County Council absolutely supreme from top to bottom, absolutely supreme in the education authority, and in the management of the schools. The proposal of the Government in regard to the twelve borough councillors was ludicrous and grotesque. He objected to the proposal of the Government to hand over the management of the schools to the Borough Councils. He believed it would so hamper the central authority that the educational work of London could not be properly carried out, and that at any rate it would be carried out in a worse way than at present.

Mr. W. F. D. SMITH (Strand, Westminster) regretted that the Government had not followed in full the Act of last year. The County Council, having been chosen by the Government as the education authority for London, ought to have an effective majority on the Committee, and it was essential that the electors should be able to fix the responsibility for the work on one particular body. He recognised that the proposed Amendment of the Government improved the situation to a considerable extent, but it was unfortunate that it should practically suggest that it was not advisable to appoint any School Board representatives, because if such representatives were appointed the Council's majority would disappear. Moreover, he would have preferred the absence rather than the company of the twelve representatives of the Borough Councils. He had no fear of the London County Council in educational matters. His experience of the work of the Technical Education Board had shown him that they were not influenced by religious, sectional, or political considerations, and he had no reason to doubt that a Committee framed on similar lines to deal with elementary as well as technical education would act in precisely the same manner. As to the compromise which the Government had

proposed, it would be easy to point out the extraordinary inequalities of rateable value, population, numbers of schools, and children, and so on, as between the various boroughs which the twelve borough councillors would have to represent. It was clear that in some instances they would have the difficult task of trying to represent very diverse interests. He should like to suggest that possibly some of the difficulty of selecting these gentlemen might be obviated if they were not necessarily members of the Borough Councils. He had still some hope, however, that the Government might return to their better frame of mind of last year, and that even now they might determine to leave the County Council the responsibility of choosing their own Education Committee.

SIR JOHN GORST earnestly hoped the Government would not at this point come to a final conclusion on the question here involved. By accepting the proposal to treat the London County Council in the same manner as other County Councils had been treated they would extricate themselves from the position in which they were now placed; or, if they did not care to do that, they would leave this matter open as they did the case of the optional clause last year, when the House of Commons, he could almost guarantee, would extricate them from their difficulty. The idea of an Education Committee was derived from the Technical Instruction Act, in which permissive power was given to local authorities to appoint a Committee, and to delegate to that Committee such powers as the local authority thought desirable. That power was used by many local authorities, and large powers were delegated to the Committees. The arrangement worked well, and among such Committees that of the London County Council was considered the model and example. That Committee, which was not composed exclusively of members of the County Council, but included representatives of educational and other interests in the Metropolis, gave the utmost satisfaction and had the entire confidence of the Council. With experience of the Technical Instruction Act, the Act of last year gave to every local authority similar powers; and if

the present Bill passed in the form contemplated by the Government, there would be the extraordinary result that every education authority in the country would have the power of drawing up its own scheme and appointing its own Committee, with the singular exception of the greatest of them all, which furnished the model for the Bill of last year. Unrestrained by legislation, the Council would appoint a Committee in which it would have implicit confidence, would determine the numbers, how many members should be Councillors, what outside members should be appointed, and to what extent women should be represented on the Committee. These and similar questions the London County Council would be far more competent to determine than the Committee of the House. If the Government persisted in refusing to allow the London County Council the power which every other County and Borough Council in England and Wales possessed, and fixed upon that Council a Committee of which the Council did not approve and in which it had no confidence, the Council might either itself review the acts of the Statutory Committee, or appoint a Committee of its own to which might be entrusted the duty of reviewing the reports and proceedings of the Statutory Committee, and as the supreme authority the Council might act upon the recommendations of its own Committee. Such an absurd arrangement would not conduce to the smooth working of the Act and the interest of education. He felt sure the Government, in the interval before the vote was taken, would either come to the conclusion to abandon the scheme placed on the Notice Paper or leave the House of Commons to decide, after hearing all that could be said on the subject, whether the London County Council, as the educational authority for London, should have powers similar to those possessed by every other educational authority in the country.

DR. MACNAMARA, accepting the decision of the Committee to municipalise the local control of education in London, desired, as one who had some little experience of the problem to be dealt with, to do what he could to carry

out municipalisation on what he considered to be the best lines. It had to be remembered that the County Council were being asked absolutely to double its operations. The Statutory Committee, as at present proposed, was to consist of forty-two county councillors, twelve borough councillors, twenty-five outsiders, and, if the Council so desired, five members of the present School Board. His profound conviction was that the forty-two county councillors would not be able to devote their time to the work, with the result, unless the membership of the County Council were increased, that the work would fall into the hands of the thirty outsiders and the paid officials. That would be disastrous, and he desired to impress upon the Committee that the work could not safely be handed over to the County Council without the alteration of constitution he had suggested. They began with thirty-six representatives of the Borough Councils, then they had eleven, now they had twelve, and the clear trend of the Committee was to strike them out altogether. He believed that if it were left to the Committee they would be struck out. But he would not mind, if only provision were made for the work being done by the representatives of the ratepayers. He was profoundly convinced that under the present scheme, unless the representatives of the London County Council were strengthened, and were free to devote themselves to educational work, that work would fall into the hands of the thirty outsiders and the paid officials, and to that he objected most strongly. That would not be municipalisation. It would be a spurious form of municipalisation with which he, for one, would have nothing to do.

On the Technical Instruction Board he found from the minutes that many important resolutions involving considerable expenditure were passed by a majority of outsiders. It was true that the minutes were submitted to the County Council; but the Council never went into the details of each minute. He was anxious to secure a sufficient number of representatives of the ratepayers to make it certain that the work would not be done by outsiders, to which he strongly objected. Clause 3 was closely associated with this proposal. Under Clause 3 it was proposed to give the

Sir John Gorst.

Borough Councils certain powers; but now that their representatives were cut down to twelve, and possibly might be struck out altogether, there would have probably been a reaction in favour of them when it came to the question of management. His position was quite clear. He did not want the Borough Councils to have the power of management or of electing teachers or selecting sites; and he did not, therefore, want a reaction in their favour. He hoped the Committee would agree that if this work was to be given to the County Council, the Council must be given the men to carry it out. That could not be done under the present Bill; but he should ask the Government for a definite pledge that provision would be made at the earliest possible date to secure that the County Council should be given a sufficient number of men to do this work. Unless that pledge were given he would do his best in London from now until the County Council election to advocate that the County Council should not take this work on unless they were given a sufficient number of men to carry it out. The practical result of the present proposal would be that the daily administrative work would be done by thirty persons not responsible to the ratepayers. The Committee did not realise the enormous amount of work the Council was being asked to undertake, and anxious as he was that the County Council should do it, he could not blindly accept a position in which it would be physically impossible for the Council to carry on the work. Therefore, he would earnestly urge the Committee to consider the absolutely vital necessity of increasing the County Council.

*SIR GEORGE FARDELL (Paddington, S.) said he should always advocate the representation of the Borough Councils on the new education authority, because he believed it would be a link between the Borough Councils and the London County Council. The necessity for that link was shown by the fact that the majority of the County Council did not reside in the districts they represented. The non-resident Members were sixty-two as against fifty-two resident Members, and he was very much

struck with the observation which fell from the hon. Member for Poplar as to the political aspect of handing over a certain amount of the representation to the Borough Councils. He cordially agreed that it would be extremely detrimental if any such policy were introduced; but he hoped and believed that that would not be the case. He had been a member of one of these local bodies for twenty-seven years, first as a vestryman and then as a Borough Councillor, and he was surprised to hear the opinion so often expressed in the debate that the Borough Councils were fit to be entrusted only with such work as the cleansing of the streets and various matters of that kind. During his twenty-seven years' experience he had seen not only the work but the interest taken in the work by individual members develop greatly. It was true that in the old vestry days things were not always as they should be; but the members of the present Borough Councils were actuated by a real interest in their work; and his chief reason for advocating the linking of the Borough Councils with the County Council in the control of education was that it would induce the best men of the district to offer their services to the ratepayers. If he did not honestly and sincerely believe that it would be to the advantage of London to include the Borough Councils in the work of education, he would not for one moment advocate it. He had not the advantage of the experience, as regarded educational matters, of the hon. Member for North Camberwell, whom they all recognised as a great authority; but he wished to quote the opinion of another authority, Sir Charles Elliott, who in a letter to *The Times* yesterday wrote—

"The first principle will no doubt be carried into effect by creating an Educational Committee in which the London County Council will be predominant, aided by a competent body of experts; and if it is found necessary to increase the number of members of the Council in order to ensure this predominance, the Premier has declared himself ready to adopt that course. The second is the far-reaching and vivifying principle of a large devolution of management to the Town Councils."

That, he believed, was the true way to deal with this question. His hon. and learned friend the Member for the Stretford Division, in a very excellent speech, asked why London should be treated differently from the country.

The reason was this—in the county of Lancaster, for instance, the large boroughs were distributed over a large area, but in London the twenty-eight boroughs were all in proximity to one another. Had those boroughs been scattered over the 556 square miles of the County of London, including the water area, there would be no question whatever that each of them would be entitled to be represented. He should prefer the thirty-one members of the Borough Councils rather than the twelve; but if there were thirty-one members of the Borough Councils in addition to twenty-five other members, the County Council would be in a minority, and it might be said that in such a large Committee it would not be necessary to delegate any of the work at all. He would certainly prefer the grouping of the boroughs to no representation at all, and he therefore hoped the Committee would agree to the proposal, and that the Borough Councils would realise that they were coadjutors with the County Council in carrying into effect a great work in the interests of London.

SIR W. BRAMPTON GURDON (Norfolk, N.) said he should not have intervened in the debate had not the Secretary to the Board of Education—no doubt under a misapprehension—dragged his own County Council into the fray. The hon. Gentleman stated that the County Council of Suffolk had made provision for the representation of non-county boroughs in their scheme; but those representatives were not nominated by the boroughs themselves. It was thought that if twenty-four members were voted for there might not be a representative of Bury elected, and therefore it was provided that one at least of the elected members should be one of the councillors for Bury. That was not the scheme proposed in the Bill.

SIR GEORGE BARTLEY (Islington, N.) said this revised scheme did not seem to have a friend anywhere. He thought the Metropolitan boroughs had been utterly neglected and deserted by their parents; and he could not think it fair that such a large borough as Islington, with a population of 350,000, should be

represented by half a member. Stoke Newington and Islington were to elect one member, and that would satisfy neither. Under the original scheme he thought the Borough Councils did not get sufficient representation, but the present system gave no representation at all, and he strongly objected to it. He thought they might fairly ask that the Act of last year should be maintained, allowing, as it did, boroughs of 10,000 and upwards to have certain rights. That was the only logical solution, and it was the only scheme that would work. The present proposal would lead to endless friction. It had only lasted a week and a change would be seen before long.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.) said that the Committee had heard a specimen of almost every opinion that could be held on the constitution of the Education Committee. They had heard the views of the hon. Member who had just sat down and who would like to see education confined to the Borough Councils, and the views of hon. Members who would like education taken away from the Borough Councils and given to the County Council, and, though it was possible that there might be further variations of the possible schemes which ingenuity might devise, he felt that his own powers of imagination rather failed to suggest what alterations and suggestions might be made. He would remind the Committee of the fundamental difficulties of the situation. By universal consent he believed that it was admitted the London problem stood so much by itself as regarded the organisation of an Education Committee that it was impossible to discuss it on the same footing and plane with the education authorities which were constructed for every other part of the country. That separation of London from every other municipality showed that London occupied absolutely a unique position; and, therefore, when his right hon. friend the Member for Cambridge University and others, who spoke with great authority on questions of this sort, reproached the Government with having simply transferred the provisions of last year's Act to this year's Bill, they ignored the reasons which made the Government omit London

Sir George Fardell.

from last year's Act. They forgot the special and peculiar circumstances which had made London in the past, and which was making London in the present, and would make London, doubtless, in the future a problem of very great difficulty for all who had to deal with the problems of local government in this country. When they were dealing with a community of 5,000,000 of persons the ordinary rules governing municipal institutions must have exceptions. They could not treat a community bigger than many European States simply as a considerable borough situated in a county. They must make some modification and introduce what might be called some illogicalities in the system which it was found possible to adapt to other parts of country. That was the problem the Government had to deal with. He was ready to admit at once that it was impossible to have a neat logical solution which every framer of a Bill desired to have, which everyone who had to defend it desired to have, because it made debate so much easier. But it really could not be carried out with regard to London. There were hon. Members on both sides who would like to see the whole of the education of London handed over to the County Council precisely as in Manchester.

DR. MACNAMARA: No.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: That was what they had said. The hon. Member for North Camberwell did not agree with him or with the hon. Gentleman who took that simple and clean-cut issue, and he did not think that the House ought to take it. London was not a great homogeneous body of 5,000,000 of British citizens. It was that and it was much more. It was a body which had not a single central body popularly elected; it was a body which from time immemorial had been broken up into smaller communities with their own municipal institutions.

MR. CORRIE GRANT: Will the right hon. Gentleman excuse me? It is a perfectly obvious fact that London has not been governed in the way spoken of by the right hon. Gentleman until the Metropolis Management Act of 1855.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that the hon. Gentleman was quite mistaken. The fact of the existence of the City—which, he supposed, the hon. Member had heard of—would alone prove that he was wrong. London had from time immemorial been broken up into communities which had their own municipal life. And the House had, with the common consent of both sides, desired to revive and strengthen and regularise that municipal life in respect of the various communities of which the great Metropolis now consisted. These communities were no small and insignificant bodies; and if the House of Commons were to attempt to centralise the whole work of education on the County Council, ignoring absolutely not only the historic traditions of these districts, and the work which they had done, they would in the name of municipalisation—which was supposed to be the opposite of centralisation—be carrying out a very dangerous work of over-centralisation, which, he thought, if possible, they ought to avoid. That being the general principle, and it being at the same time quite obvious that the County Council must be made the education authority, ought less to be done for the Borough Councils than was proposed to be done by the Amendment before the Committee? The Government originally had proposed to do more; and they had been reproached for changing their plans, as if it showed a singular and extraordinary indecision on the part of the Government not to know precisely what would please every Londoner, and what would be agreeable to all the districts concerned. If any one thought that he could easily discover exactly what every Londoner desired, or what every member of the County Council and of the Borough Councils desired—or might he be profane enough to say, what every Member of Parliament representing a London constituency desired—let him try it, and he would soon find his mistake. He was not ashamed to admit that the Government were impressed during the earlier debates on this Bill with the argument that if the County Council were not given an absolute majority on its own Committee there would be a danger that the Council would find itself in opposition to its own Committee; that it would look upon the work of the Committee with such suspicion as would require it

to supervise even the *minutiae* of the Committee's work, and possibly to throw itself into sharp antagonism with a body which ought to be in no sense the Council's equal and still less its master. Those arguments were powerfully addressed to [the House, and the Government was greatly impressed by them.

There were, therefore, only two alternatives open to the Government consistent with the broad policy of keeping the County Council the supreme authority, and of giving the boroughs not only a place as bodies to whom powers might be delegated, but also some representation upon the Committee. There were two methods by which the Government might obviate the difficulty which he had described. One was so to increase the numbers of the County Council that they would be able to outvote the representatives of the boroughs, even if every borough were represented. The other plan was that which had been adopted. The first was a most attractive scheme, and there was a great deal to be said for it. But there was one thing to be said against it, which was that it would manifestly overtax the County Council. The hon. Member for Camberwell had persistently told the House that, even without that additional burden, the County Council could not undertake the duty. He hoped the hon. Member was incorrect, but he was sure that the hon. Member was right in saying that, if upon the County Council had been thrown the burden of finding a number of men to work this Committee in excess of the total representation of the boroughs and of the "outsiders," as they were called, the Council would have been asked to perform a task for which their present numbers were totally inadequate. In this Bill there ought to be no attempt to deal with the numbers of the County Council. The time might come when not only the County Council but other great municipal bodies might say that with the growth of civilisation, with the increasing decentralisation, and with the additional work which was thrown on them every session, their present numbers were not adequate. That was possible. He did not deny or minimise it; and when that was proved, they would have to come to that House, and that House would have to remedy the evil. But he did not wish, and he was

sure the House did not wish, to deal with the numbers of the County Council on this Bill. That being so, they must not deliberately overload the County Council.

That conclusion being accepted, he would ask the House whether there was any way of giving the municipalities some position upon this Committee except the way which the Government adopted. He himself thought there was none. And, as he would view with the greatest regret the exclusion of these bodies, which he hoped were going to be great bodies, which, he hoped, as their life went on, were going more and more to absorb some of the best elements of public and municipal spirit within their limits, then if they were going to give them their proper place, or rather any place at all on this body, surely they could not have done it in a manner which would produce less friction, overload the machine less, or leave the power of what must be the supreme educational authority in the Metropolis more untouched and unimpaired. Was any plan better than the one the Government had devised to be suggested? He did not think there was; and he ventured to say that that House and that Committee were not spending their time well in proving this or that small logical objection against the scheme. That such objections existed he freely admitted. They existed against any scheme which any Government or any Minister could contrive when dealing with so exceptional and complex an organisation as the great municipal area of London. They would never get a clean-cut, logical system of municipal government for the Metropolis as long as they insisted, as they must insist, both on keeping up municipal life in the smaller areas and having a uniform system of rating over the whole district. Let them frankly admit that; and, when they had made that admission and hon. Gentlemen had absorbed the truths which he had ventured to recommend to them, he thought they would feel that the Government had done their best to meet the special needs of a special situation, and that, on the very grounds on which they excluded London from the purview of last year's Bill, they were justified in making the variations from the scheme of the Bill of

last year, which were embodied in the Amendment of his hon. friend. In these circumstances, he would suggest to the Committee that they might take a decision on the broad principle that night and proceed to discuss the special Amendment in which its details were embodied during the course of to-morrow's debate. At all events, he hoped he had said enough to show that the Government had not ignored any current of opinion which ought to influence them, and that in dealing with a very difficult and complicated proposal, they had not varied from the parent scheme of last year's Bill more than the actual necessities of the situation in London compelled them to do.

MR. BRYCE said that, as he understood the Amendment, he did not see any reason why the Committee should come to any decision upon it now, for it was one which would be necessary quite apart from the particular question to which the debate had been addressed. Therefore, he would not argue against the particular Amendment, but would make a few observations upon the speech of the Prime Minister. Except by the right hon. Gentleman himself and his colleagues, no single opinion had been expressed in the debate in favour of this scheme. The right hon. Gentleman said with great truth that London was unique, and that it required special treatment. He could not agree with the right hon. Gentleman in thinking that from time immemorial the communities of different parts of London had had a separate municipal life. Time immemorial meant the time of King Richard I., and surely the right hon. Gentleman would not say that there was more than one municipal Government in London then.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: What I said was, that there were areas of London which from time immemorial had had separate municipal institutions.

MR. BRYCE said if the right hon. Gentleman stated it in that qualified way he would admit that some of them had existed for a long time. The First Lord of the Treasury had argued very forcibly in favour of giving London special treatment, but all his arguments seemed to be in favour of an *ad hoc* authority. He came now to the practical point before

the Committee. The right hon. Gentleman had said that the Committee ought not to be led away by small logical objections—that it was very difficult to produce a scheme which would not be open to such objections. He agreed that that was true, and he had no wish to deal with the problem in that way. What he asked was, whether this Bill offered any prospect of a good working body, and what practical benefit it would confer. The argument of the right hon. Gentleman and of the Secretary to the Board of Education had been confined entirely to showing that it was necessary to do something for the Borough Councils. No attempt was made to show that the Borough Councils would contribute to the welfare of the scheme. The argument might have been put forward that, as the Borough Councils were to have duties of management under the Bill, it was desirable to establish some link between the local education authority and the managers. That might be a strong argument or not; but he could understand it being used if the Committee were to have had the Government plan in its original form with a member from every Borough Council sitting on the central authority. But this arrangement was not included in the present scheme.

Of what value could it be to one of four Borough Councils to have a fourth of a member? The four boroughs of Deptford, Lewisham, Greenwich, and Woolwich were to have one representative. That representative could not be in immediate communication between them and the central authority. He saw no useful purpose that representative could serve, because it would not be pretended that he would bring the element of special value into the central authority which they would otherwise like. He would go so far as to say that the interests in many cases of these contiguous boroughs might be antagonistic. Suppose there was a site to be chosen and that there was a dispute between two of the boroughs on the question where a new school was to be planted. Was the representative of these four boroughs to take the opinion of all the four and endeavour to arrange a sort of compromise, for in many cases the interests of these contiguous bodies might be antagonistic? In this matter, and in the complex method of election which it was proposed to introduce, complications

and difficulties would be created for the representation of these boroughs which did not now exist in any part of our local government system. At the same time it had not been shown that any practical benefit was likely to result. There was no reason to think that people specially acquainted with the needs of the different parts of London, educationally, would be better brought in by this highly artificial scheme than by the method of selection by the London County Council. He agreed that the Government had attempted a compromise between two plans, each consistent and logical, but it did not follow necessarily that a compromise was the best solution. There might be objection to walking down the west side of a street and also objections to walking down the east side, but it did not follow that the best way was to go down the middle of the street. To take the middle course might lead to greater evils. He thought the plan of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Cambridge University would be better than that proposed, viz., to hand the whole thing over to the London County Council and make it omnipotent. They had tried to treat this question altogether apart from any spirit of recrimination, and he ventured to hope that the Government would ponder over the suggestions they had received from their own side of the House as well as from this. The question of the introduction of the twelve members was a detail; it was no more essential to the principle of the Bill than was the proposal in Clause 5 of the Bill of last year, and he could not see why the Government should not leave it to the House to determine. It was a matter which would make a great deal of difference to the smooth working of the central authority. He ventured to say that the London County Council would regard the borough representatives as something of an alien element, and therefore, for the smooth working of the measure, it would be better if that element were not introduced. He earnestly entreated the Government to consider the matter with an open mind, and not to allow any desire to maintain their scheme prevent them from arriving at a solution which would most conform to the general wish of the House.

Mr. Bryce.

*MR. WHITMORE (Chelsea) said that as one who was anxious to increase whenever possible the powers of the Borough Councils, he could not be accused of want of sympathy with them. He had always thought that the whole system of local government in London depended upon the smooth working between two different sets of institutions, the one central, and the other local, and the proper allocation to these of central and local duties; and that as regards the central duties the London County Council should be supreme. For this reason he was sorry to say that on this point he was in conflict with the Government and with the majority of the London Members; but he could not see that the central work of controlling the education of the whole of London could pertain to any but the central body. Much as he wished to dignify the Borough Councils, he believed it would only lead to a confusion of the principles on which the government of London rested if they encouraged the Borough Councils to think that they ought to mix themselves up with the central control of the education in London. At the same time, as the Bill was proceeded with, the Committee would be able to give them such large and interesting powers of local management that the best men and women in the localities would have a new inducement to go on to these bodies. What he had been struggling for was to secure that the London County Council should be supreme and paramount on this Committee, and that the responsibility for this work should clearly attach to that one authority. What he was afraid of was that, under the original scheme of the Government, the ordinary elector would not know whom to attack in case of extravagance, whether to lay the blame upon the London County Council or to the Borough Councils, and the consequence would be that there would be recrimination between the London County Council and the Borough Councils, and between the Borough Councils and the London County Council. He was bound to say that under the remodelled scheme it was clear that definite responsibility would attach itself to the London County Council and that if any of them complained either of extravagance or parsimony in the management of education in London, they must go direct to the London County Council.

If it could be made perfectly clear that the London County Council was to be supreme, and that it was responsible for the administration of the Education Committee they had gained substantially all that they wanted. He quite understood the strong sentiment which had influenced his friends in wishing that there should be still representatives of the Borough Councils on the central Committee, but he believed that under the management of the London County Council as the central authority their interests would be amply safe-guarded, while he did not wish to encourage the unwise idea that the Borough Councils should be mixed up with the functions and work of the central authority. His only object was to make this Bill a thoroughly workable measure for the better education of London.

MR. HALDANE (Haddingtonshire) said that, like the hon. Member for Chelsea, he occupied an intermediate position, and there was scarcely anything in the speech of the hon. Gentleman with which he did not agree. The one thing he cared about was to make the best of London education. Many controversies had been introduced which seemed to him not germane to making the best of London education. He had always been of opinion that the Government had a perfectly simple course before them, and that was to incorporate in this Bill the principle of their measure of last year. That was not done, and the question which now arose was why they should take a course which differed, not merely in detail, but in principle, from what was adopted in regard to the education of the country generally. He was not a London Member, but probably he had had as much to do with higher education in London as most Members of this House; and of one thing he was quite certain, and that was, that to make London educational reform a success, it must be treated as a whole. London was not an aggregate of separate boroughs—certainly not for educational purposes, at any rate. They

could not take the great London educational institutions and distribute them, and split them up. Therefore, that being so, what was wanted was a single supreme educational authority to deal with the whole question of London education, and not one which represented a compromise of conflicting interests. He did not find himself in agreement with the right hon. Gentleman who led the House when he wanted to make some sort of compromise with the Borough Councils. With the hon. Member for Chelsea he believed it was a great mistake to decry the Borough Councils. These had got a future before them, and he wanted to develop them, and give them every chance; but he did not think that it would be assisting them or giving them a better chance to bring them, in the artificial way proposed in the Bill, into the management of London education. There must be one authority, supreme in London education, which must be dealt with as a whole. He quite agreed that the various bodies were brought in in a less objectionable way by the Amendment now proposed than they had been in the scheme as originally framed; but they were brought in in a fashion and form which, at any rate, lent itself to the possibility of very considerable friction. He should have understood the proposal of the Government in this Amendment if it had been designed to allow the Borough Councils to select representatives chosen for their educational efficiency, because these would be the very best men to add to the central authority. But this Amendment prevented that selection. How were these unequally yoked bodies to work together? How were they to carry on the business of selecting the best representatives to the central authority? The way in which the Amendment was framed allowed no freedom to the Borough Councils to do what he thought was the object of the Government, viz., that when they could not find any educationalist in the

Councils they should take some distinguished person outside as the representative of a group of boroughs. As the Amendment now stood, it was quite impossible to carry that out. He must say that while he thought the Government had taken a better course than was originally contemplated under the Bill, they had marred that proposal by the provision that the representative of the Borough Councils must be somebody who was a borough councillor. The whole essence of this scheme was by some means or another to conciliate the interests which were causing the Government difficulty in framing the Bill. He felt that the Government had yielded too much to the pressure put upon them, not in the interests of education, but in the interests of the Borough Councils, and that being so, while he thought, with the hon. Member for Chelsea, that the Amendment made things better, he could not bring himself to believe that they had got in the interests of London education as a whole anything approaching a satisfactory solution.

MR. LOUGH said that a large question had been raised by the Prime Minister when he asked the Committee to accept the principle of the representation of the Borough Councils by agreeing to the Amendment. The Prime Minister knew the ways of Parliament just as well as any other hon. Member, and he did not make that twenty minutes' speech for nothing. The right hon. Gentleman said that he was conceding all that they objected to when he reduced the number of representatives of the Borough Councils. As a matter of fact the difficulty of the situation was rather increased by the reduction in the numbers. The proposal

Mr. Haldane.

was the most ridiculous ever made, and it would be seen that it was quite impossible for the Committee to accept it. The hon. Member for Chelsea, whom they accepted as a fair exponent of the Borough Councils, admitted that he was entirely opposed to the introduction of the representatives of the Borough Councils on the Education Committee, but the hon. Gentleman said he now occupied a middle position which enabled him to accept the decision of the Government. The hon. Gentleman should have stuck fast to his principles. The hon. Gentleman said that the rights of the Borough Councils were sufficiently preserved, but he maintained that that was not so. The rights of the Borough Councils in these matters were that their prerogatives should extend to all municipal affairs.

And, it being midnight, the Chairman proceeded to interrupt the business.

Whereupon MR. GALLOWAY rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put;" but the Chairman withheld his assent, and declined then to put that Question.

And the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again this day.

ADDENBROOK'S HOSPITAL BILL.

Considered in Committee, and reported; as amended, to be considered upon Friday 26th June.

Adjourned at seven minutes after
Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 20th May, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL
BUSINESS.

Cheshire Lines Committee Bill. As amended, considered; Amendments made. Bill to be read the third time.

East Ham Improvement Bill; London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill; London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway Bill; Wellingborough and District Tramroads Bill; West Cumberland Electric Tramways Bill. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Great Western Railway Bill. Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PETITIONS.

COAL MINES REGULATION BILL.

Petition from Wardley, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

LICENCES RENEWAL AND TRANSFER BILL.

Petitions against: from Harrogate; St. Helens; and Hebden Bridge; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING LAW (COMPENSATION FOR NON-RENEWAL) BILL.

Petitions against: from Neath Abbey; Eccles; Weston-super-Mare; Galashiels; Hebden Bridge; St. Helens; and Harrogate; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Petitions for alteration: from Keiss; Renton; Stirling; Dornoch; West Galashiels; Ochiltree; and Govan; to lie upon the Table.

LONDON EDUCATION BILL.

Petition of the Disestablishment Council for Scotland, against; to lie upon the Table.

VOL. CXXII. [FOURTH SERIES.]

POOR LAW OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Govan, against; to lie upon the Table.

PORT OF LONDON BILL.

Petitions against (praying to be heard by Counsel): from Free Watermen and Lightermen, Barge Owners, and Rate-payers; and Short Sea Traders' Association; to lie upon the Table.

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL.

Petitions in favour: from Mossley; Woodley; Roe Green; Crosshouse; New Hampton; Rutherglen; Lancaster and Skerton; Birkenhead; Penge; Calstock; Tow Law; Little Lever; Eaglay; Toxteth; Innerleithen; Ripon; Cinderhill; Mauchline; Gilbertfield; Carleton; Stonefield; Norwood; West Calder; Winewall; Barrowford; Hucknall Torkard; Stapleford; Workington; and Brixton; to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Petition from Aberdeen, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

RATING OF MACHINERY BILL.

Petition from Northallerton, against; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petition from Lee, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

SUNDAY TRADING (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Edinburgh, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE DISPUTES BILL.

Petitions in favour: from Nantmelyn; Werfa; British Rhondda; and, George Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

FEE FUND (HOUSE OF LORDS).

Account presented, of the Fee Fund of the House of Lords from 1st April 1902 to 31st March 1903 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND CHARGES ACT, 1891.

Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 19th May 1903, directing the appropriation of Colonial Contributions towards the expenses of the Pacific Cable, in aid of moneys provided by Parliament for the service of Telegraph Subsidies and Pacific Cable [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

NAVY (HYDROGRAPHER'S REPORT).

Copy presented, of Report on Admiralty Surveys for the year 1902 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 7) BILL.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 19th May; *Mr. Bonar Law*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 175.)

ALIENS (NATURALISATION) (TRANS- VAAL AND ORANGE RIVER COLONY).

Address for "Copy of Ordinances containing Rules and Regulations respecting the Naturalisation of Aliens in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony."—(*Mr. John Ellis.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Payment of Rates through Landlord— Liability of Tenants.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (*Merthyr Tydvil*): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that some fifty householders living in Stirling Road, South Acton, Middlesex, have been served with distress warrants for sums varying from £1 7s. 6d. to £5 for rates that were paid to the landlord but not paid by him to the local authority; and, if so, whether he will introduce an Amendment of the law to protect such people.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The answer to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative. I am informed that some time ago the overseers adopted the practice of compounding for the poor rates with the owners of properties of a rateable value up to £20. The limit allowed by the statute is, however, only £8, and attention having been called to the matter, the occupiers of properties

over this value are now rated instead of the owners as heretofore. I understood that the hon. Member has been furnished with a copy of the overseers' statement as to the circumstances of the case. The position referred to in the Question is unfortunate, but I can only suggest that fresh agreements should be entered into as soon as possible between the landlord and the tenants. I could not at the present time undertake to introduce legislation as suggested.

Vivisection at University College.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY (*Camberwell, Peckham*): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what was the nature and amount of the anæsthetic given to the brown dog operated upon consecutively by vivisectioners at University College, London, on the 2nd of February last; how long before the animal was brought into the theatre by Dr. Bayliss was that anæsthetic administered; will he state who was the licensee who performed the experiment involving the two cutting operations upon the dog before it was operated upon in another part of its body on the 2nd of last February by Dr. Bayliss; and under what certificate was the experiment involving these two operations performed.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*) If, as I understand is the case, there is an action pending in connection with statements which have been made regarding the operation performed at University College on the 2nd February last by Dr. Bayliss, I do not think I ought to go into detailed points such as those mentioned in the first two paragraphs of the Question. I have already in previous answers given fully the main facts of the case. As to the two last paragraphs, Professor E. H. Starling performed the experiment referred to, under Certificates B. and E.E.

Religious Ministration at South Shields Union.

MR. TALBOT (*Oxford University*): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, in view of the fact that the workhouse belonging to the South Shields Union contains about 1,000 inmates, and that the creed register shows them to be distributed as

follows: Church of England, 600; Roman Catholics, 300; Protestant Non-conformists, 100; and that the guardians continue to refuse to make any payment for religious ministrations to any of these classes of poor persons, many of whom are aged and sick, he will state what steps, if any, the Local Government Board propose to take to enforce obedience to the law on the part of the Board of Guardians.

(Answered by Mr. Walter Long.) In the case of this workhouse, I understand that there are Church of England services on Sundays and alternate Thursdays (for adults), on Wednesdays for children, and once a fortnight for the sick. Two Nonconformist services for adults and one for children are held every week, and there is a Roman Catholic service weekly. On Friday the sick are visited by the clergy of the different denominations. The circumstances of this case have recently been under my consideration. I have directed the special attention of the inspector of the district to the case, and he has conferred both with the guardians and the vicar of the parish on the subject. I have not, however, seen my way to taking any compulsory action in the matter.

Regulation of Motor Traffic Bill.

MR. GATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): To ask the President of the Local Government Board when he proposes to introduce the Bill for the regulation of motor traffic.

(Answered by Mr. Walter Long.) I am unable at present to state when I shall be in a position to introduce the Bill referred to.

Holyrood Palace.

SIR ANDREW AGNEW (Edinburgh, S.): To ask the hon. Member for North Hunts, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, if the First Commissioner of Works will consider the advisability of making such an addition to the Palace of Holyrood as will render it a suitable residence for the Sovereign on any future visit to Edinburgh.

(Answered by Mr. Victor Cavendish.)

The question of making any addition to the Palace of Holyrood has not arisen. When the sanitary works are completed it will be a perfectly suitable residence for the Sovereign.

Paving of Constitution Hill.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): To ask the hon. Member for North Hunts, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, whether any application or applications have been made by the Office of Works to the Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury for their authorisation to the expenditure of a sufficient sum of money upon the paving with wood of Constitution Hill; and, if so, how many such applications have been made, and on what date, and what answer was given by the Treasury to each of such applications.

(Answered by Mr. Victor Cavendish.)

Any suggestions made to the Treasury by the Office of Works as to the expenditure of public funds would necessarily be confidential, and the First Commissioner is therefore unable to give the right hon. Gentleman the information for which he asks.

Non-renewal of Publicans' Licences.

MR. COHEN (Islington, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will grant a Return showing the number of years during which the licences had been held by the licencees in the cases where the renewal of the licence has been refused at the last brewster sessions, and showing the result where the licensee has appealed against the refusal of the magistrates.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas.) The Return already issued of renewals of licences refused at the last licensing sessions will be completed by a supplementary Return showing the results of the appeals against such refusals. But to call upon the licensing justices' clerks to undertake the additional labour necessary in order to give the information asked for in the first part of the Question would impose upon them a burden which would not, in my opinion, be justified.

Licensing Act, 1902—Internal Communication.

MR. D. A. MORGAN (Essex, Walthamstow): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is now in a position to announce what course of action he proposes to adopt with reference to the term "internal communication" occurring in the Licensing Act, 1902.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas.) I am not yet in a position to say how this matter will be settled.

Electric Lighting in Camberwell.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will explain why the Board of Trade have decided not to sanction the application of the London Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, for an extension of its area in the northern portion of the borough of Camberwell, so as to include the entire borough, such application having the approval of the local authority, having regard to the fact that an application of the County of London and Brush Provincial Electric Lighting Company made in 1896 to supply the entire parish of Camberwell, including the area then granted to (and in competition with) the London Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, was granted by the Board of Trade; and whether, seeing that the practice of the Board of Trade has been to grant competitive orders throughout the Metropolis when application for them has been supported by the local authority, he will state in what previous cases the Board has refused such applications; and whether the decision of the Board not to grant the order now applied for by the London Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, can be re-considered and the order granted, so that the matter may be decided by Parliament.

(Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.) It appeared from the evidence which was submitted at the inquiry that the London Electric Supply Corporation, who obtained parliamentary powers in the northern part of the borough of Camberwell in 1890, executed no works there until 1898, and at the date of the inquiry had only sixty-four consumers. Having regard to this and to other cir-

cumstances connected with the case, and also to the fact that the Company had made no survey of the proposed area, and no estimates of cost or revenue, it seemed to the Board that the order ought not to be sanctioned, and, if sanctioned, that there was no probability of its receiving the assent of Parliament. In these circumstances they did not think it desirable to put the parties to the expense of fighting the case before a Parliamentary Committee. It has no doubt been the practice to grant competitive powers in the Metropolis, but only in the more urban and populous parts. In reply to the second part of the question, the Board of Trade have refused to grant competitive orders in Clerkenwell, St. Luke's, Hackney, Newington, and Wandsworth. I am not prepared to reconsider the decision.

Crown Law Officers' Fees.

MR. WHITLEY (Halifax): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury, if he can state the amounts paid in fees to the Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General during the year ending 31st March, 1903, in addition to the salaries which appeared on the Estimates.

(Answered by Mr. Arthur Elliot.) In the year ended 31st March 1903 the amount of the fees paid in addition to salary to the Attorney-General was £4,816 3s. 2d., and to the Solicitor-General £3,700 14s.

National Gallery Report—New Pictures.

SIR BRAMPTON GURDON (Norfolk, N.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether in the Annual Report of the Director of the National Gallery it would be possible that in the case of pictures purchased or bequeathed during the year the room in which they are hung should be indicated, as is done in the case of pictures lent.

(Answered by Mr. Arthur Elliot.) I will communicate with the Trustees of the National Gallery upon the point.

Civil Service—Promotion of Persons Appointed for Special Duties to positions on General Staff.

SIR GEORGE BARTLEY (Islington, N.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury, whether a person appointed to a

(Government Department, under Section 7 of the Order in Council of the 4th of June, 1870, with a special certificate of qualification to hold a situation for which professional qualifications are considered requisite, is eligible, after his introduction into the Department, for promotion to situations on the general staff; and whether, in the event of such promotion to a general staff appointment of an officer specially admitted to perform professional duties, the question of the adequacy of the special certificate under which such officer entered the Department should be submitted to the Treasury.

(Answered by Mr. Arthur Elliot.) Any person appointed to a new post in the Civil Service not in the ordinary course of promotion from that which he previously held requires a fresh Civil Service certificate of qualification for the new post. It is open to the Civil Service Commission, before giving the new certificate under Clause 7, to require the candidate to pass such tests as they think proper.

Land Revenue in Bengal.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that according to the Report of the Bengal Government, annexed to Lord Curzon's Land Resolution of the 16th January, 1902, the rents received by private landlords in Bengal amount on the average to little more than 11 per cent. of the gross produce of the land, and that according to the last Famine Commission Report the land revenue demanded by the Government from ryots in Gujerat amounts to 20 per cent. of the gross produce; that private landowners in Bengal are prohibited from enhancing rents except on specific grounds laid down by law, but that the power of the State to enhance land revenue from ryots in Madras and Bombay is not so limited; and, if so, will he state whether the Government of India has yet taken measures to reduce the ryotwari assessment in districts of Gujerat when it is found to be excessive, and to prevent further enhancement except upon those definite grounds which regulate the increase of rents in the case of private landlords in Bengal.

(Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.) The standard of assessment in Gujerat is not considered immoderate, and does not exceed the proportion of the gross produce which has been advocated as a fair limit for the fixation of rents. There are districts which have deteriorated in value since the last settlement, but in these the Government of Bombay have arranged to reduce the assessment. The Government of India have recently laid down principles which secure liberal treatment to landholders in future settlements of the land revenue.

Management of Remount Farm at Clark's Siding, South Africa.

COLONEL WELBY (Taunton): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he has received replies to his inquiries concerning the leasing and management of the remount farms at Clark's Siding, South Africa; and whether he is prepared to make public the circumstances of what took place there.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.) The replies have been received. My hon. and gallant friend will be glad, however, to know that the allegations contained in his questions have not been borne out by the facts, and I do not think any good purpose could be served by re-opening the case or making a publication of the proceedings.

Isolation of Lepers in Ceylon.

MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the prevalence of leprosy in Ceylon, and of the fact that the ordinances recently passed by the Legislative Council provide for the compulsory segregation of lepers in Ceylon, he will state what is the number of leper hospitals in Ceylon, and how many leper patients can be accommodated therein; and will he consider the advisability of making provision for these people by the erection of additional hospitals in isolated districts, with a view to enable the segregation of all lepers to be properly carried out if the present accommodation is insufficient.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.) There are two leper hospitals in Ceylon,

and 312 leper patients can be accommodated in them. The leper ordinances do not require that lepers who can be otherwise properly isolated should be removed to a hospital, and I am not aware that the hospital accommodation is insufficient; but I will consult the Governor on the subject.

Civil Administration of the Transvaal—Arrest of Dutch Minister at Rustenberg.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON (Cornwall, Camborne): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the fact that the Dutch Reformed Minister of Rustenberg, in the Transvaal, has been recently arrested upon the complaint of a policeman and imprisoned for several days by the resident magistrate of the district, and was only released in consequence of an order telegraphed by the Attorney-General at Pretoria saying that there was no case against him, he will state whether it is proposed to make any compensation to the reverend gentleman for this treatment; whether the provisions of the Peace Preservation Ordinance for the summary expulsion of British subjects considered dangerous from the new colonies have been just made more stringent; and how many persons have been expelled under the ordinance.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.*) I have no information as to the first and last questions. The answer to the second question is in the affirmative, but the ordinance applies to all persons, of whatever nationality, who contravene its provisions.

Natal—Church Properties Bill.

MR. MARKHAM (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has received any communication from the Governor of Natal or the Natal Government relating to the Church Properties Bill, which was printed in the *Natal Gazette* of last March; whether, seeing that this Bill seeks to give power to the Bishops of the Church of South Africa to acquire the property of the Church of England, will he say for what purposes and on what conditions, on the granting of self-government to Natal,

Crown lands were given by the Imperial Government to the Church of England in Natal; and, seeing that the Archbishop of Cape Town and five of the Bishops of the Church of South Africa openly practise sacramental confession and perform masses for the dead, will he decline to sanction this transfer of Church of England property to these Bishops.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.*) The answer to the first part of this Question is in the negative. As regards the remainder, the information in my possession does not enable me to state whether any Crown lands were on the granting of self-government given to the Church of England in Natal, and I must decline to express any opinion before the Bill is received as to the advice which it will be my duty to tender to His Majesty in respect of it.

Kaffir Labour in South African Mines.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS (Carnarvonshire, Eifion): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the difficulty experienced by the Rand mine-owners in obtaining native labour, and of the fact that the coal mine-owners have obtained Kaffir labour to such an extent as to increase their output since the war by nearly 50 per cent., he will inquire whether the latter result has been obtained by the offer of increased wages; and, if so, will he press upon the Rand mine-owners the adoption of the same method.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.*) I am not prepared to offer any suggestions to the mine-owners as to the manner in which they should conduct their business, but I am informed that wages on the Rand have been largely increased during the last three months.

Education Act—Payment of Government Grants in advance.

MR. BRIGG (Yorkshire, W. R., Keighley): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he is aware that owing to the full Government grants for education not being payable sufficiently in advance to meet the expenditure thereon, the local ratepayers will be called upon to temporarily meet

the deficiency; that such temporary deficiency in the West Riding of Yorkshire will amount to over £70,000, equal to a rate of over 3d. in the pound; and, if so, whether His Majesty's Government will consider the advisability, in the interests of the ratepayers, of arranging for the payment of the whole of the grants by quarterly instalments in advance.

(Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.) The matter referred to in the Question has been fully considered by the Government. The difficulty arising from the circumstances mentioned by the hon. Member will be met by the Bill recently introduced by the President of the Local Government Board, the effect of which will be to spread the amount required to meet the deficiency over a term of years, thus reducing the burden to be borne by the ratepayers to very small proportions.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

The "United Service Gazette."

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state the names of the proprietors of the *United Service Gazette*, to whom the War Office lent Government property for the Naval and Military Exhibition at Manchester and Leeds.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): The correspondence was carried on with the proprietors of the *United Service Gazette*, and letters on behalf of the paper were signed by Mr. J. Maclean Ankett (sub-editor), and by Mr. Henry Sutton (manager).

CAPTAIN NORTON: Am I to gather that these are the proprietors of the paper?

LORD STANLEY: No; the hon. Member will only gather what I have told him. I do not know who the proprietors are. We dealt with a paper which is well known in naval and military circles, and with those who might be reasonably supposed to be responsible for the paper.

CAPTAIN NORTON: The noble Lord cannot give me the names of the proprietors?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! That Question has already been asked and answered.

H.M.S. "Furious."

SIR WILLIAM ALLAN (Gateshead): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he will say what is the nature of the repairs to the engines and water-tube boilers about to be undertaken on His Majesty's cruiser "Furious"; what is the estimated cost of these repairs; and what has been the amount spent on similar repairs to this vessel since first commissioned.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): The repairs to the engines and boilers of the "Furious" involve refitting of the pistons, slide valves, main bearing brasses, etc; re-metalling of the thrust collars, and refit of the thrust shafts; repairs to the auxiliary engines, testing, and, when necessary, replacing all main and auxiliary steam and exhaust pipes and valves; renewal of uptakes of boilers and lower parts of funnels; renewal of a number of generator tubes in the boilers, and various minor repairs. The estimated cost for labour and materials is £19,000. The total cost of repairs to engines and boilers since first commissioning in 1898 has been £24,617.

Water-tube Boiler Explosion at Birmingham.

SIR WILLIAM ALLAN: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade a question of which I have given him private notice, viz., will the Board of Trade cause an inquiry to be held into the cause of the explosion of a Babcock and Wilcox water-tube boiler yesterday at the works of Belliss & Morcom, Birmingham, whereby one man was killed and three severely scalded; and whether he is aware that this is the type of boiler being fitted into our latest warships?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. BONAR LAW, Glasgow, Blackfriars): The Board of Trade have already ordered an

inquiry under the Boiler Explosions Acts to be held in the case to which the hon. Member refers.

SIR WILLIAM ALLAN: Will the hon. Gentleman answer the latter part of my Question?

MR. BONAR LAW: That would be better addressed to the Board of Admiralty.

SIR WILLIAM ALLAN: I will do so.

Bloemfontein Conference.

MR. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies when the Papers relating to the Bloemfontein Conference will be in the hands of Members.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): Papers cannot be published before the beginning of June, when it is anticipated that the draft Convention will be presented simultaneously to the Legislatures of the various States.

The Colonies and Retaliatory Duties.

MR. BLACK (Banffshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any communications have passed between him and responsible persons in Canada and other colonies as to the imposition of retaliatory duties in this country against foreign countries differentiating against colonial products; and, if so, whether any promise or assurance has been given on the subject.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: No, Sir.

Natives in the Transvaal Mines.

MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is yet in a position to give the statistics of mortality, sickness, and desertion per thousand of the natives in the mines of the Transvaal for the last six months.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The hon. Member was informed, in reply to his question of the 9th March,[†] that these statistics would be communicated to him when received. There has not yet been time for a reply.

[†] See (4) *Debates*, cxix., 102.

Leprosy in Burmah.

MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India if he will state the number of lepers in Burmah according to the latest available Returns, and whether any provision is made for their compulsory segregation, as is the case in Ceylon; and, if not, will he consider the advisability of causing such an enactment to be passed so as to remove this source of danger to the general health of both the white and the native population of Burmah.

THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR INDIA (Earl PERCY, Kensington, S.): According to the census there were 4,190 lepers in Burmah in 1901. Provision for the compulsory segregation of lepers publicly soliciting alms, or appearing at large without any ostensible means of subsistence, is made by the Indian Lepers Act, which is in force in Burmah. There are three leper asylums in the province.

German Duties on Canadian Products.

MR. BLACK: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether any communications have passed between the Foreign Office and Germany as to the action of Germany in imposing differential duties against Canadian products; and, if so, whether these communications contain any indication of the possibility of Great Britain retaliating by imposing special duties on German imports into the United Kingdom.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord CRANBORNE, Rochester): The answer to the first Question is in the affirmative. I am not in a position to make any further statement at present.

MR. BLACK: Can the noble Lord say when the Papers will be available?

LORD CRANBORNE: I am afraid it is too soon to give any promise as to that.

Congo State—Case of Herr Rabinek.

SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) had on the Paper the following Question: To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign

Affairs whether His Majesty's Government are yet in a position to make any statement with regard to the arrest by the authorities of the Congo State of Herr Rabinek, a passenger on board the British steamer "Scotia." On being called upon to put it, the right hon. Baronet said the Papers had been circulated that morning, but could the noble Lord say whether the Government had written any despatch upon them?

LORD CRANBORNE: The Papers have only just been received, so that it has been impossible to write any despatch.

Wireless Telegraphy for Light Vessels.

MR. DOUGHTY (Great Grimsby): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can now state whether contracts have been concluded for fitting the light vessels round the coast of the British Islands with wireless telegraphy apparatus; and, if not, whether he can state when they will be completed.

MR. BONAR LAW: Negotiations are in progress for fitting a certain number of light vessels in the London district with wireless telegraphic apparatus. The matter will be pushed on with the least possible delay.

Intoxicating Liquors (Sales to Children) Act.

MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that the attention of police constables has been called recently in Fulham to cases of children under fourteen years old coming out of public houses with beer in vessels not corked and sealed; and, if so, whether, seeing that though these cases were independently reported to the Commissioner no prosecution has been instituted, he will give instructions to the Metropolitan Police with regard to carrying out the requirements of the Intoxicating Liquors (Sale to Children) Act.

***THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT** (Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): I am informed that the Metropolitan Police, who are fully instructed in their duties under the Act in question, are not aware of any recent case of violation of its

provisions with regard to the corking and sealing of vessels in which beer is sold to young children.

Conway Infectious Diseases Hospital.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to the proposed erection by the Conway Rural District Council of an infectious diseases hospital on a site abutting on the main road from Llandudno and Colwyn Bay up the Vale of Conway to Llanrwst; and whether, in view of the traffic along the road in question, and having regard to public safety, the Local Government Board will take steps to induce the Conway Guardians to adopt a more suitable site.

THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. GRANT LAWSON, Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk): I have made some inquiry on this subject, and I am informed that the Rural District Council propose to erect an infectious hospital at Glan Conway. It is stated that the site, which has been approved by the Medical Officer of Health, is as near the centre of the district as possible, and that it would not involve any patient being taken through any town or populous part in going to the hospital. I am also informed that the main road referred to in the Question has less traffic than the other main roads in the district. It is further stated that there are no farms or dwelling houses in close proximity to the site, and that the hospital would not in any way be detrimental to the interests of the district. It does not appear whether it is intended to borrow money in connection with the proposed hospital; but if it is my sanction will be necessary, and before giving it I should cause a local inquiry to be held.

Lindsey (Lincolnshire) Education Committee.

MR. MANSFIELD (Lincolnshire, Spalding): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether he is aware that the Lindsey (Lincolnshire) Education Committee has refused to sanction the estimates for the year ending 31st March, 1904, submitted to them by several Council schools, and that in some cases the Education Committee has reduced

the estimates by one-half, and also refused to allow the School Committee to continue to employ the services of a paid clerk; and that, in consequence of the action of the Education Committee, some of the School Committees have threatened to resign in a body, because they state that it is impossible to carry on the schools under these altered conditions imposed by the Education Committee; and, if so, will he state what steps he proposes to take in the matter.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir WILLIAM ANSON, Oxford University): A local education authority is bound to maintain and to keep efficient the public elementary schools within its area. The Board of Education have as yet no evidence that the Lindsey County Council has failed in this duty.

MR. MANSFIELD: Will the hon. Baronet give the Return asked for?

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: I have communicated privately to the hon. Gentleman that we cannot undertake to grant the Return asked for.

Condition of Elementary School Buildings.

MR. MANSFIELD: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education if he can state whether, in all cases, the education authorities have received a report from the surveyors of the condition of elementary school buildings and school houses attached; and, if not, will he make inquiries as to whether the surveyors have been instructed to make these reports.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: The Board of Education have no information on this matter; and there appears to be no reason why they should investigate the instructions given by local authorities to their surveyors.

Holland (Lincolnshire) Education Committee.

MR. MANSFIELD: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education if he aware that the Education Committee of the Holland County Council, Lincolnshire, contains only twelve members out of twenty-eight who have been elected

by the ratepayers; and that only five members are Nonconformists, while twenty-two are Churchmen, and four of these clerks in holy orders; and whether, in view of the fact that half of the people in the Holland Division are Nonconformists, he will take any, and if so, what steps, to induce the Holland County Council to grant an equal representation on the Education Committee.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: The scheme for the Education Committee of the Holland County Council provides for the representation on the Committee of elementary, secondary and higher education, and also of agricultural education. All these branches of education are represented by persons recommended by bodies competent for the purpose. The three persons representing elementary education are to be appointed—one on the recommendation of the Lincolnshire Diocesan Voluntary Schools Association, one on the recommendation of the Councils of the Free Churches of the administrative county, and one on the recommendation of the Branch Associations of the National Union of Teachers within the said administrative county. Thus the matters in respect of which the Act imposes any duty on the Board of Education are satisfactorily dealt with, and the Board cannot undertake to address the County Council as to the appointment by the Council of the individual members of the Committee under the provisions of the scheme.

Aid Grant and the Repairs of School Houses.

MR. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether the Board of Education would consider the application of any part of the aid grant under the Act of 1897 to be satisfactorily applied if devoted to keeping the school-house in repair and making reasonable alterations and improvements in the buildings.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: Yes, by Schedule II. (12) of the Education Act, 1902, the balance of any Parliamentary grant payable in respect of a period before the appointed day, which is not required by the old managers to meet

outstanding liabilities, is to be paid to the new managers and applied by them to those purposes for which they have to make provision under the Act, or for the benefit of any general fund applicable for those purposes. Those purposes are, keeping the school-house in good repair, and making such alterations and improvements as may reasonably be required by the local authority.

*** Scottish Licensing Appeals.**

MR. BLACK: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether he will state the number of appeals to quarter sessions under Section 14 of the Licensing (Scotland) Act, 1828 during the years 1901 and 1902; and how many of these appeals issued in the reversal of the original decision.

* THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): The hon. Member will find on referring to page 121 of the Judicial Statistics of Scotland for 1901 that there were in all forty-six appeals to quarter sessions, in nineteen of which the certificate was granted, while in twenty-seven it was refused. The figures for 1902 are in course of collection but are not yet complete.

MR. BLACK: Will they be available for the Committee on the Licensing Bill?

* MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I am not aware.

Scottish Aid Grant.

MR. BUCHANAN: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate when the Minute of the Scotch Education Department, by which the distribution of the general aid grant is to be made for this year, will be laid before Parliament.

* MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: The Minute providing for the distribution of the general aid grant will be laid upon the Table upon an early day and will be in the hands of Members before the Education Vote comes on.

Public Offices (Dublin) Bill.

* MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, whether provision will be made under the Public Offices (Dublin) Bill for allocat-

ing a portion of the site, now proposed to be acquired, for the purposes of a Gallery of Modern Art and the Royal Hibernian Academy.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. ELLIOT, Durham): No, Sir; the possibility of doing so has been considered; but the demands for accommodation on the proposed site are so great that it is impossible to allocate any part of it for the purpose of housing the Royal Hibernian Academy; and there are also financial objections to making a grant of site or of buildings to the Academy in addition to its present annual grant from Votes.

Irish National Schools—Inspectors' Reports.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will say whether he has any official reports from inspectors of national schools in Ireland showing how far education in general, and the new scheme in particular, has been assisted in these schools by their managers, and especially by their clerical managers; and, if so, would he state the general tenour of these reports and lay them upon the Table.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): The general tenour of these detailed reports is given in the reports of the chief inspectors, which are laid on the Table of the House each year. It has been arranged, however, that in future the remarks of the district inspectors on this particular subject will be laid in extenso.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY: Do these Reports differ from the representations given of them by Dr. Starkie?

MR. WYNDHAM: I am not prepared to enter into a discussion on that point.

Land Commissioner Murrough O'Brien.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will explain why Mr. Commissioner Murrough O'Brien is not now

sitting with the other Commissioners to hear appeal cases; and whether he can arrange that Mr. O'Brien shall sit *solus* to determine cases not involving legal questions.

MR. WYNDHAM: The composition of the Land Commission when hearing appeals is arranged by the Commissioners amongst themselves, having regard to their other official engagements. I have no information in respect to the matter mentioned in the first part of the Question, and no power to act as suggested at the conclusion of the Question.

Sale of Trees in County Longford.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to a recent sale of 9,000 trees in Ratheline demesne, County Longford, which practically means the destruction of all the trees in that portion of County Longford; and, if so, can he undertake to introduce some clause into the Irish Land Bill to prevent such destruction of trees in rural parts of Ireland.

MR. WYNDHAM: 4,000 trees have been sold, to be removed within five years.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: Will the right hon. Gentleman give favourable consideration to an Amendment to the Land Bill to stop the destruction of trees?

MR. WYNDHAM: Anything practical to safeguard trees in Ireland will have favourable consideration.

Longford Drainage Boards.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the names of the members of the Drainage Board or Boards in County Longford, and the method of election or appointment of these Boards; and whether, seeing that no statement of accounts is issued by them nor any official information given of the way in which the money levied for drainage is expended, and that most of the lands affected by drainage operations are now

vested in the tenants who pay the charges without representation on the Board, he will introduce legislation to alter the composition and method of election of the existing bodies.

MR. WYNDHAM: There are nine Drainage Boards in the County Longford. The names of the trustees or members of each Board will be communicated to the hon. Member as soon as I receive the information. Seven of these Boards are constituted under the Act 5 & 6 Vict. cap. 89, which does not require the publication of a statement of accounts. The remaining two Boards are formed under the 26 & 27 Vict. cap. 88, which makes obligatory the publication of accounts. Tenants who purchase their holdings have a right to vote at the election of trustees or members of a Board. Tenants who do not purchase do not pay drainage rates. I cannot give any undertaking to introduce legislation as suggested.

Royal Hibernian Academy.

MR. BOLAND: On behalf of the hon. Member for North Wexford, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will consider the question of providing a site for a Gallery of Modern Art and the Royal Hibernian Academy in connection with the Public Offices (Dublin) Bill.

MR. WYNDHAM: I must refer the hon. Member to the reply by the Financial Secretary to the Question standing in his name.[†]

Cork Model Schools.

MR. J. F. X. O'BRIEN (Cork): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether, in view of the fact that the alterations carried out in the Cork Model Schools were made at the suggestion of the Commissioners of National Education, approved of by the authorised official sent to inspect them, and completed at the expense of the Cork Technical Instruction Committee, he will call upon the Committee of National Education for an explanation of the letter recently sent to the Committee on the subject of the building at

[†] See page 1218.

present occupied for the purposes of technical instruction.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Commissioners assented to the carrying out, at the expense of the Technical Instruction Committee, of certain alterations in the Model School. The present difference of opinion does not, however, turn upon these alterations, but upon the further alterations proposed by the Committee. I would suggest that further questions should be deferred until after the next meeting of the Commissioners on the 26th instant.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): Will the right hon. Gentleman express an opinion to the Commissioners that the eviction of the Technical Education Committee should not be allowed to take place until we have had an opportunity of discussing the matter on the Estimates?

MR. WYNDHAM: I will direct their attention to the representations made by the hon. Member. It would not be proper for me to attempt to over-ride them.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: I only ask you to use your influence with them.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the number of children in daily average attendance at present in the Cork Model Schools is only slightly over one-fifth of the number which these schools were constructed to accommodate; and, if so, will he state how many of those in average attendance are classed as infants?

MR. WYNDHAM: The schools were constructed to accommodate 1,226 pupils. The average daily attendance in 1902 was 260, of whom 92 were classed as infants.

MR. FLYNN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state how many pupil teachers have been trained in the Cork Model Schools since its inception, and how many eventually became certificated teachers.

MR. WYNDHAM: Over 200. A large proportion of them are believed to have become certificated teachers. In the absence of records the exact number cannot be stated.

MR. FLYNN: How many have been trained in recent years?

MR. WYNDHAM: I must ask for notice of that.

Police in Galway.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): On behalf of the hon. Member for East Galway, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will explain why extra police are stationed at Kilmoredaly, County Galway, in view of the absence of crime in the locality.

MR. WYNDHAM: The extra force was withdrawn from this district on the 1st April.

The Royal Commission on the War— Report.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE (Bristol, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War, whether the Royal Commission on the War has completed taking evidence; and whether he will inquire when their Report may be expected.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I have been asked by my right hon. friend to answer this question. The Secretary to the Royal Commission informs me that they have practically completed the evidence; but it is impossible to say when the Report, on which they are now engaged, may be expected.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE: Might not the Royal Commission be informed of the desirability of publishing their Report before the termination of this Session.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think it is extremely probable that they will publish their Report before the end of the session. I am sure they will make all the expedition they can. But it would be improper and inexpedient to give them the idea that this House was hurrying them on a matter so important.

Brussels Sugar Convention.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury when is it proposed to proceed with the Notice on the Paper to ask leave to introduce a Bill to enable the Brussels Sugar Convention to be carried into effect; and when, and in what form, do His Majesty's Government propose to ask the assent of this House to the expenditure to be borne by this country for the organisation and working of the permanent bureau and the permanent Commission which, by the terms of the Convention, must hold its first meeting at Brussels at latest by 1st June next.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am not in a position to give a date for the introduction of the Bill to which my hon. friend refers. As regards the second part of the Question, as far as I am able to form an estimate in the matter, it will not be necessary to introduce a Bill into Committee of the Whole House. If, and when, any financial charge should come upon the taxpayer, of course that will be dealt with in the ordinary way on the Estimates.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Does the right hon. Gentleman propose to incur the expenditure for the permanent Commission, which must meet by 1st June, without first submitting an Estimate to the House. The expenditure must begin to accrue on the 1st June.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I must ask my hon. friend to give me notice of that Question.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): Is there any intention of introducing the Bill before Whitsuntide?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have said I cannot fix a day.

Trade Disputes.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he expects to be able to announce the appointment of the Royal Commission on trade disputes, which I understand has been promised, before Whitsuntide; and whether the right hon. Gentleman will see that there is a representative of Ireland on the Commission.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I hope to be able to make a statement with regard to the Commission before the holidays. But I cannot give a pledge as to its composition until I am able to make an announcement as to the character of the Commission—whether it is to be merely a judicial Commission, as suggested by the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean, or one of those larger Commissions which have their advantages, but are not so expeditious or so satisfactory. It is only in the latter case, I assume, that the hon. Gentleman would require a representative of a particular country or a particular interest.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): The First Lord of the Treasury has already announced that the House will adjourn for the Whitsuntide holidays on the Thursday of next week. It would be to the convenience of Members who desire to make their arrangements if the right hon. Gentleman can say whether he proposes to take the Motion for the Adjournment on the Wednesday or the Thursday.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It is rather difficult to answer that question until I know more about the progress the House is likely to make with the business immediately in hand. I still hope with some confidence that we may be able to finish the Committee stage of the London Education Bill and the Second Reading of the Budget Bill before we separate for the Whitsuntide holidays. [OPPOSITION cries of "Oh!"] Well, I think we ought to do that. Of course it is not in my power, nor is it my desire, to force the House to do so. If I cannot make that arrangement, I will ask the House to take the Second Reading of the Budget on the Tuesday after we return. The Monday will be devoted to Supply; and if we dispose of the Budget before we separate I will take Supply also on the Tuesday. The right hon. Gentleman will see that I cannot at present give him any information as to the day on which we will take the Motion for the holidays. It will depend on the progress we make with these two Bills.

MR. BRYCE: Having followed closely the discussion on the Education Bill, I cannot see any prospect of disposing of it before the holidays in time to allow for other business to be entered on. We are only at the beginning of Clause 2, and on the remaining Clauses and on the Schedule there are many difficult and intricate questions to be raised.

MR. LOUGH: If the right hon. Gentleman would take the Budget before the holidays we would have more time to consider the Education Bill.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: And if we postpone the Budget until after the holidays the hon. Gentleman will have more time to consider the Budget.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): May I suggest to the right hon. Gentleman that, considering the quarter from which the main opposition to the Budget comes, he should put it down on Derby day?

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES.)

MR. HALSEY reported from the Committee of Selection, That they had discharged the following Members from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping and Manufactures:—Mr. Channing and Mr. Garfit; and had appointed in substitution: Lord Dalkeith and Mr. Eugene Wason.

Report to lie upon the Table.

NEW BILL.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT (1897) AMENDMENT BILL.

"To amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897," presented by Mr. Joseph Walton; supported by Mr. Burt, Mr. Pickard, Sir Walter Foster, Mr. John Burns, Mr. Tennant, Mr. Shackleton, Mr. John Wilson, Mr. Fenwick, Mr. William Jones, Mr. Emmott, and Mr. Thomas Bayley; to be read a second time upon Wednesday next and to be printed. (Bill 207.)

COMMITTEES (ASCENSION DAY).

*MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): Has the right hon. Gentleman made himself acquainted with the practice of the other House, to which I drew attention last year, of allowing its Committees to sit irrespective of its being Ascension Day?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No, I am not aware of the practice of the other House.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Committees do not sit To-morrow, being Ascension Day, until Two of the clock."—(Mr. A. J. Balfour.)

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 108; Noes, 103. (Division List No. 93.)

AYES,

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Right Hon. John
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
Bignold, Arthur
Boland, John
Bond, Edward
Bowles, T. G. (King's Lynn)
Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin Univ)
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Cavendish, V C W (Derbyshire)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Cranborne, Lord
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Sir Savile

Cullinan, J.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway)
Dewar, Sir T. R. (Tr. Hamlets)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Faber, E. B. (Hants, W.)
Farrell, James Patrick
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Ed.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flower, Ernest
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (St. Albans)
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nrn)
Gore, Hn. S. F. Ormsby- (Linc)
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon

Graham, Henry Robert
Groves, James Grimble
Gunter, Sir Robert
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford)
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt Hon Sir Arthur D.
Heath, Jas. (Staffords., N. W.)
Helder, Augustus
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks, N. R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Joyce, Michael
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (Denbigh)
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawson, J. Grant (Yorks, N. R.)
Leamy, Edmund
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Lonsdale, John Brownlee

Lowther, Rt. Hon. Jas. (*Kent*)
 Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*)
 London, W.
 McKillop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
 More, Robt. Jasper (*Shropshire*)
 Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
 Murphy, John
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (*Bute*)
 Myers, William Henry
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 O'Brien, James F. X. (*Cork*)
 O'Brien, Patrick (*Kilkenny*)
 O'Kelly, J. (*Roscommon, N.*)
 O'Malley, William
 O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
 Peel, Hn. Wm. R. Wellesley
 Percy, Earl

Plummer, Walter R.
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edw.
 Purvis, Robert
 Redmond, Jn. E. (*Waterford*)
 Redmond, William (*Clare*)
 Reid, James (*Greenock*)
 Remnant, Jas. Farquharson
 Ridley, Hon. M. W. (*Stalybridge*)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
 Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
 Robertson, H. (*Hackney*)
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
 Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
 Seely, Chas. Hilton (*Lincoln*)
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Simeon, Sir Barrington

Sloan, Thomas Henry
 Smith, H. C. (*North mb. Tyneside*)
 Stanley, Lord (*Lancashire*)
 Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (*Oxf'd Univ.*)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. E. M.
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir William H.
 Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (*Tam't'n*)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (*Bath*)
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES —
 Mr. Galloway and Mr.
 Richards.

NOES.

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
 Allan, Sir William (*Gateshead*)
 Allen, Chas. P. (*Glos., Stroud*)
 Anstruther, H. T.
 Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Black, Alexander William
 Brown, Geo. M. (*Edinburgh*)
 Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
 Bryce, Right Hon. James
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Burns, John
 Burt, Thomas
 Butcher, John George
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Craig, Robert Hunter (*Lanark*)
 Crombie, John William
 Cross, Alexander (*Glasgow*)
 Dewar, John A. (*Inverness-sh.*)
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
 Duncan J. Hastings
 Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Evans, Saml. T. (*Glamorgan*)
 Fenwick, Charles
 Ferguson, R. C. Munro (*Leith*)
 Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Foster, Sir Michl. (*Lond. Univ*)
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Grant, Corrie

Greene, Hy. D. (*Shrewsbury*)
 Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
 Harris, Frederick Leverton
 Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
 Helme, Norval Watson
 Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristol, E*)
 Hobhouse, Rt. Hon. H. (*Somerset E*)
 Hope, John Deans (*Fife, West*)
 Hutton, Alfred E. (*Morley*)
 Johnston, Heywood
 Jones, David B. (*Swansea*)
 Jones, Wm. (*Carnarvonshire*)
 Lambert, George
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Lee, A. H. (*Hants., Fareham*)
 Leese, Sir Joseph F. (*Accrington*)
 Leng, Sir John
 Levy, Maurice
 Lloyd-George, David
 Lough, Thomas
 Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
 McArthur, William (*Cornwall*)
 McKillop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)
 Mansfield, Horace Rendall
 Maxwell, W. J. H. (*Dumfriesshire*)
 Middlemore, Jn. Throgmorton
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Randles, John S.
 Rigg, Richard
 Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
 Robertson, Edmund (*Dundee*)

Roe, Sir Thomas
 Roys, Clement Molyneux
 Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Shackleton, David James
 Shaw, Thomas (*Hawick, B.*)
 Shipman, Dr. John G.
 Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
 Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks.*)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Soares, Ernest J.
 Spear, John Ward
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
 Taylor, Theo. C. (*Radcliffe*)
 Thomas, Sir A. (*Glam., E.*)
 Thomas, David A. (*Merthyr*)
 Thomas, J. A. (*Glamorgan Gower*)
 Thorburn, Sir Walter
 Tomkinson, James
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Tuke, Sir John Batty
 Walton, Joseph (*Barnsley*)
 Wason, E. (*Clackmannan*)
 Wason, John Cathcart (*Orkney*)
 White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
 Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
 Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (*Huddersf'd*)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES —
 Mr. John Ellis and Mr.
 Humphreys-Owen.

LONDON EDUCATION BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 2:—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 8, at beginning, to insert the words, 'As ordinarily constituted.'"—
 (Sir William Anson.)

Question again proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) said he ought perhaps to commence with an apology to his right hon. friend the Member for South Aberdeen, who had given them such valuable assistance on that Bill, for saying something a little impatient on the previous night, in taking exception to the view put forward by the right hon. Gentleman that there was no point of principle in that Amendment. Could he accept that view he would not desire to continue the discussion, but

after the most careful consideration he and several of his hon. friends had come to the conclusion that time would be lost unless the hon. Baronet in charge of the Bill was prepared to make some fuller explanation of the Government intentions with regard to the whole matter than he had yet done. That was a not unreasonable claim, because the London Members felt profoundly the position in which matters now stood. Although the first three words referred to in the Amendment might be necessary whatever the ultimate decision about the exact constitution of the authority, it appeared to him that after all they meant that the authority should be constituted of seventy-nine persons, viz., forty-two Members of the County Council, twelve borough councillors, and twenty five outsiders. He feared that if they accepted those words they would bind themselves to accept the principle of the Government scheme. He could not but think that the debate must have produced some impression on the Government. So far as it had proceeded, not a single London Member, except one, had expressed any approval of the new constitution of the Education Committee, and he appealed to the Prime Minister either to exclude the Borough Councils altogether ["No, no"] or to leave the question to the free and unfettered judgment of the House. The hon. Member for Limehouse had alone said that he was satisfied with the compromise, but how could he be?

MR. HARRY SAMUEL (Tower Hamlets, Limehouse): When I have an opportunity of addressing the Committee I shall be prepared to state my views.

MR. LOUGH: Of course. Continuing, he said he understood the hon. Member was honestly convinced that the Borough Councils ought to be represented on the authority. Well, his contention was that they got no real representation under this scheme. It was setting up a bad precedent in local government which they would have cause to regret. The Prime Minister in his speech went far to justify sectional elections.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (MR. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I never referred to sectional elections.

MR. LOUGH said this Bill introduced the principle of sectional elections, and if the right hon. Gentleman allowed these bodies, constituted for other purposes, to join together to put a certain number on the Education Committee, surely the effect would be, to that extent, to deprive the people of London of any possibility of directly expressing their opinion at the polls with regard to the constitution of the Committee. The people had direct control over the election of members of the London County Council, and would realise that that body had charge of a great educational work, but they would never be able to realise when they were electing the borough councillors that those bodies also were to take part in the great educational work of London. Take Islington, with its seventy borough councillors and its half a man on the Education Committee. Would the rate-payers be able to realise when electing the borough councillors that they were responsible for education. That fact was not at all likely to influence their votes, and, therefore, he asserted that in this plan the Government were departing from the principle of direct election and introducing that of sectional election. He warned the right hon. Gentleman that this body he proposed would satisfy nobody. Would he make a promise? They wanted the borough councillors excluded altogether. Would the right hon. Gentleman undertake not to put pressure upon his followers to vote for the Government plan. Let them give their decision freely and unfettered. Surely that was not too much to ask, seeing that fifty of the Metropolitan Members sat behind the right hon. Gentleman. He believed that if it were left an open question it would be decided as London wished. The speeches of the hon. Members for the Strand Division and for Chelsea, both loyal supporters of the Government, showed how strong was the feeling against this scheme. As to the merits, he could only say that in his opinion the present plan of the Government was worse than the first one. They had been repeatedly told that the County Council

were predominant and that they would have a substantial majority. He did not think they would. They had been told that the County Council has to be predominant but it could not be very predominant with a majority of only five members. Another point which had been very strongly argued by the Member for Camberwell was that the forty-two members who were members of the County Council would have many other duties to perform, and that their time would be greatly taxed as members of the London County Council, while the other thirty-seven members would have nothing to do but educational work. That being so, the Committee which was being set up was almost equally divided; that would be a most disastrous thing to do. On the principle laid down by the hon. Member in charge of the Bill, it seemed to him that the Bill would have to be altered in that regard, and as this would be a convenient time to settle it, he appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to leave the matter to the House of Commons to decide in the manner in which they would wish to decide it.

*MR. PEEL (Manchester, S.) pointed out that the Committee was in some difficulty in respect of the scope of the discussion. This portion of the Amendment did not raise the whole question. The Committee wished to discuss the composition of the authority, but the debate had been placed upon a different level. The Prime Minister had discussed the whole Amendment the previous evening, and he wanted to know whether he would be in order in following that example.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR suggested that the bad example he set the previous night should not be followed. The words might be accepted, and then the Committee could proceed to discuss something which would have a binding effect.

SIR JOHN GORST (Cambridge University) said that the bad example was originally set by the Secretary to the Education Department when he moved the Amendment, and it was impossible for the Committee to avoid following him

Mr. Lough.

MR. LOUGH pointed out that the Amendment of the hon. Member for Chippenham, as well as other Amendments, would be excluded if this course was followed.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that the Amendment of the hon. Member for Chippenham was not in order in this place, because it reverted to the Act of last year in placing the County Council in the same position as any other County Council had been placed by the Act. The proper way to attain the end which hon. Members were seeking was to strike out the second clause altogether.

*MR. PEEL said he was perfectly ready to accept the suggestion of the Prime Minister, but he must ask for a clear understanding that there would be a full opportunity to discuss the question on a subsequent Amendment.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said it was very important that the Committee should know where it was. He agreed that there must be a convenient opportunity to consider the issue to be raised, whether the Borough Councils were to be represented on the Committee of the education authority or not. He asked for the assistance of the Chair to point out the most convenient course by which that issue could be taken.

*THE CHAIRMAN thought that, if the Committee consented to insert the words now proposed, he might then call upon the Secretary to the Board of Education to proceed with his further Amendment, which, of course, would be open to Amendment. That would raise the issue which the Committee was anxious to decide. If hon. Members wished to take exception to the whole scheme, the proper course would be to refuse to insert any other Amendment, or to pass the second clause, which would leave the County Council in the same position as any other council.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) asked whether it would be possible on the Amendment of the Board of Education to review and discuss the question as a whole. At present the Committee had been discussing the subject as a whole.

*THE CHAIRMAN said the question would be discussed as a whole, and the Committee might then proceed with such Amendments as it thought right to suggest.

*MR. PEEL said that he wanted to go further than the simple question of the representation of the Borough Councils on the authority. There were several points that he objected to beyond that in the Amendment of the Government. He would prefer to see the scheme settled by the County Council itself. He did not think that the Committee was in a position to settle the precise number of representatives of the County Council which should sit on this particular authority. If the discussion was to be postponed the Committee could have an opportunity of discussing that question and others of a similar nature on the issue to be raised.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) said there were two points that ought to be discussed. One was the issue as to whether the Borough Councils should come in at all; the other was the larger issue whether the County Council should be in the same position as any other County Council and have a right of framing its own schemes.

*THE CHAIRMAN suggested that the discussion could be taken on the Motion to leave out the second clause.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said that this course might be agreeable to the Committee if the Prime Minister guaranteed that it would have an opportunity of discussing the second clause, for the first clause was closed. Perhaps the best thing to do would be to take the discussion when the Committee could obtain it.

MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE (Somersetshire, E.) submitted that a great many Amendments on the Paper would be prejudiced by inserting the proposed words. If the words "as ordinarily constituted" were accepted without further debate, the Committee would be precluded from discussing several important Amendments dealing with matters of substance.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he had no objection to the debate going on on the present Amendment, on the under-

standing that it was the main debate on the broad principle. It was not reasonable to fight the battles over and over again, but if it was understood that this was the main clash of arms between the opposing forces on this question, as far as the big principle was concerned, he was quite ready to adopt that course.

*MR. PEEL desired, as the matter was to be discussed on the wider basis, to refer to certain observations made yesterday by the Prime Minister. The right hon. Gentleman dwelt on the magnitude of the educational problems in London, and pointed out how some of them differed in kind and degree from those in the provinces. All would agree as to the difference in magnitude, but he failed to see how the mere size of London in any way altered the principles by which the constitution of the education authority ought to be governed. As regarded the composition of the authority—putting aside for the moment all questions of delegation and decentralisation—he believed the Act of last year presented an admirable expedient. He took that view, not from any desire, as a Member of the County Council, to give that body any additional powers, but because he wished to throw upon it the fullest responsibility for the education of London. If it was allowed to evade the responsibility for any decision that might be come to, by saying the co-opted and unrepresentative members were responsible, the educational system of London was certain to suffer. It was perfectly clear that, but for other considerations, the best plan would be to let the County Council decide the kind of body through which it should exercise its great functions. It was impossible for Parliament to dictate to the County Council the precise number of councillors it should place on the Education Committee. Who but the County Council could know the capacities of different members, the number that could be spared for a particular duty, or whether the number of members on other committees could be reduced? Against the authority of the hon. Member for North Camberwell as to the capacity of the County Council to undertake this work, he would set the opinion of county councillors, who were

themselves experts in London educational matters, and who believed that, given the utmost powers of delegation—that was essential—this work would not impose upon the Council too great a burden. If the number of members of the County Council were found to be too small, they could, as the Prime Minister had said, come to Parliament and ask for the number to be enlarged. Another reason why the County Council should have the power of deciding the constitution of the Committee was, that the greater confidence it had in the Committee the more ready it would be to allow duties to be delegated by it to bodies all over London. In that way they would lighten the duties of the Committee, and, through the Committee, of the County Council itself. The special vice of an *ad hoc* authority was that it would not decentralise, but insisted on dealing with every detail of the work. But a County Council had no such difficulty. Having so much work to do, it was in the habit of leaving details to its Committees, reserving to itself the decision of main principles.

As to the inclusion of borough councillors, the amended proposal of the Government really took away the only grounds on which their presence could be defended. He fully sympathised with the desire to increase the power and enhance the dignity of the Borough Councils, but in an Education Bill educational questions ought to come first, local government considerations, manifold and important as they were, being placed in an altogether secondary position. Whatever argument there might have been from the point of view of increasing the dignity and importance of the Borough Councils disappeared when three or four Councils were to share one representative. Under the system of grouping it would be impossible for the Borough Council representatives to have special local knowledge and to act as a link between the schools in the district and the central body. Lewisham, Greenwich, Deptford, and Woolwich were to form one group. He would like to explain to the Committee how the proposal would work out from the point of view of improving the status of the Borough Councils. Those four great Councils were to have

one representative, so that it would be fifteen or twenty years before they could appoint a representative for themselves if they took turns. If he wanted to urge some important Gentleman interested in education to submit himself to election he would have to say to him, "Won't you go on the Borough Council, because then you have some opportunity of taking part in educational work? You will have to serve perhaps about fifteen years, and then it will be forty to one against you being appointed." He did not think that would increase the status of the Borough Councils, and if they depended upon considerations of that kind their importance and status could not be worth much. He would assume that the twelve members were not to be appointed out of the borough councillors. That was only another way of enabling the number of experts to be elected. He did not think they ought to unnecessarily enlarge the number of experts. They had got twenty-five experts already, and that was a very large number. Taking the extra twelve as experts they would get thirty-seven experts on a body of about seventy or eighty. That was an immensely large number compared with the kind of bodies they had created all over the country. One would not object so much if these experts were not a kind of foreign body, but were selected by the County Council itself. As regarded giving the majority to the County Council, he had no objection on principle to a small number of borough councillors, if appointed by the educational authority, but the whole ground for putting them on at all had been destroyed by this peculiar grouping system. He pressed the Government to adjust this matter in a slightly different way. Was there any serious objection to this authority being constituted on precisely the same lines as the authorities in any other part of the country, and allowing it to be constituted through the County Council itself, by which means they would secure the greatest confidence and the utmost educational efficiency?

Mr. HARRY SAMUEL said he was very anxious that the Committee should understand that an overwhelming number of London Unionist Members were strongly in favour of the retention of the Borough Councils.

Mr. Peel.

LORD HUGH CECIL (Greenwich): What does my hon. friend mean by "overwhelming?"

MR. HARRY SAMUEL said he certainly meant more than two to one. This was a most complex question, but hon. Members ought to consider what courses were open to the Government in bringing the Education Act of 1902 to bear upon London. In the first place there was the possibility of creating an *ad hoc* authority. In the second place there was the possibility of creating the London County Council alone the authority; and in the third place there was the possibility of thoroughly municipalising education by placing upon the Committee representatives of the London County Council and the Metropolitan Borough Councils. He did not want to offend the susceptibilities of any hon. Members of this House, but he thought it was only fair to the London Unionist Members that what he said as to their opinions should be absolutely understood by the Committee. Some hon. friends from the country had objected to this Bill, but he would ask them before forming any definite opinion as to the requirements of London to try and understand the various complex questions of government which affected the Metropolis. He asked them to pay some respect to the opinions of their colleagues who represented London constituencies. The Member for Cambridge University said, the system of the Government was not in accord with the scheme of last year. He thought that under the words "subject to the provisions of the Act," every one of the great London Boroughs would absolutely be autonomous for the purpose of education. [AN HON. MEMBER: But they are not County Boroughs.] He thought they were entitled to be called County Boroughs. At any rate they would have absolute control of elementary education. [Cries of "No."] The Borough Councils of the Metropolis were being treated far worse than the smallest place in the kingdom, and when they saw the scant courtesy they were receiving they might very well address to the Government the pathetic words which appeared on the tombstone of a little baby—

"If I was so soon to be done for
I wonder what I was begun for."

The whole of London was covered by municipal boroughs, and every one of them rated themselves for their own purposes, and yet they were told that the County Council was the rating authority for London. The London County Council was the collecting and spending authority, but it was not the rating authority. If they desired this Committee to carry out the educational system contained in the Act of 1902, then it should place upon the central educational authority representatives from the municipal boroughs.

It had been pleaded by many hon. Members that the whole necessity for placing the Borough Councils upon the central authority had been done away with by reducing their number to twelve. He contended exactly the opposite. He was not prepared to fight for an absolute vote for every Borough Council, but what he pleaded for was that the opinion of the Borough Councils should be voiced upon the central authority. In the near future, when fresh legislation for London came up, they would have the London Education Bill quoted as a precedent for the exclusion for all time of representatives of the Borough Councils upon every body created to deal with important questions affecting the whole of London. This Committee should very seriously pause before it excluded men elected on a popular franchise, who were obliged to be ratepayers or residents in the districts they represented. Whose children were going to attend these schools? Why, the children of the borough councillors and the ratepayers of that particular district. He thought that was one of the greatest mistakes that could possibly be made. Even in such a despised place as East London he knew there was a large number of men fully qualified to give careful and energetic thought to this great question of education. He did not believe that if borough councillors were put on this body there would be any conflict between them and the County Council. He ventured to think that everything would be worked satisfactorily by the representatives of both the great municipal systems of the Metropolis, with the advice of the experts who were to be appointed. He thought he might plead that he had some slight knowledge of

the necessities of education, in connection with a body of which he was chairman in Stepney. He had seen the necessity for co-ordination. A vast amount of money was wasted because different bodies were covering the same ground. It would be of inestimable value to have the whole education of London in the hands of one body, and there was no body so eminently fitted to have that control as the London County Council, and the whole of the municipal councils of the Metropolis, with the advice of those gentlemen who had done so much to create the great schools of education which had sprung up amongst them. He had endeavoured to explain why the Borough Councils should be included. They wanted them as a link between the committees of management and the central body. He did not care about votes. He only wished that the voice of the Borough Councils should be heard on the central body, and that they should not feel that they were neglected and that the House of Commons had no thought for the bodies it had created. He appealed to the Committee not to strike a grievous blow at the work of the councils. He asked them to support the views of the majority of London Members of the House, for, after all, they did know something of the views of those whom they represented. He thought the hon. Member for Camberwell would prefer that the members of the Borough Councils rather than a band of experts should have the control. The hon. Member was an advocate of municipalisation and it was some comfort to himself to be in agreement on this matter with one on the other side of the House, who was acknowledged to be an expert on education and a worker in the cause.

*MR. ASQUITH (Fifeshire, E.) said the hon. Gentleman who had sat just down had informed the Committee that he was the spokesman of an overwhelming majority of the Unionist Members for London. [Cries of "No."]

MR. HARRY SAMUEL: Hear, hear. I said two to one afterwards. That is overwhelming.

Mr. Harry Samuel.

*MR. ASQUITH said that all he could state was that those Members might be overwhelming in number but they had been singularly modest, not to say inarticulate, during the course of this debate. Really his object in rising was to ask the Government whether it was worth while to prolong this controversy. He was sure that everyone on this side of the House would be perfectly ready to allow the merits of the case to be judged by the arguments which had been adduced by the supporters of the Government themselves. The right hon. Gentleman in charge of this Bill must, after listening to the debate of yesterday and to-day, have satisfied himself that whatever might be the case with regard to the inarticulate majority of London Members, the bulk of Conservative and Unionist opinion was unhappily opposed to this proposal. Speech after speech had been delivered by the most faithful and loyal supporters of the Government, who, departing in no way from the principles to which they were committed by assenting to the Act of last year, and, as he thought, in strict consistency and conformity with the principles contained in that Act, had declared that the present proposal was one which was a new departure, and which it was impossible to reconcile with the legislation which the Government had themselves framed. How did the matter stand? For the purpose of this discussion it was necessary to assume that the County Council was to be the education authority in London, so the simple question was, the County Council being entrusted with these duties, was it, or was it not, in the discharge of these duties, to have an Executive Committee, between which and itself there would be complete confidence, and in whose proceedings it would be able to feel that, without the necessity for constant, minute, and irritating supervision, it could find a reflex of its own voice? In other words, the question was, and it could not be too often repeated, was there any reason why the London County Council should not in this matter have the same power and autonomy which were given to every other County Council? What was the answer to that simple question? What was the ground upon which the Government sought to differentiate the case of London from

other cases? He quite agreed with what the Prime Minister said last night, that in many respects a vast community such as that of London was different from any other aggregate of population, however large, in any other part of the country. Many hon. Members thought, and he himself thought, that was a legitimate ground for giving London a separate educational organisation, that was to say, for entrusting the duty of education in London to a body specially elected for that particular purpose. But they had passed from that. For the purpose of this debate at any rate, that was an abandoned position.

When they once came to reckon that the County Council in London was to be the education authority, he confessed himself totally at a loss to understand the Prime Minister's conception of the difference between the local life of London and the local life of other communities. According to the right hon. Gentleman, from this point of view, London, as a local community, had two entirely different aspects—one represented by the County Council, and the other, which apparently had twenty-nine separate facets, represented by the Borough Councils. The same electors chose the representatives of the one body and the others. There was no man sitting in the County Council who had not been elected by the same class of electors as the man sitting in the Borough Council. What new force of electoral authority or corporate responsibility did they bring to bear on the problems of education when they associated with that popularly elected authority, persons taken from other bodies who derived their mandate from precisely the same source? It appeared to him a most fantastic caricature of every doctrine of representation to suppose that they were giving to the County Council, by adding these borough councillors, any new authority or any fresh illumination for the discharge of their duties. That was an argument which he thought was conclusive as against the scheme of the Government in its original, and, he ventured to say, relatively logical form. What was the form in which it was presented now? What were these groups? The hon. Member for South Manchester in the admirable speech he delivered a

short time ago, completely demolished them, and there was very little to add to what he said, but it was sufficient, he thought, to say that these groups had no distinct individuality of any kind, nor had they for educational or administrative purposes any common interest. He did not see how the Committee could escape from the dilemma suggested by his hon. friend that either the representatives of the groups were to be members of the Borough Councils, or they were to be persons chosen by the groups from the outside. If they were confined, as the Bill confined them, to the members of Borough Councils they brought no new element of representative authority into the County Council, and, on the other hand, if they were chosen from the outside, they added most unnecessarily to the unwieldy expert element which the Committee already contained. In using arguments of this kind no one disparaged the Borough Councils or doubted their efficiency for the particular work they were chosen to perform. But their interest here was educational and administrative, and for that purpose it was absolutely essential that the Committee of the County Council should be a Committee in close contact with the body to which it was responsible, and whose executive it would be. So far, even at this stage of the debate, the House remained without a single argument to support the proposal for intruding, for the first time, and contrary to all precedent and example, this alien element into the London County Council, the presence of which must inevitably give rise to perpetual friction in administration, to excessive interference in supervision, and to the taking up of unnecessary time and trouble on the part of the higher authority, and, therefore, in the long run, to the neglect of those educational interests which it ought to be their paramount and primary object to secure.

MR. FLOWER (Bradford, W.) said that it was no part of his intention to refer to the various differences which might exist among the London Members in regard to the Bill, but speaking as an old member of the London School Board he ventured to think that the modified form of representation of the Borough Councils, as

provided by the Amendment of the Secretary to the Board of Education, would tend to wise and useful administration. Clause 3 of the Bill showed how wide would be the powers entrusted to the municipalities as managers of the public elementary schools. He had no doubt that these powers before leaving Committee would be extended in some directions and curtailed in others, but it was certainly part of the scheme of the Bill that the Borough Councils should play a very large part in the management of the elementary schools.

It seemed that the modified representation of the Borough Councils proposed in the Amendment provided a valuable and important link between control and management, and he thought they ought not, in the interest of the successful management of the elementary schools, to part with that link. He quite agreed with many of the criticisms of the scheme as a whole; and if it had fallen to his lot to draw an Education Bill for London, he did not hesitate to say that he would have drawn a Bill which constituted an *ad hoc* authority. Others had arrived at a different conclusion, and he fancied that his friends who sat on that side of the House, and who represented London constituencies, widely as they might differ amongst themselves as to the merits of the present proposal, would have been practically united in solid antagonism to the creation of an *ad hoc* authority. That being so, and with the scheme of the Government before them, it was essential, if the Borough Councils were to have the management of the elementary schools, that they should have some representation on the Statutory Education Committee. The Bill proposed to grant very large powers to the Borough Councils. They were to appoint and dismiss teachers, have the custody of the buildings and pupil teachers' centres, select the sites of new public elementary schools. These were the most important tasks which could be given to any body charged with the duty of administering education. For these reasons, and also in the interest of education itself, it appeared to him to be imperative that the Borough Councils should be represented on the Statutory Committee.

Mr. Flower.

LORD HUGH CECIL said he did not desire to detain the Committee at any length on subjects which had already been very largely discussed. What he felt about this discussion and previous discussions on the question of an *ad hoc* authority, was that a very unfortunate element of the *amour propre* of the local authorities had been introduced. It really was a very practical matter. Nobody, he was sure, on either side of the House, desired to put any slight on any of the local authorities. He quite recognised that the Borough Councils in their proper sphere had done very good work, and were likely to go on doing very excellent work in the future. But if they confused what was essentially a dry, practical question with an appeal to something like sentiment on the ground that they were slighting the Borough Councils, then they diverted their mind from what was really the only question, viz., how they could best make an efficient body for the conduct of education in London. Of course, it might be said of any other important political question that the Borough Councils ought to be consulted because they were meritorious. For instance, it might be contended that they should be consulted in the matter of Army reform, or that in the matter of Church discipline the Borough Councils should control the clergy, if they wished to go on the theory that the object of local government was to pay compliments to different local authorities. He did not agree with that at all. There was no slight to anybody in selecting the best local authority for a particular purpose. Then it was said that the Borough Councils in London represented very great communities — communities, in some instances, even very much larger than large provincial boroughs. It was quite true that the London boroughs were immense communities, but it was not the less true that, in spite of their large size, they were not unities, but parts. A leg of the Colossus of Rhodes remained a leg if separated from the statue. It had no unity apart from the rest of the statue. In the same way, they might cut up one of the London boroughs into a great number of urban

districts; but although these urban districts would have some proportion of separate life, they would have no unity of their own. Therefore, in considering the case of the London boroughs, it must be realised that one of the peculiarities of London was that there was a certain unity in the whole body, and that they could not treat these Borough Councils as local government unities for all purposes. That being so, it seemed to him that the natural and reasonable course would have been to give the London County Council all the power they could, consistently with not overloading it with work it could not perform. That was a very obvious principle.

Some people thought that the London County Council had acted in an unreasonable manner in regard to the water supply just as other County Councils have done in other matters; but, in regard to education, no one disputed that the record of the London County Council was an admirable one; that they had always done their work well and fairly; that they had not been at all a partisan body or oppressive to any section of opinion. Why, then, should they be passed over, and not be treated as any other County Council in the country? There were obvious conveniences in treating them as the other County Councils have been treated. There was, as his hon. friend the Member for Stretford had argued so clearly, the rating question. Then there was also the immense advantage of having one educational policy—but that was ground already traversed. If so, the only deduction they ought to make from the powers of the London County Council were such powers as must be delegated from them, because otherwise they would be overworked. And on Clause 3 they would have to consider how far they ought to delegate the powers of management to the Borough Councils. But let him say that the powers of management were not the same thing as the powers of control. They might perfectly well confide extensive powers of management to the Borough Councils without in the least impinging on the principle of the unity and control of the central body. Then came the consideration whether they ought to bring in representatives,

not of each of the Borough Councils, but a small number of twelve selected on what was confessedly a very inconvenient plan. He did not see what advantage there was in that proposal. He was sure it would not please the Borough Councils, which had a strong individuality, and would have no particular satisfaction in being united in groups. Nor would they get any real local representation. The councillor on the Education Committee, who was selected for the group—Deptford, Lewisham, Greenwich and Woolwich, must be a councillor in one of the boroughs, but would not represent the rest of the area at all. He would not be, in fact, nearly so good a local representative as the London County Council representative for the borough. Why then should the Government put in twelve persons, selected by the Borough Councils for no particular reason, not as local representatives, for that they would not be, but merely as the remnant, as the stump of their earlier proposal. He deprecated such a course very strongly indeed. If the Government thought that there was not a sufficient number of persons who would bring to the attention of the Education Committee the different local aspects of the matter, let them increase the number of outsiders and direct the London County Council that they were to have regard to local representation in selecting these persons. That would be a perfectly reasonable proposal.

He did not think it was at all likely that the claims and necessities of the different localities would be overlooked by the London County Council, but, on the contrary, he was convinced that if they gave the London County Council this power, they would take an honourable pride in carrying out the work as well as possible, and there would not be any attempt in the least on their part to try and spoil this great administrative work. On the impartiality, skill, and efficiency with which they carried out this great power would depend the judgment of Parliament in entrusting to them other powers in the future. He felt strong confidence that they would do their work well as heretofore. He confessed that he disliked setting up an artificial system of returning persons to the

central authority from the Borough Councils, which would not correspond with any really good principle, merely because the Government at one time proposed to have a larger representation of the Borough Councils, and when they found they had excited a certain amount of feeling among the Borough Councils, they were now reluctant to disappoint it. Let it be remembered that passing emotions were very transient indeed. Somebody might be offended or annoyed for the moment by some action taken, but by this time next year he would have forgotten all about it. The really important thing was that they should set up an efficient, workmanlike scheme, and he was sure that they would improve the scheme of the Government if they left out the twelve representatives of the Borough Councils.

MR. KIMBER (Wandsworth) said that two nights ago he endeavoured to call the attention of the Committee to the necessity and importance of realising the magnitude of the object of the subject matter they had now in hand, viz., the education of the vast multitude of the children of the people. They had also to consider and judge of the adequacy of the human machinery which they had at their disposal for accomplishing that purpose. It appeared to him that they were in great danger of losing all sense of proportion in discussing the difference between giving the London County Council thirty-six or forty-two representatives on the Education Committee, or between thirty-one and twelve representatives to be given to the Borough Councils. If he might use a military metaphor, he looked upon the Prime Minister as a leader, and that leader should survey the forces he could bring to bear on the accomplishment of the object in view, because this was not a mere municipal question, it was a national one. What had the right hon. Gentleman got at his hand? The London County Council, an *ad hoc* body (the London School Board), the Borough Councils—the last expression of the mind of London and of Parliament as to what should be local government for the Metropolis. London was admitted to be unique among the great communities of the country that had to be dealt with for any pur-

pose whatever. They were told that the Government had two objects in view in bringing in the Bill. One was the municipalisation of education, and the other was that that municipalisation was to conform, as far as the circumstances of London were analogous to the circumstances of the provinces, to the Bill of last year. Which was the greater analogy—that between the London County Council and the bodies to which education had been entrusted by last year's Bill, or that between Borough Councils and those bodies? In the country, sixty-seven county boroughs had the supreme control and executive administration of education. Their average population was a little more than 130,000. In London there were twenty-nine boroughs which had sprung into existence, not from London itself but which were merged into London, and were, in some sense, independent towns agglomerated together. Their average population was 160,000; and, therefore, there was a greater analogy for the purpose of applying the Act of last year between them than between the London County Council and the county boroughs. The County Council was a body for the purpose of uniting London together in order to enable one comprehensive view to be taken of subjects which were common to London; but it was never contemplated that the County Council should have to grapple with the administration of the details of all the aggregated cities comprising London. The Government had those two forces at their disposal, and it was for them to choose which they would select. On the Borough Councils there were 1,500 men, who were engaged not in one centre but who were located in twenty-nine different districts, who came from different parts of the districts, and who were far better acquainted than any central body could be with the educational wants and desires of the districts.

In other circumstances he would be prepared to combat the idea as to whether the County Council was the right body to be given supreme control; but he admitted that that point was now passed, and he would not argue it. Granted that the County Council was to be the controlling body, he would

a.k the Committee to examine the nature of the co-operation which was to be given to the other bodies. The Borough Councils were to be entrusted with the work of local management; and, admitting that a link of communication was required with the central controlling body, they thought that one nominee from each Borough Council on the central body was little enough. The representative of the Borough Council would be able to communicate to the central body the wants of his own district; and he would be able to bring back from the central body the wisdom resulting from the joint consideration of those wants and the wants of other districts. There was reason and symmetry in that. It was a useful and a symmetrical arrangement. It would enable the controlling body to know how to control, and the administering body to know how best to administer. But under the present Bill that representation was reduced to twelve. It was said that a representation of thirty-one would put the County Council in a minority; but he would readily concede that if the County Council were to be the controlling body they should have an effective majority. All he wanted was that each borough should be heard; and for that purpose one voice was as good as a hundred. Where the representation was reduced to twelve, a system of grouping the boroughs had to be introduced; and it occurred to him that a number of difficulties would at once arise. What, however, he wished to point out was that a man sent from two, three, or four boroughs could not be considered a representative. He could not sit in each of the Councils, and he could not give the controlling body the information it would require. What was the average population of those grouped boroughs. Dividing 5,000,000 by 12, each group had a population of about 400,000. The one gentleman selected would be supposed to know all the wants and interests of those districts, although he could only sit on the Council of one. Then again, how was he to report to his constituents? Was he to call a meeting of the entire population? How could he be a link of the districts of which he knew little or nothing?

The municipal borough of Wandsworth also included the Parliamentary

borough of Clapham, and it was to be grouped with Battersea. The House of Commons might pass a law ordering both sides to agree to Home Rule for Ireland; but it could not compel Wandsworth and Battersea to agree on one representative. Suppose that individual, who would have to represent opposite views, went to the central authority, how was he to bring back the views of the central body? He suggested to the Government that the Borough Councils had better not have any representation at all than such a ridiculous arrangement. He would not use a stronger word, as he did not wish to be offensive to the members of the Government in charge of the Bill. He would ask the Committee to pause before they rejected the link which would perform a very useful service in the harmonising of the plan by which this great question could be grappled with; and by which the sentiment of the local bodies could be conveyed to the central body and the sentiment of the central body conveyed to the local bodies. He hoped the Government would restore the Bill to its original form. They asked for a single voice on the central Council of the Metropolis on the momentous question of education, and he did not see why that reasonable modicum of representation could not be given. He hoped the Government would revert to the original proposal of the Bill in this regard.

MR. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.) said it was difficult to believe they were discussing an Education Bill for London. What they were discussing was a Bill for the readjustment of the local governing bodies of London. Not a single argument had been directed to the question of how the best education was to be obtained for London. He protested against this problem being dealt with in this way. The real problem before the House—the real object of the Bill—was to set up machinery for education in London. The Government had approached it not from an educational but a municipal point of view, by adhering to the principle that there must be twelve members of the Borough

Councils on the Education Committee. The hon. Member opposite said on the other hand they would have the thirty-seven Borough Councils as was originally suggested by the Bill or none at all. Even the decision of the Prime Minister was based not on educational considerations but on bringing harmony between the Borough Councils and the London County Council. In the whole of these debates right through, whatever had emerged from them proved what had been said in the beginning—that they could not make a good educational measure out of this Bill, and therefore before they went further in this matter he would suggest that the Bill should be recommitted and that they should start on a different basis altogether.

*MR. BOND (Nottingham, E.) said that as a member of the London School Board, and for six years a member and for one year the chairman of the Technical Education Board, he had been perhaps more directly concerned with the actual administration of London Education than most Members of the House. The Committee was on the eve of a great decision. It had become necessary that the educational system, or the want of system in London, should be recast and put on a different footing. Whatever solutions of this question might have been suggested there was only one solution now recognised as possible, and that was to trust the London County Council, acting through their Committee, with the conduct and supervision, if not the control, of the whole education of the Metropolis. The question which was now directly at issue was how the Education Committee should be constituted, and the point to which all criticism had been directed was the question of whether the Borough Councils should have a direct or indirect representation on the Board. Only three reasons could be suggested for the Borough Councils being a component part of the Committee. It might be said that they might thereby enhance the importance of the Borough Councils. That might be so if a representative of each Borough Council was to be put on the Committee, but directly that idea had been disposed of the whole of that argument dropped. Another suggestion was that the Borough Councils should have a person on the Committee who knew the

particular and special wants of the district from which he came; but it must be remembered that there was a large proportion of county councillors on the Committee, and that these districts would in all probability be better represented by them. The third reason which might be suggested was that this contingent should be placed on the Committee in order to make its number adequate to the work that had to be done. It was said the London County Council could not spare enough members to make the Committee a working body, but with that he did not agree. His view was that the number of the Committee should be made as small as it possibly could be, consistently with its ability to get through the work it had to do. A great quantity of the work which it would have to perform would have to be performed by delegation, and a proper delegation would enable the work of the central Committee to be efficiently conducted by means of a much smaller number of men distributed into sub-committees having charge of special matters.

He would just call the attention of the House to the actual work done by the two bodies which were to be amalgamated under this Bill. The Technical Education Board of the London County Council was now composed of thirty-seven members, twenty of whom were members of the London County Council and fifteen of whom were what he would call outsiders. The School Board had fifty-five members and a chairman called in from the outside, making fifty-six. The number proposed for the new Committee was seventy-nine, of whom forty-two were to come from the London County Council, twelve from the Borough Councils, and twenty-five from the outside. The School Board had seven grand committees, of which two met once a week and five once a fortnight. There were also five other committees of a less important character which met only occasionally as necessity arose. There were also twenty-two sub-committees, leaving out those committees which were attached to the industrial schools. Then besides all these committees there were seven education committees belonging to the Technical Education Board of the London County Council, which appointed sub-committees to deal with the details of the work. It might be said that so many

committees would require a considerable number of men to man them, but some of these duties could be performed by the chairman, and several of the committees could be merged together so that the actual number of members required to man the committees which would have to be appointed would not need to be more than sixty. The smaller the Committee was, the better work would be done. These duties could not be fulfilled unless men were found who would give up all their time, energy, and ability to the work. He was certain such men would be found. There were men who for years had been working in the cause of education in London, and were anxious to place at the service of the new authority the fruits of their long experience and labour. If their services were enlisted, and the standard of efficiency and zeal of the officials of the new body kept up to its present high level, he believed such a body as he had sketched out would be able satisfactorily to do the work that London required. There was really no reason for the presence of the borough councillors, but their representation having been suggested in the original Bill it might seem somewhat harsh to cut them out altogether. That, however, was a difficulty of the Government's own making, and it should be faced with a single eye to the constitution of the best body under the circumstances. The introduction of any foreign element which tended to make the County Council feel that they were not absolute masters in their own house, and that the Committee, instead of being their instrument, was swayed and directed by forces outside and not altogether in harmony with the Council, would engender or increase the spirit of suspicion with which the operations of the Committee would be regarded. The County Council would not be able with confidence to leave the administration and organisation of London education in the hands of such a Committee, as it had hitherto done in the case of the Technical Education Board. If they insisted on having a weekly or monthly report, and on reviewing the proceedings of the Committee on all points of detail, good-bye might be said to all idea of having a really effective system

of education. Under such conditions the County Council would break down, and some other method would have to be devised for carrying on the work.

*SIR J. DICKSON-POYNDER (Wiltshire, Chippenham) said a large proportion of London Members, and of Members interested in education and local government generally, on that side of the House, were agreed that the Borough Councils should be excluded from the central authority, and that the County Council should have a discretion in formulating its own scheme, subject to the approval of the Board of Education. A clear distinction should be drawn between management and control. He desired the central authority to have full power of control and full power of delegation. The fact that upon many of the county authorities throughout England there were to be found representatives of the non-county boroughs, instead of being an argument in favour of the Government proposal, was rather the reverse, because those representatives were there under schemes drawn up by the Councils themselves, and that was precisely the position in which many of them desired to see the London County Council placed. He hardly thought the system of grouping would ensure connection between the localities and the central body. That object would be better secured by instituting the connection from the greater to the smaller rather than from the smaller to the greater, because in the latter case a parochial mind was brought to bear on a body which it was essential should consider questions from a large point of view, whereas by delegating from the central authority to the smaller authorities, a larger mind was infused into the local bodies. He would therefore prefer that the connection should be brought about by power being given to the County Council under Clause 3, to nominate certain members to serve on the local bodies in the several districts. The system of grouping boroughs entirely shut out any idea of paying a compliment to the Borough Councils. It was almost ridiculous to suggest that two districts of such area and rateable value as Westminster and Kensington should each be

represented by half a man. He thought it had been clearly proved that the scheme of last year should have been followed in the case of London. It was true that, from the point of view of population, the problem in London was very different from that in the country, but from the point of view of concentration the arguments for last year's scheme applied with even greater force to London.

While he had the greatest respect for anything the hon. Member for North Camberwell said on the question of education, it had to be recognised that he was rather a prejudiced party. He was quite ready to admit with the hon. Member for North Camberwell, that the London County Council had an immense amount of work to do under normal conditions. When it had delegated its members to the Water Board, to the Port of London Commission, and the Education Committee, there was no doubt that an immense amount of work would be imposed upon the London County Council. This would necessitate a rearrangement of the committees of the London County Council. It might be possible for those committees to carry on their work with a smaller number of members, which would liberate other members to do educational work. If it was found after this was done that the number of members was not sufficient, Parliament could address itself to providing for an increase in the number of representatives of the London County Council. The work of the London County Council was so onerous to its members that it was difficult to adequately discharge the duties of a councillor and Member of Parliament at the same time, though he would deplore the day when Parliament was separated from the Council, with no Members to act as a link between the two bodies. He was sure it would be an unfortunate day for good government in London if that ever took place. What they wished to find out was whether this scheme was the best. They wanted an efficient body which would take away as little as possible the members of the County Council from their other work. The Committee thus formed ought to be in complete harmony with and have the full confidence of the London County Council. If they wished to accomplish that, then

they must allow the County Council to select the Committee. If the Committee arrived at decisions which were opposed to the views of the County Council, it would lead to long debates which harmonious treatment of this question would avoid. The introduction of twelve borough councillors necessitated a stereotyped number of London County Councillors. Those best versed in the matter had told him that the central body, provided its duty was confined to general control, and provided it was allowed to delegate the management work to local bodies, could perform this work with a smaller number even than that which had been suggested. Undoubtedly the whole argument of the hon. Member for North Camberwell had been that the School Board had such a gigantic work to perform that nobody upon that body could undertake any other work. The School Board had been over centralised, but by this scheme they would have complete decentralisation which would not involve so many meetings or so many Sub-committees, because the local bodies would take over much of the work which was formerly done by the School Board.

In conclusion he wished to say that it seemed to him most essential in the municipalisation of education that they should not expropriate in any way those members of the County Council who were going to take part in the educational work, from the County Council Committees. They were obliged to do this in the case of the Water Board and the Port of London Commission, and this would take them right away from the work of the London County Council. They wanted a scheme under which those who took part in educational work would still keep in touch with the work of the Council. The moment they introduced alien elements there would be a tendency to draw away that close touch which appeared to him to be of so much importance. He thought during the discussion they had succeeded in bringing some strong arguments forward in favour of a modification of this proposal, and had the Prime Minister been in his place he would have appealed to him to allow the Committee to decide this question upon its own merits. If that

course were taken he had not the smallest fear what the decision would be. They all wanted an efficient system of education, and they wished to maintain the best constitutional system of local government in the Metropolis.

*SIR JOSEPH DIMSDALE (London) said he thought there were at least twenty or thirty hon. Members of this House who considered that they could deal with educational matters far more competently than Ministers of the Crown. It was little more than a month ago that this Bill was printed. It was placed upon the Table of the House, and the constitution of the Education Committee then consisted of thirty-six London County Councillors, thirty-one representatives of the Borough Council, twenty-five co-opted members, and five members selected from the London School Board. When placing that Bill upon the Table the Prime Minister practically tore to shreds the constitution of that Education Committee by his speech, which led the House to believe that he was quite prepared to accept very stringent and far-reaching Amendments. At that period he protested against the representation of the City, and expressed the hope that in Committee Amendments would be made safeguarding beyond all doubt matters of very great importance to the City of London. They now found a suggestion that the London County Council should be supreme, and that instead of thirty-one local representatives there would only be twelve. The City of London, although most inadequately represented before with two, was now to have only one representative. It almost seemed that the Government had lost sight of the fact that the City of London was a county in itself. The country owed a great deal to the City for the efficiency of education at the present time. Centuries ago schools were founded in the City under the administration of the Livery Guilds, which had done splendid service, and the country ought to be proud of them. The City Corporation alone, since the passing of the Elementary Education Act in 1870, had expended £500,000 out of its corporate funds upon its schools; while the citizens of London had been taxed in the aggregate for educational purposes

to the extent of nearly £4,500,000 during the same period. Under the Equalisation of Rates Act the citizens of the City of London paid annually £115,000 to assist the Metropolitan taxpayers outside the City area, and this was entirely irrespective of the work that had been done by the large sums which had been expended by the Guilds of the City of London. It surely was not unreasonable that this County of the City of London should ask Parliament specially to consider their unique position. He personally thought that the City might ask to be entirely exempted from the Bill now before the House. Within the City there were only two Board schools. He did not think that one word could be said against the administration of the Ward schools and voluntary schools in the City of London. There were, however, other schools which were not only the glory of the City, but were justly looked upon with pride by the country generally. He spoke as a real citizen when he referred to the excellent work done by these grand old schools. Some of them were carried on by the Corporation, and some by the Livery Guilds, but none of them with rate aid. He was informed that this Bill was never intended to touch these institutions, and that their future would remain untrammelled. But to make this sure beyond all doubt he would move an Amendment to that effect when the second schedule came up. He presumed the Government would not hesitate to accept that Amendment. He would appeal to the House as a matter of justice to accept it. That the City of London felt very keenly the manner in which it had been treated by the Government in the framing of this Bill was sufficiently shown by the fact that they claimed their ancient privilege yesterday by coming to the bar of the House and presenting their petition against it. He could only hope that the Government would see its way not to consider how they would propitiate every single interest, thought, and idea, of individual Members of this House, but how they could carry out a consistent and thorough policy which would eventuate in a useful and lasting Education Act for the benefit and happiness of the children of the Kingdom.

*THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir WILLIAM ANSON, Oxford University) rose for the purpose of asking the Committee whether it was not time to get to the Amendments which raised some of the serious issues which were to come before it. There were really important matters which they would have to discuss as to whether or not the Borough Councils should be excluded from the Committee, and, if included, what representation they should have. If he was right in interpreting the view expressed by the Chairman, he believed that the Amendment which stood in his name would afford an opportunity for that discussion, and it would really mean that they would have a sort of Second Reading debate on that Amendment. He asked the Committee to allow the proposal now before them to pass without a division in order that they might proceed at once to deal with the Amendment which raised the real issue, namely, the question of the inclusion or exclusion of the Borough Councils.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorgan-shire, Mid) said he thought there was a great object to be attained by allowing this discussion to proceed further than it had done. If it had not been for the course taken with the assent of the Chairman this afternoon, the Government would not have felt how strongly views were held on the two important topics mentioned by the hon. Baronet. He quite agreed that a decision by division on the particular words which were being discussed now, would not be a decision on either of these points, but surely there was very great advantage in having a free discussion now, away from the Amendments, which were afterwards to be discussed. They had not been tied in the discussion to these particular words, and there had been an opportunity, of which the House had freely availed itself, of discussing the general principles underlying the two particular topics which must come up for immediate decision afterwards. This debate had been rendered necessary also by the course the Government had taken. It was because the Government them-

selves had changed their plan by the Amendment on the Paper that their own supporters felt compelled to carry on the discussion this afternoon. There was this advantage in allowing the discussion to continue further. The Government would know, not merely by speaking with hon. Members in the Lobby, or by private representations, but by hearing their own supporters declare freely in the House, what were their views on vital parts of the Bill. That was the only way in which they could feel the force of opinion against particular proposals embodied in the Bill. If the Committee proceeded at once to the discussion of the particular points, then of course the discussion would be narrowed, and Members would be obliged to deal with the matters raised in the Amendment. For instance, if they proceeded to discuss the question whether or not the scheme was to be developed in the Act of Parliament, or whether it was to be a scheme put forward by the County Council, they would be tied to that question. If they came to discuss the question whether borough councillors were to be represented on the Committee and what that representation should be, they would be confined to that question. He ventured to say that this general discussion, which had been a very useful one, should be allowed to continue longer, so that the Government might see the real strength of the views held by their own supporters in regard to these proposals.

CAPTAIN JESSEL (St. Pancras, S.) said the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Fife had taunted the London Members with silence on this occasion. He could assure him that it was not because they did not feel strongly on the subject, but because they recognised that their views had been pretty well made known to the Government. He was somewhat astonished at the course taken by his hon. friend the Member for the Chippenham Division. He had the honour of nominating the hon. Baronet for the division he represented on the County Council, and he very much regretted that he did not represent his views on this important subject now before the Committee. In the first place, the hon. Baronet totally

objected to the retention of the Members of the Borough Councils on the Committee; and, secondly, he thought that the County Council should have the framing of the scheme. In regard to that first point, he could only say that personally he was very much better pleased with the proposals as they originally stood in the Bill. He thought there was great force in the argument that there should be one member representing each Borough Council. He thought also that the County Council should have a considerable number of members, and that they should nominate the experts. It seemed to him that would give the County Council a majority, but the contrary view was taken by the House, and, while admitting the force of the argument that the London County Council should not only be the education authority but should have a majority on the Committee, he wanted to know how this was to be arrived at. Was it by the excision of the Borough Councils, or was it to be by the method which the Government had decided to adopt? They had agreed to retain the borough councillors to represent groups of boroughs. It did not seem to him that too much stress need be laid on the particular method in which the boroughs were grouped. That seemed to be a matter for discussion when the Schedule was reached. It might be asked what was the advantage of having these borough councillors upon the Committee at all. He thought too much stress could not be laid on the fact that the borough councillors were going to have a large share in the management of the schools, and that there must be some connecting link between the London County Council, which was the controlling authority, and the Borough Councils, which were going to look after the management. It seemed to him that that arrangement, instead of militating against the work, would considerably expedite matters. The same argument would apply to the members of the Borough Councils. They would, he was sure, instead of being a cause of friction, be a sympathetic link between the two great forms of the municipal Government of London. The estrangement which ex-

isted arose from the fact that the two bodies did not quite realise their wants. It had been said that the number of twelve would not satisfy the Borough Councils; he did not think it would entirely, but if they could not get all they wanted they ought to be satisfied that they had secured on the Education Committee some voice and some representation. He had seen less than twelve hon. Members opposite voicing the opinion of their Party in a manner which nobody could overlook. In the same way the representation of twelve members would be a most effective method of voicing the wants of the boroughs when difficulties arose, or when questions of organisation were discussed at the first constitution of the Education Committee.

He thought that the placing of representatives of the Borough Councils on the Education Committee was an augury of a new departure in London local administration, and he very much welcomed the introduction of the principle in regard to the Education Committee, which had been carried out on the Water Board. It ought to be borne in mind that the City of London and the City of Westminster between them paid one quarter of the rates of London, while they had only 23,000 children out of the 623,000 children who were in the provided and voluntary schools in the Metropolis. It seemed to him rather hard that Westminster should only have half a man, and the City of London one man to represent them, when they had paid such a large proportion of the taxation. An hon. Member had expressed regret that there was very little local life in London. He was very much astonished to hear that. If the hon. Member went down to Greenwich and told the people there that there was no local life in the borough his remarks would not be well received. As a matter of fact, local life in London had been very much increased of late years. He maintained that the representatives of the Borough Councils would serve a very useful purpose; they would be representatives of the ratepayers as much as the representatives of the London County Council. With the hon. Member for Camberwell he believed that the balance of the experts would be very much redressed by the inclusion of the representatives of the Borough Councils.

This was an opinion which was held not only from a political point of view. A gentleman in his constituency, the Rev. Mr. Coxhead, who is well known in educational matters, and who was long a member of the School Board, was strongly in favour, from an educational point of view, of the representation of the Borough Councils on the Education Committee. He thought the course the Government had taken was wise. They had given the London County Council complete control, because, after all, the power of the purse in the long run would be the controlling power; and they had placed upon it also representatives of the great local bodies in London coupled with the experts. For these reasons he gave his hearty adhesion to the scheme of the Government, although he regretted that they had not seen their way to carry out their original proposal.

*SIR MICHAEL FOSTER (London University) said if he might be allowed to intervene in the debate, it would be to say a very few words from a purely educational point of view. It was an essentially educational question with which they were dealing. They were not concerned in seeing what respect they could pay to this or that body; how much dignity, honour, privilege or distinction they could confer on this or that body; they were met simply to do their best to select the very best body to carry on the great task of the education of London. For a great task it was. He knew many Members realised how great it was. He doubted very much, however, if all of them realised how very great it was. The body they were about to constitute must carry on and extend the elementary education which already existed; it must also do what at present was done only in a fragmentary way—build on that elementary foundation an education for all classes in London, fitting them for all paths of life, and leading on to the very highest steps of learning. A body which had that great task, great as it was now, and even greater as it might be in the future from an educational point of view, must be homogeneous and solid, it must know its own mind, be its own master, and have the full confidence of the authority which held the purse. Taking that position from a purely educational

point of view, it seemed to him that there could be no difficulty in choosing between the two plans—the one plan of allowing the education authority to be the County Council alone, and the other complicated scheme which had been offered by the Government. They had read in the papers lately about a “fortuitous concourse of atoms,” which they were told might make a crystal, but could not form a living organism. The educational authority which they sought to establish must be a living organism. Now, he would not be so rude as to compare the scheme which had been presented to the Committee to a “fortuitous concourse of atoms,” but he would venture to say that there was an element of uncertainty about the prospect which lay in the working of that scheme which, from an educational point of view, would lead one to dread its effect. He must confess, feeling intensely the great educational interests of London, and he trusted the Committee and the Government itself would concede the point—that the education authority must belong to the County Council itself alone, and that if they were to have education carried on well and completely for the benefit of the nation that was the body who could do it, and not the complicated body which was now offered by the Government. He would go further, and say that this great education authority must have a very free hand. He would leave the whole thing in the hands of the London County Council. It was a great responsibility, but the London County Council would feel that responsibility, and he believed they would rise to it. If Parliament trusted the Council, he believed they would have an educational authority which would produce a change in the education of London, which might be even more than one could hope for.

MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE said that the speech of the hon. and learned Member for London University was a deliverance of great force, dignity and knowledge; but he suggested that it would have been still more forcible if it had been spoken from his old seat on the Ministerial Benches, and not from a seat below the Gangway on the Opposition

Benches. Since the debate began the members of the Government must have been impressed by the expressions of opinion which had been given from both sides of the House. As an independent listener he confessed that the arguments he had heard all tended in one direction, and that was, that the Government scheme, however well intentioned, had succeeded in pleasing nobody. He wished to point out that in one respect it fell short of even their own design in framing it—a design which he thought, in the abstract, commanded the almost unanimous approval of the House. The idea of the Government, as he understood it, was to give an absolute majority to the London County Council. Out of seventy-nine members, forty-two were to be appointed by the London County Council, but, in the first instance, there would be five other members who must be added. [HON. MEMBERS: May.] Well, his hon. friends could take refuge in the word “may.” Could the Committee consider any enlightened County Council, as he knew the London County Council to be, declining to perform what was really a moral if not a legal obligation, and adding to the first Committee men really acquainted with the machinery and the detailed work of the outgoing School Board? He considered the Government, and the majority which supported the Government in the Second Reading, were under a very serious responsibility in the matter. They had taken on themselves in the defence of the municipalisation of education the task of destroying a great educational organisation which had existed for whole generations in this Metropolis, and which, from a broad point of view, had admittedly done admirable work. If that were so, it behoved the Government to see that they set up in its place a body the very best they could conceive, and framed to carry on, with no more loss of continuity than was absolutely necessary, the great work of the School Board. The machinery would be very elaborate, and the men who would have to conduct in the future ought to be well advised, and ought to include many who were acquainted with the work of the past. The very least the County Council could do, would be to add five members of the outgoing School Board. His hon. friend thought they might

rely on the word “may,” but “may” ought to be “shall”; and if it were not “shall” in the Act it would be “shall” in the mind of every enlightened member of the County Council. That being so the County Council would be only able to appoint during the first five years from its own members a bare half of the Committee. That would not be a clear substantial majority, and would not give the County Council any real control. The County Council would not care to delegate to the Committee any very large powers; and secondly they would closely watch the proceedings of the Committee. Whenever members of the Council were absent through other municipal engagements and the other members of the Council were in a temporary minority in the Committee, the decision arrived at, if of any importance, would be reversed in the County Council, with what expense of trouble, time, and temper, the Committee could realise. Therefore, the scheme did not carry out the design of the Government itself in framing this Committee. It certainly did not carry out the clear views of the great majority of the House.

There was an easy remedy. If the Government would only make up their minds to exclude those twelve unfortunate members who were supposed to represent groups of huge urban boroughs, but who really represented nobody in particular, then there would remain a workable body on which the County Council would have a substantial majority. It was not quite true to say that the Bill satisfied nobody; because it appeared to satisfy the hon. Member for Limehouse. But there were hon. Gentlemen like the hon. Member for the Strand Division, the hon. Member for Chelsea, and the noble Lord the Member for Greenwich. It did not require much courage to proclaim in this House the virtues of an hon. Member's own borough, or the importance of its being represented in the Committee; but when hon. Members, loyal supporters of the Government, appealed to the Government to exclude from the scheme the representation of their own boroughs, their voice ought to be heeded. London had been united for educational purposes for thirty-three years. Surely that unity ought not in a hurry to be disintegrated and broken

up into sections in order to encourage what the hon. Member for St. Pancras seemed to think such an excellent development of local government, viz., the creation of Water Boards for every purpose in London. He would humbly suggest that there were two alternatives open to the Government. One was to leave the London County Council in the same position as other County Councils, to form their own scheme with the approval of a Government Department. That was now answering well all over the country; and he really did not see why it should not answer in London. The other was to leave the House to give a free vote on this question. Surely the Government might treat their supporters as they treated them last year with reference to the Option Clause, and allow them to vote for a simple scheme rather than for a complicated, unsatisfactory and hybrid scheme.

SIR EDWARD GREY (Northumberland, Berwick) said that the right hon. Gentleman who had just sat down appealed to the Government to either withdraw the proposal or leave it an open question. He did not know how far the Government would be pliable in the matter but the present scheme was not the first proposal of the Government. It was a second thought, a compromise; and therefore one upon which they might respond to the appeal of the right hon. Gentleman who had just sat down, to leave it to the opinion of the House and allow their supporters to vote freely, without any loss of prestige to themselves. If it had been their own original proposal, he admitted it would be a more difficult matter; but it was not. It had been put forward in a tentative way, and should be left to the general sense of the House. The right hon. Gentleman said that the speech of the Member for London University would have been more effective if delivered on the Government side of the House. He did not see that appeals from the Government side were a bit more effective than appeals from the Opposition side. Yet it was not that the appeals from the Government side were lacking in numbers or in cogency of argument. He would suggest to the

right hon. Gentleman, if he found that the Government were deaf to his appeal on this matter, to try the effect of crossing the floor himself.

MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE: There is one difficulty. I could not canvass my constituents by the reply post-card.

SIR EDWARD GREY said the right hon. Gentleman was not so separated from his constituents that he could not take their opinions. He was greatly impressed, and he thought that the House generally was greatly impressed, by the strength and persistency with which the right hon. Gentleman treated last year's Bill in the most single-minded way from the point of view of the County Councils and of education. That was exactly his own point of view. He agreed with the Government that there must be unity and co-ordination in our educational system. But vigour and energy in the authority were wanted, as well as unity and co-ordination; and a great risk was run, in a large place like London, in attempting to give unity and co-ordination, of losing vigour and energy, unless responsibility was clearly established. It would have been better if the Government had simply said to the London County Council, "There is the education question; set your brains at work and draw up a scheme." He believed the London County Council would rise to the responsibility of developing an educational system for London provided it was given full powers. It was said that the London County Council were too much overworked to undertake the control of education. He believed the great municipalities would have to undertake more and more work, and that probably they would have to revise their methods of administration in order to deal with it. But the proposal to bring in the Borough Council element did not in the least relieve the London County Council of any portion of the burden. What it might do was to diminish the sense of responsibility of the County Council, and that would be a very serious thing, for with their responsibility would be diminished their enterprise and energy in their work. No strength was gained by the introduction of the representatives of

Mr. Henry Hobhouse.

the Borough Councils, for they would not be experts in education. All the Government got was that they paid a sort of compliment to the Borough Councils; and that they should not have done, because the Borough Councils did not feel it as a compliment. It was so small that it was not taken as a compliment at all. When the Borough Councils' representatives were there they would not know what they represented; they would have no local patriotism, no special knowledge. The Prime Minister had referred to the largeness of London as a reason why it should be treated on different lines: but, on the contrary, that was a reason for keeping to the line of making the County Council the only authority. Precisely because of London's size—bigger, as the Prime Minister said, than some of the nations of Europe—it was desirable that it should have some feeling of corporate life. They must place the main responsibility on it. It must, speaking locally, embody the national spirit of London. Give it ample powers to delegate, but let it feel that it is responsible, either directly or through its delegated powers, to the Metropolis. The work of drawing up education schemes for London would be more difficult and complicated than that of any other education authority; and the County Council, although made nominally the education authority, was to be hampered with qualifications which did not exist in other parts of the country, and to be given more restricted powers. He joined in the appeal of the right hon. Member for Somerset to the Government. Having regard to their own past attitude—how variable it had been, how little even they had seen any fixed point in this matter—and having regard to the weight of argument on their own side, they should at any rate consider whether they could not meet the right hon. Gentleman to the extent of leaving this an open question to the Committee.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said he did not propose to argue in detail the important questions which they would have to decide later, but would simply urge the Committee to let the words before them form part of the Amendment, and so get regularly to the discussion of the questions with which they were so anxious to deal. The Amendment before the

Committee did not decide, and they were not discussing whether the Committee of the London County Council should be constituted by statute or by scheme, whether the boroughs should or should not be represented on the Committee, or whether the London County Council should not have a majority on the Committee. They were discussing matters at large. They were having a Second Reading debate on the general question of the constitution of the Education Committee. It was idle to appeal to the Government to make this Amendment a non-party question because it would carry nothing with it. As to the supposed silence of the advocates of borough representation, thirty Members for London in that House had requested the Prime Minister to retain in one form or another the borough representation, and at least one hon. Member on the other side of the House had last night said a good word for the representation of the boroughs. He assured his right hon. friend the Member for Somerset that when the time came they would ensure that the London County Council should have a majority on the Committee, and, if necessary, over its own selection from the School Board. That was another matter to be discussed later. Meanwhile he urged them to deal with the Amendment so that the discussion could become practical.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton) expressed great astonishment at the remarks of the hon. Gentleman, who had given the direct go-by to the pledge given by the Prime Minister that the Committee should discuss the general form now, after which the discussion could be carried down into details. He sincerely hoped this Motion would not be rushed through the House as the Second Reading of the Bill was. Not only were Members for London constituencies thus deprived of opportunities of discussing the Bill, but outside representative bodies had not had time to bring their opinion to bear on the House of Commons. His constituents, irrespective of party, were unanimously against the inclusion of the borough representatives on this Education Committee. He earnestly appealed to the Government to listen to the weight of criticism which had fallen from hon. Gentlemen opposite and to take heed of the advice which had been offered on the Unionist side.

*MR. CAUSTON (Southwark, W.) expressed surprise that the right hon. Gentleman had given no expression of his views with regard to the question which had been under discussion all the afternoon.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said he made his speech when he introduced the Amendment.

*MR. CAUSTON said the Committee had been indulging the hope that some impression had been made on the right hon. Gentleman by the speeches delivered. During the whole of the day only two speeches had been delivered in support of the proposal to add the twelve borough councillors to the Committee, and one of them was the half-hearted support of one whose view was that he had received but half a loaf. As a London Member he himself wished to say that it would be simply absurd to add these twelve borough councillors to the Committee. They had not been told in what way these gentlemen were to be elected. The scheme would bring about great discord between the Borough Councils themselves. The Committee ought to know what the views of the Government were on this matter. Personally, he would like to move the adjournment of the debate, and if he had the permission of his leaders he would certainly do so. It was much to be regretted that the Prime Minister had been absent from the House since the beginning of the proceedings, for he was sure that the speech of the hon. Member for South Manchester had impressed him, as it did the whole House; if he had been present through the whole debate he would doubtless have had a conference with the President of the Local Government Board and the Secretary to the Board of Education, and probably on Monday the Committee would have had a re-framed Bill to consider. He hoped that, unless some declaration were forced from the Government, the adjournment of the debate would be moved.

GENERAL LAURIE (Pembroke and Haverfordwest) said that as a member of a Borough Council, he was puzzled as to what the borough councillors were to

be sent on this Committee to do. It had been distinctly declared that the authority was to be the London County Council. Either they trusted that authority or they did not. If they did not, twelve members from outside would not keep them straight. In any case, twelve members could not represent twenty-nine Borough Councils. One borough would be called upon to vote for a man living in another borough, and there would be no local touch between the central body and the Borough Council. If an authority was created it should be a real authority. In the polytechnic body of which he was a member, he moved a Resolution in favour of the London County Council being the education authority, and that Resolution was carried because, knowing what the County Council had done in that particular branch of education, it was believed it would do equally well in other branches. He sincerely hoped the London County Council would be the authority, and that it would not be thwarted by men being sent to hold it back in its work, and, on the other hand, that the Borough Councils would not be asked to appoint men for that purpose, though he believed that the Borough Councils could do good work if properly utilised as local managers.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said the Government had pursued an extraordinary course. On one of the most important points in the Bill they had been subjected to a raking fire of criticism from their own supporters, and the President of the Local Government Board had sought cover in his trenches, the Secretary to the Board of Education had pleadingly asked the attacking party to cease firing, while the Commander-in-Chief—the Prime Minister—had simply retired out of range. The Government were proposing the extension to London of an Act of Parliament in regard to the working of which they had before them the experience of practically all the County Councils of England. Of those County Councils only that of Hertfordshire had adopted the plan which, in the face of all experience, the Government proposed to apply to London. They were going to say to the County Council, not only that they would constitute the

Committee, but that they would constitute it in a way which had been repudiated by every other County Council in the country except that of Hertfordshire. The only defender of the proposal in London was Limehouse, which comprised one-fifth of a borough, and the Government actually proposed that this Hertford-cum-Limehouse policy should govern the educational system under which London was to be brought up. Why was the London County Council to be deprived of a power enjoyed by every other County Council? Simply because London was large and important she was to be treated as though she were more insignificant than the smallest Urban Council. Experience of the grouping process in Wales showed that this foreign element of twelve borough councillors would be responsible to nobody; they might as well be selected by the twelve tribes of Israel. In this respect it was not a question of population. London was compact and accessible, and the schools in a particular district could be visited in a few hours, whereas in such districts as Lancashire and Yorkshire the schools were so scattered that the authority was forced to rely upon reports. The whole scheme was due simply to a mean and contemptible prejudice against the London County Council. The Government had achieved what he had thought was the impossible; they had made the Bill more ridiculous than before, but he hoped they would even now reconsider their position.

*MR. BURDETT-COUTTS (Westminster) said that he rose for the purpose of putting a question, particularly now that the Prime Minister had come back to the House. Where were they? The remarkable utterance of the Secretary to the Board of Education had left the Committee in as great a fog as Ministers had been in when framing and then completely changing this Committee of Education. He understood from that speech that the Committee were not about to vote upon the subject which had been under discussion for several hours, viz., the constitution of the Education Committee. If that were so, he was not very anxious about his own vote. If they were

about to vote on the question that had been discussed, it was a different thing. He objected to the suggestion that the Government should take time to consider this matter, because he was afraid if they did, they would alter their mind a third time. His own opinion was that the Government had introduced a good Bill, but that, so far as this Clause was concerned, they had made it a bad Bill, and he suggested that, if they were to make any further changes, they should direct their attention to the possibility of restoring the Bill to its original form.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: If the hon. Member is in doubt as to the issue on which the Committee are about to divide, he could hardly have been in the House about three o'clock when we had a discussion as to procedure.

MR. BURDETT-COUTTS: The right hon. Gentleman was not in the House when the Secretary of Education made his last speech.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It was then felt on both sides that it would be for the convenience of the Committee if, instead of repeating the discussion and arguments over and over again on different Amendments, we had one full and adequate discussion on the important question of whether or not the Borough Councils should have on the Education Committee the representation proposed by the Government. It is to that question the Committee addressed itself last night, and it is to that question the Committee has addressed itself throughout the hours of this afternoon.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said he understood the principle involved was the absolute right of the County Council to select its own Committee. They were not now judging the question of the twelve. The question was purely and simply the Bill of last year.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I agree that the decision about to be taken will not deal with all the details of my hon. friend's subsequent Amendment. It does not mean that if the Committee carried this Amendment hon. Members

would be precluded from suggesting modifications to my hon. friend's scheme. What, I think, by agreement will be decided is whether or not the London County Council is to be treated precisely as the County Councils of some other counties, or whether there is to be a representation of the Borough Councils upon the Education Committee. If that is not admitted, I hope hon. Members will interrupt me.

MR. BRYCE pointed out that there had been a general discussion ranging over the whole of the substituted clause proposed by the Government.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not know whether the right hon. Gentleman was in the House when the informal arrangement was come to between both sides of the House as to whether we should take this discussion now, or upon the question that this clause stand part of the Bill.

MR. BRYCE said he understood what was arranged then was that, at the suggestion of the right hon. Gentleman, a general discussion upon the whole proposal of the Government embodied in the Amendment of the Secretary to the Board of Education should be taken, but that had nothing to do with making the Amendment itself a test question in any way. The Amendment itself did not raise any substantial issue, and it was understood that this was to be a sort of Second Reading debate, and specific questions would be raised upon the proper Amendments.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not think that is quite an accurate description of what took place. I begged the House not to repeat the same discussion again and again, and not to have votes which decided nothing. Then the question arose as to whether the broad principle of this proposal is to be accepted or not. That could be discussed on the question that the clause stand part of the Bill. But the hon. Member for Carnarvon urged that sometimes the discussion on that question was not very adequate; and he preferred the present opportunity. I agreed, but on the understanding that the question was decided now. Of course, that does not carry with it an assent to every detail of my hon. friend's Amendment. The division is going to be taken

Mr. A. J. Balfour.

upon the general question. I hope, after the discussion which has taken place—from 3 o'clock to 12 o'clock yesterday, and from 3 o'clock to 7 o'clock to-day—the Committee will consider that this question has been adequately dealt with. I think the amount of heat and passion which this question has aroused is far in excess of the actual intrinsic importance it will have when the new body comes into working order. I do not think the compulsory addition of twelve representatives from the Borough Councils will have this extraordinary far-reaching effect which has been suggested by the speeches to which we have listened. I do not pretend to exaggerate the importance of this Amendment, but I do think that it is in accordance with the general principles which we have advocated from the beginning; and that, having regard to the special position of the London boroughs, which find no parallel anywhere else in the country, we are justified in extending to them exceptional treatment. If this exceptional treatment destroyed the supremacy of the London County Council, or if it were an instance of our distrust of the London County Council, if it were intended to cripple its wings and hamper its action, I could understand all this feeling in regard to our proposal. But that is not the object we have in view, and that will not be the effect of the Amendment. The London County Council will not only be supreme as the education authority, unhampered by any extraneous elements, but even in regard to those extraneous elements we shall take care that the County Council is also supreme. Its supremacy will remain untouched, and why this extraordinary grudging spirit should be displayed in regard to the comparatively small representation we propose to give to the Borough Councils I find it hard to understand. I respectfully venture to say that upon the large question of policy raised by my hon. friend's Amendment we are now perhaps ripe to come to a decision, and I trust the Committee will consent to take a vote upon it.

SIR JOHN GORST said the Committee embarked on this discussion on the invitation of the Secretary to the Board of Education. When the hon. Gentleman moved the innocent Amendment before the House he said that it would be in order to enter upon the

whole general question of his Amendment, and he invited the House to take part in that discussion. The Committee were now invited by the Prime Minister to take a division which was to decide the question, but they could not possibly do it. They had no objection to inserting those harmless words, and he hoped there would be no division; but when the Secretary to the Board of Education moved his Amendment they would move Amendments which would raise the real issue and enable the Committee to pronounce an opinion, which it could not pronounce upon the Motion now before them.

MR. BRYCE said there was no desire to divide the House upon this Motion, because it would settle nothing whatever. The material questions would be decided hereafter. He thought the Government had benefited by the discussion, which had been conducted without heat or passion. A great deal of counsel had been tendered to the Government which if they would ponder and weigh would very much abridge the subsequent proceedings of the Bill. He hoped the Government would give them some indication that the arguments which had been used had impressed them, and he trusted that the Committee would be left free to decide upon the Amendment of the Secretary to the Board of Education.

DR. MACNAMARA asked, as a point of order, whether, if the words under consideration were added to the clause, he would be precluded from moving to strike out from the Government's subsequent Amendment the words "and twelve shall be members of the metropolitan boroughs."

* THE CHAIRMAN: That Amendment would not be precluded. I said so before to-day, and I think I also said it last night.

SIR J. FERGUSSON (Manchester, N. E.) said that it would greatly assist many who earnestly desired to support the Government in their scheme as a whole, if it were understood that the House would be free to decide whether or not the representatives of the Borough Councils should be included in

the Committee. It would be a great assistance if the Government would declare that they did not regard the representation of the Borough Councils as a vital question.

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 9, to leave out from the word 'shall,' to the end of the Clause, and insert the words, 'consist of seventy-nine members, of whom forty-two shall be persons who are members of the local education authority appointed by that authority, and twelve shall be persons who are members of councils of metropolitan boroughs appointed in manner provided in the First Schedule to this Act, and twenty-five shall be appointed by the local education authority in accordance with a scheme under this Act made by that authority and approved by the Board of Education.'"

(2) "The local education authority may, if they think fit, appoint not more than five persons from among the members of the London School Board to be supernumerary members of the first Education Committee; but those supernumerary members shall cease to hold office on the expiration of a period of five years from the date of the constitution of the first Education Committee, and any vacancy in their number occurring by death, resignation, or otherwise shall not be filled up."—*(Sir William Anson.)*

Question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause," put, and negatived.

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. WHITLEY (Halifax) said he trusted that before they entered on the discussion of the Amendments on the Paper they might have an assurance from the Prime Minister that he would leave the matter open to be decided by the House. That appeal had been made from his own side of the House as well as from the Opposition side, and he was sure if the right hon. Gentleman assented it would tend very much to limit the discussion.

SIR JOHN GORST moved to leave out "seventy-nine Members," and to substitute "such number of Members as the local authority shall determine." That Amendment raised one of the points they had been discussing, and he hoped the Government would give way and not insist upon the retention of the

number in their proposal. The simple effect of his Amendment would be that the local education authority itself would be allowed to determine how many members the Committee should consist of.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said that the Government could not agree to the suggested words. He had only seen the Amendment in manuscript, but, if he understood it rightly, it meant that the County Council would have an absolute determination of the numbers of the Committee. Therefore, without regard to the question whether or not they were to have a majority on the Committee, the Council would be able so to regulate the number as to exclude the representatives of the Borough Councils.

SIR JOHN GORST: Oh no; I must not allow the hon. Gentleman to fall into such an error as that. Perhaps, I had better read how the clause would stand. It would read as follows—

“The Education Committee of the local education authority shall consist of such number of members as the local authority shall determine . . .”

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON apologised for not having fully apprehended the purport of the Amendment. He understood that the right hon. Gentleman's Amendment left the question of the borough representation perfectly open. On behalf of the Government he was prepared to accept that.

SIR JOHN GORST then moved a consequential Amendment to leave out “forty-two” and to substitute the words, “a majority.”

MR. SAMUEL EVANS asked the right hon. Baronet whether the words “a majority,” would mean a majority not of the body constituted under Clause 1 of the Bill, but an absolute majority of the whole body.

SIR JOHN GORST: I think it would be a majority of the whole body.

MR. LOUGH said the Committee ought to understand this matter fully. He thought the words would mean that the number was left to be determined by the local education authority. If

Sir John Gorst.

that was so, he thought the proposal was fairly satisfactory, but if the Government meant that it was merely to be a majority of one they ought not to pass the words without a little more consideration, for a majority of one was not an effective majority.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR was understood to state that it would not mean simply a majority of one.

Proposed Amendment amended.

“By leaving out the words, ‘seventy-nine members,’ and inserting the words ‘such number of members as the local education authority shall determine,’ and by leaving out the words ‘forty-two,’ and inserting the words, ‘a majority.’”—(*Sir John Gorst.*)

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY (Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey) moved an Amendment to omit the words—

“And twelve shall be persons who are members of councils of Metropolitan boroughs appointed in manner provided in the first schedule to this Act.”

He said that his object was to prevent the constitution of the Committee being of the heterogeneous and nondescript character which the inclusion of these words would make it. He did not think it would be denied that if this Education Committee were created according to the ideas of the Government it would be nothing but a patchwork Committee. There was a time when hon. Members opposite did their best to thwart the London County Council in connection with anything proposed by that body. He thought the Amendment devised by the Government in regard to the constitution of the Education Committee showed that the Tory Party had neither changed its skin nor its spots. This Amendment showed the same jealousy and spleen towards the County Council which were manifested in former days. If it was passed, the County Council would be in some measure disgraced, while the Borough Councils would be glorified. Why should the Government treat the London County Council in a different fashion from the County Councils all over the country? Why should there be any Borough Council representation on the Committee? It was unworthy of the Government to treat the London County Council in this fashion. He believed himself that if the

Government were to allow this matter to be settled by the good sense of the majority of the Committee, without introducing into it party politics, a very large majority of the Committee would decide to treat the London County Council as the other County Councils in the country had been treated, and that they would be given the sole control of the education of the City of London. The Government were taking an unwise step. This was not a party question which would affect the one side of the House or the other. They were all desirous to make the London Education Bill a good, workable, practical measure, and to place the education of London in the hands of those who would worthily carry it out. He insisted that this Government mosaic of London County Council and Borough Council representatives, with an admixture of experts from the outside, would make the Committee unworkable and inefficient. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to consent to the London County Council having the supreme control of education in London. Under these circumstances he ventured to move the omission of the words "forty two" and the insertion of the words "fifty four."

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, as amended—

"To leave out the words 'and twelve shall be persons who are members of councils of metropolitan boroughs appointed in manner provided in the First Schedule to this Act.'"—
(*Mr. George Whiteley.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment, as amended."

SIR JOHN GORST said he would fulfil his pledge and not make a speech. He only wished to say that this was the Amendment which raised perfectly, clearly, and distinctly the main subject of their discussion yesterday, viz., whether twelve members of the Borough Councils should or should not be added to the Education Committee statutorily.

MR. LOUGH said that when the Prime Minister came back to the House he stated that they had had a heated discussion on the matter. He wanted to assure the right hon. Gentleman that there had been no heat whatever; it was a businesslike discussion, and

all the most powerful speeches had been delivered from the Government benches. Only two Members entirely objected to the Amendment, and other two had partly objected to it. He most earnestly appealed to the right hon. Gentleman, who had not the advantage of hearing the whole of the arguments, to listen to one single point. In his own speech the right hon. Gentleman placed his argument for the twelve members on the desirability of increasing the dignity of the Borough Councils; but the right hon. Gentleman would remember that when these Borough Councils were being established every Member on that side of the House did everything they could to increase the dignity of these bodies. But the right hon. Gentleman then laid down the principle that the duties of these bodies should be confined to the localities for which they were constituted. The right hon. Gentleman was gradually departing from his own principle, for he was giving them a share of the work which belonged to the whole Metropolis. What could Greenwich have to say to the affairs of Wandsworth or Clapham?

* SIR WILLIAM ANSON, who spoke amid much interruption, said that he had been accused of not having given any expression of his own views or those of the Government on this matter. He stated in extenuation that the previous night he had explained his Amendment to the best of his power and ability, and he was prepared now to defend it. He must confess that he could not understand the extraordinary animus which had been displayed against these unfortunate twelve Members who were to represent the Borough Councils on the Education Committee of the London County Council; and all the more because the Government had never left the Committee in any doubt that it was their intention that the London County Council should be in reality, in fact as well as in name, the local education authority for London; and that they were prepared to constitute the Committee so that the London County Council should be able implicitly to trust it. They had had many forcible speeches on that side of the House against the representation of the Borough Councils,

but he was still quite prepared to defend it. His hon. friend the Member for Chelsea, arguing the previous night in a powerful speech against the representation of the boroughs, stated that the Borough Councils represented local interests, and that the London County Council represented general and central interests; that matters common to the whole of London should be dealt with by the London County Council, and that the special interests of localities should be represented by the Borough Councils. He could not help thinking that that was a strong argument for giving the Borough Councils an interest in the management and direction of the general policy which not only concerned the whole of London, but the special concerns of particular areas which differed the one from the other. The education necessary for one area might be perfectly different in some of its branches from that of other areas, because the trades in different parts of London were so distributed over London that industrial education of one form would be better for one part, and another sort for another part of London. He did not think the fact that there were distinct local interests and distinct central interests was any reason for ignoring the local interests when they were dealing with the interests of the whole of London and the interests of diverse parts of London.

Then, some hon. Members had told them that this representation of the Borough Councils was not worth having and that no Borough Council would care to be represented by a third or a half of a member. He noticed that that argument came from gentlemen who were members of the London County Council and were not members of Borough Councils and not interested in the local affairs of the boroughs. It was very easy to say that the thing was not worth having; but he took the opinion of the representatives of the Borough Councils. A considerable majority of these had expressed themselves in favour of any sort of representation of the boroughs, however these might be grouped, and however much their representation might be rendered difficult by the necessary condition of numbers. What local interests wanted in London was not so much large representation as

some one to speak up for the requirements of the different localities. The Borough Councils did not wish—and he did not desire that they should in any way act as a counterpoise to the London County Council. What they desired was that local interests, as distinct from central interests, should be regarded. They must bear in mind that the London County Council did not always represent the local interests of London. Many members of the London County Council were not Londoners in the sense that every member of the Borough Councils was a Londoner. The borough councillors very distinctly represented the local interests of the area. The London County Councillors represented an intelligent interest in the whole of London. A fear had been expressed that the London County Council would be embarrassed by the presence of Borough Council members on the Committee of the local education authority, but that fear must have been dispelled by the acceptance by the Government of the Amendment of the right hon. Member for Cambridge University. The Government felt that the Borough Councils needed that a link should be constituted between the central education authority and the boards of management. The Government could not consent to leave it an open question whether the Borough Councils should be included or not, and they adhered to the proposal in the Bill that there should be twelve representatives on the Education Committee.

*MR. CROOKS (Woolwich) said that after the speech of the hon. Baronet the Committee ought to know where they were being asked to go in accepting the proposal of the Government. How could the twelve borough councillors know anything about the districts they would be supposed to represent? Stepney had five separate divisions, and there would be added Bow and Bromley, and Poplar. How was it possible that one man could represent such an enormous area? It was not reasonable. Supposing Poplar elected the representative, Whitechapel, St. George's in the East, Stepney, and Limehouse would ask what he knew about their needs. He was a Member of a Borough Council, of which he had been

mayor, and that council absolutely declined to accept the responsibility it was sought to put upon it. Woolwich had also given no unmistakable vote on the question of an elected central authority. Were those districts to be totally ignored. It was the first time he realised how a man coming from a University could know nothing about local affairs, except the affairs of his own University. In Poplar and Stepney there were 109 councillors, Stepney having sixty and Poplar forty-nine. Was Poplar to dictate to Stepney as to the representative to be selected? If it did it would be ruled out immediately. What then became of the argument of local feeling? Woolwich had been included in four divisions with 120 or 130 councillors. Who was going to represent the locality there? If Deptford selected the representative, what would villadom, in the shape of Lewisham, have to say? If Lewisham elected the representative, what would he know about the needs of Deptford. Only half an hour ago a free and independent Member of Parliament appealed for permission to vote as he liked. Where were they? They were told that trades unions were

tyrannical; but here, in the British House of Commons, a man had to ask to be allowed to give an honest vote, and not be dictated to. He thought, in the circumstances, he was entitled to ask that the Government should leave the House of Commons to give a free expression of opinion on the Amendment. It was not a party question. It was a question affecting the education of London; and if hon. Members did not vote according to their consciences, he wanted to know what the House of Commons existed for at all.

Question put.

MR. CORRIE GRANT (Warwickshire, Rugby) asked, on a point of order, if the Chairman would merely put the first two words as he wished to move an Amendment to substitute for "twelve" the word "some."

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Gentleman is too late.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 195; Noes, 154. (Division List, No. 94.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (*Cork, N.E.*)
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir H.
Austin, Sir John
Bailey, James (*Waltham*)
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (*Manchester*)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (*Leeds*)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christchurch*)
Barry, Sir Fras. T. (*Windsor*)
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Hicks
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boland, John
Bousfield, William Robert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brymer, William Ernest
Bull, William James
Butcher, John George
Campbell, J. H. M. (*Dublin Univ.*)
Campbell, John (*Armagh, S.*)
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (*N. Lancs.*)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (*Birm.*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. A. (*Worc.*)
Chaplin, Right Hon. Henry

Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, H. Shepherd (*Bolton*)
Crossley, Sir Savile
Cullinan, J.
Davies, Sir Horatio D. (*Chatham*)
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (*Galway*)
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Donelan, Captain A.
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir J. E.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. E.
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Fardell, Sir T. George
Farrell, James Patrick
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Ed.
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose
Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Gibbs, H. A. G. H. (*City of Lond.*)
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.

Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nairn*)
Gordon, Maj Evans (*Tr. H'm'ts*)
Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
Graham, Henry Robert
Groves, James Grimble
Gunter, Sir Robert
Hain, Edward
Hall, Edward Marshall
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hayden, John Patrick
Heath, James (*Staffords. N.W.*)
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hogg, Lindsay
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Howard, Jn. (*Kent, Fave'h'm*)
Howard, J. (*Midd., Tott'ham*)
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Joyce, Michael
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*)
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon. Fredk. Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Lawson, Jn. Grant (*Yorks. N.E.*)
Leamy, Edmund
Lee, A. H. (*Hants, Fareham*)
Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. E.

Llewellyn, Evan Henry
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Rt. Hn. W. (*Bristol, S.*)
 Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*)
 London, W.
 MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
 Maconochie, A. W.
 M'Liver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh, W.*)
 M'Killop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)
 Maple, Sir John Blundell
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 More, Robt. Jasper (*Shropshire*)
 Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
 Morgan, Hn. F. (*Monmouthsh.*)
 Morrison, James Archibald
 Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
 Murphy, John
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (*Bute*)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
 Myers, William Henry
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Nolan, Joseph (*Louth, S.*)
 O'Brien, K. (*Tipperary, Mid*)
 O'Brien, Patrick (*Kilkenny*)
 O'Connor, James (*Wicklow, W.*)
 O'Connor, T. P. (*Liverpool*)
 O'Malley, William
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay

Palmer, Walter (*Salisbury*)
 Percy, Earl
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Plummer, Walter R.
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Pym, C. Guy
 Randles, John S.
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rattigan, Sir William Henry
 Redmond, Jn. E. (*Waterford*)
 Redmond, William (*Clare*)
 Reid, James (*Greenock*)
 Remnant, James Farquharson
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Ridley, S. F. (*Bethnal Green*)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
 Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
 Roper, Colonel Sir Robert
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Roys, Clement Molyneux
 Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
 Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
 Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
 Seely, Chas. Hilton (*Lincoln*)
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Ren-*
Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Smith, Jas. Parker (*Lanarks.*)
 Spear, John Ward
 Spencer, Sir E. (*W. Bromwich*)

Stanley, Edw. Jas. (*Somerset*)
 Stanley, Lord (*Lancashire*)
 Stewart, Sir M. J. M. Taggart
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stock, James Henry
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (*Oxford Univ*)
 Thornburn, Sir Walter
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. E. M.
 Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Sir Edgar (*Exeter*)
 Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
 Webb, Col. William George
 Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (*Taunton*)
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. J. Lloyd
 Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
 Williams, Colonel R. (*Dorset*)
 Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
 Wilson John (*Glasgow*)
 Wilson-Todd, W. H. (*Yorks.*)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*)
 Wrightson, Sir Thomas
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES.—
 Sir Alexander Acland-
 Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allan, Sir William (*Gateshead*)
 Allhusen, Augustus Hy. Eden
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbt. Hy.
 Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Beckett, Ernest William
 Bell, Richard
 Black, Alexander William
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Bond, Edward
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
 Bowles, T. Gibson (*Lynn Regis*)
 Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Burns, John
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Robert
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasgow*)
 Craig, Robert Hunter (*Lanark*)
 Cremer, William Randal
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Crooks, William
 Davies, M. Vaughan (*Cardign*)
 Denny, Colonel
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
 Duncan, J. Hastings
 Dunn, Sir William
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
 Edwards, Frank

Emmott, Alfred
 Evans, Sir F. H. (*Maidstone*)
 Evans, Saml. T. (*Glamorgan*)
 Fenwick, Charles
 Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (*Man'r*)
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Foster, Sir Michl. (*Lond. Univ*)
 Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Fuller, J. M. F.
 Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
 Grant, Corrie
 Gray, Ernest (*West Ham*)
 Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (*Berwick*)
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
 Guthrie, Walter Murray
 Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
 Hardie, J. Keir (*Merthyr Tyd*)
 Harmsworth, R. Leicester
 Harwood, George
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick G.
 Hay, Hon. Claude George
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale
 Havter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
 Helme, Norval Watson
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
 Hobbhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristol, E*)
 Holland, Sir William Henry
 Hope, John Deans (*Fife, West*)
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (*Morley*)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Kitson, Sir James
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lambert, George

Laurie, Lieut.-General
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Leese, Sir Jos. F. (*Accrington*)
 Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
 Leng, Sir John
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Lough, Thomas
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
 M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*)
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 M'Laren, Sir Charles Benjamin
 Mappin, Sir Fredk. Thorpe
 Markham, Arthur Basil
 Mellor, Rt. Hn. John William
 Newnes, Sir George
 Norman, Henry
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 Palmer, Sir Charles M. (*Durham*)
 Partington, Oswald
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
 Pease, J. A. (*Saffron Walden*)
 Pemberton, John S. G.
 Perks, Robert William
 Philipps, John Wynford
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Price, Robert John
 Priestley, Arthur
 Rea, Russell
 Reid, Sir R. Threshie (*Dumfries*)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Rigg, Richard
 Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
 Roe, Sir Thomas
 Rose, Charles Day

Runciman, Walter
 Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Shackleton, David James
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (*Stafford*)
 Shaw, Thomas (*Hawick, B.*)
 Shipman, Dr. John G.
 Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
 Sloan, Thomas Henry
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Soares, Ernest J.
 Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
 Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
 Taylor, Theo. C. (*Radcliffe*)

Thomas, A. (*Carmarthen, E.*)
 Thomas, Sir A. (*Glam., E.*)
 Thomas, David Alfred (*Merthyr*)
 Thomas, J. A. (*Glam., Gower*)
 Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
 Toulmin, George
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Walton, J. Lawson (*Leeds, S.*)
 Walton, Joseph (*Barnsley*)
 Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
 Wason, E. (*Clackmannan*)
 Wason, John Cathcart (*Orkney*)
 Weir, James Galloway
 White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)

Whiteley, G. (*York, W. R.*)
 Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, O. (*Merioneth*)
 Wilson, Fred. W. (*Norfolk, Mid.*)
 Wilson, John (*Durham, Mid*)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (*Huddersf'd*)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES.—
 Mr. Peel and Mr. Henry
 Hobhouse.

Question again proposed, "That those words, as amended, be there inserted."

And, it being after half-past Seven of the Clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

EVENING SITTING.

CONGO FREE STATE.

*MR. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, Cleveland) said, on moving the Motion standing in his name, it would naturally be asked what was the right of intervention which the Government of this country had in the affairs of the Congo Free State. The Motion asked the Government to intervene in the affairs of that country for the purpose of mitigating the evils under which the Congolese suffered at the hands of the Government of the Congo Free State. The Congo Free State stood in a position unique in the history of the world. It was not a State created by gradual evolution or by right of conquest, or by fission from some pre-existing State, but it had been created by common consent of all the great Powers, and had been entrusted not to any of the existing Powers but to an individual. A large area in West Africa belonged to no Power, and the Powers of the world assigned it to the King of the Belgians, chiefly in order that none of the other Powers should possess it. But it was assigned under certain conditions, first of which was the furtherance of the moral and material well-being of the natives, and second that the trade of all nations

should enjoy complete freedom. Article 5 of the General Act of Berlin said—

"No power which exercises or shall exercise sovereign rights in the above mentioned regions shall be allowed to grant therein a monopoly or favour of any kind in matters of trade."

And again—

"The trade of all nations shall enjoy complete freedom."

Those conditions were solemnly made by the Powers in conference at Berlin, and this country is one of those Powers and had a right to insist on those conditions being carried out. Moreover, the Congo Free State adjoined no less than four of our African possessions, Rhodesia, British Central Africa Protectorate, the Uganda Protectorate, and the Soudan. At one point its territories not merely adjoined our own but overlapped, for the Lado enclave was an area belonging to Britain which was leased to the King of the Belgians. Everything which happened in a country which was so closely connected with our possessions could not be a matter of indifference to us. With regard to the question of trade rights and infringement of those rights, he would deal with that first as being the less important and the easier to deal with. As soon as the Congo Free State was created, steps were taken by the Government of that country to annex to the Government all vacant land within the area of the State; that meant all lands except those actually occupied by natives for their villages and plantations, and a few small patches of soil in the occupation of Europeans. By a series of decrees from 1885 to 1889 all land was vested in the Government. In 1892 what was called the *Domaine Privé* was established. Out of 900,000 square miles of this territory, no less than 800,000 now formed what was called the

Domaine Privé. The whole of the Congo Free State, with the single exception of a very small portion west of Stanley Pool, was regarded as a private possession. Measures were soon adopted for exploiting this vast area. A large amount of it was worked directly by the State, which had the rubber collected and brought in to its officers, and large tracts had been let to concessionary companies, in which the State held half the shares; and within the area assigned to those companies no outside trader was allowed to carry on his business—in direct defiance of the Article 5 of the Treaty of Berlin. There was an absolute monopoly in all these huge areas. A proof of that had been furnished by the Parliamentary Paper issued last night. An unfortunate man named Rabinek was arrested on a British ship and was sentenced to a year's imprisonment and a fine. He never served the imprisonment because he died from exposure to the effects of the climate, but he was convicted, as was definitely stated in the official papers, of trading in a district in which public trade was forbidden. British merchants were constantly complaining that it was absolutely impossible to carry on a legitimate trade. The exports of the Congo Free State amounted to £2,000,000, the exports to Belgium, £1,860,000, and to England, £11,400, which were considerably below what they were in 1888. It was interesting to contrast those figures with the French West African possessions, where it would be remembered there was no free trade except in part of the French Congo. The total trade there was £6,880,000, of which the trade with Great Britain was £936,000, or 14 per cent. The population of French West Africa was about the same as that of the Congo Free State, estimated at rather over 20,000,000. On the other hand, the Congo Free State was supposed to be under a free trade régime. It had a total trade of nearly £3,000,000, of which the trade with the United Kingdom was only £104,000, or 3·5 per cent., so that in French West Africa, under a protective régime our trade was four times as large in proportion as it was in the Congo Free State. This was sufficient to show how completely the conditions were violated as regards Free Trade to all nations.

He would now turn to the treatment of the native population living under the dominion of the Government of the Free

Mr. Herbert Samuel.

State. When the Congo Free State was founded the world looked on with sympathy, and philanthropists with enthusiasm. At last, it was said, we should have a State with a humanitarian on the throne; in these vast regions philanthropic principles would have full scope. At the Berlin Conference, Baron de Courcel spoke of "the generous aspirations" with which this State had been founded. Sir Edward Malet said its founders were "dominated by a purely philanthropic idea," while Bismarck spoke of the "noble efforts" which would "render great services in the cause of humanity," and King Leopold himself said "our only programme is the work of moral and material re-generation." An atmosphere of goodwill and high principle surrounded all these proceedings, and it was expected and believed that the Congo Free State would play the part of a kindly guardian, govern its subjects with infinite kindness, guard them from the evils from which they had suffered, and lead them to the light of civilisation. At the present moment there was forced labour of many kinds authorised by law; forced military service; cannibal troops had been let loose to raid their neighbours, and there had been a never-ending tyranny and constant atrocities. Guizot said of the French Republic of 1848, that it began with Plato and ended with the *gendarme*. The same might be said of the Congo Free State. Men required for carriers were kidnapped in the woods, and the rubber companies coerced natives to work in the same way. Soldiers were needed for the great armies raised; they had been demanded from the chiefs and enlisted by force, and carried off to distant parts of the country, and compelled to serve for five years in the regular forces and two years in the reserve. Out of 16,000 men 11,000 were obtained in this fashion. It was a very different thing to conscription in a European country, where a man was called upon to perform a patriotic duty to the State to which he was usually devoted, and for a limited period. In the Congo natives were forced to enlist, and were sent 500 or 600 miles away to distant parts of the territory, among people who were practically foreigners to them, and kept

there for five years. For the collection of rubber there was introduced a system known as the sentry system, under which native soldiers, without the control of white officers, were stationed in the villages with the duty of compelling the natives to work. The consequences of all this were continuous resistance, smuggling, mutinies, wars, punitive expeditions, constant seething turmoil, and barbarous acts of repression.

The House would naturally expect some instances of the evils of which he now complained. He would first take the case of Mr. Morrison, of the American Baptist Mission, who was seven years in the Congo, who had lately returned, and who had furnished a statement which was now in the hands of the Foreign Office. He said:—

“In the months of August and September of the year 1899 occurred, about three days from Luebo, one of the most shameful affairs that has come within my knowledge. By way of explanation it is necessary to say that at the State post of Luluaburg, which is about five days march from Luebo, is located a large village of people called Zappo-Zapps. They are cannibals, and were brought from far to the east, and settled there by a State officer named Paul Le Marinel about the year 1890. Ever since their coming to Luluaburg they have been a terror to the whole surrounding district. In fact, having guns and being known to be cannibals and very brave warriors, they have all these years been the great slave-dealers and slave-raiders of the district.

“During the last days of July, 1899 (or about that time), news reached us at Luebo that a large band of Zappo-Zapps, under a famous warrior chief named Mlumba Nkusa, was proceeding into the Bena Pianga country, not far from one of our Mission stations, in order to collect tribute and get stores for the State. Upon hearing this news I wrote at once to our missionary at Ibanj, the Rev. W. H. Sheppard, F.R.G.S., warning him to be on the look-out for trouble. He had not long to wait, for soon the news began to come in from the region only one day from the station that the Zappo-Zapps had established themselves in a strong stockade near a village named Chinnyama, from which they were almost daily sallying forth to catch slaves, demand tribute from villagers, and kill all who dared oppose them. This condition of affairs went on uninterrupted by the officer at Luluaburg, though only four—or at the most five—days distant. The greatest terror prevailed throughout the whole region, extending even as far as Luebo and beyond. Many thousands of people had deserted their villages and fled to the forests for safety.

“At last word came to Mr. Sheppard that the Zappo-Zapps had treacherously invited a large number of the prominent chiefs of the region to come inside the stockade, and that there they had been shot down without

quarter. The mission then asked Mr. Sheppard, who was also a friend of many of the Zappo-Zapps, to go and carefully investigate the whole affair, taking with him some reliable native men, who could, if necessary, corroborate the statements he made.

“Mr. Sheppard saw along the way several burnt villages, also some wounded persons. He reached the well-arranged stockade, and was received in a friendly way by Mlumba Nkusa and his 500 or more followers. Inside the stockade Mr. Sheppard saw and counted eighty-one human hands slowly drying over a fire.” [He might explain that what the scalp was to the North American Indian the hand was to the Congo native—the proof that his enemy had been killed.] “Outside the stockade he counted more than two score bodies piled in a heap. Some of these bodies had the flesh carved from the legs. Upon asking what this meant he was informed by Mlumba Nkusa that his people had eaten the flesh. Mr. Sheppard also saw several Albinis rifles and a pistol, with cartridges—all of which natives are forbidden to have. Mlumba Nkusa said plainly that he had been sent by the State officer at Luluaburg, and that he had already despatched to him sixteen slaves.”

An inquiry was held into the matter but none of the Belgian authorities were punished. Another missionary, whose name he was not at liberty to give, confirmed Mr. Morrison's statement and added—

“These men had been pillaging and murdering with the same place as headquarters for over a month, three days easy march from the headquarters of the Chef de Zone.”

And he went on to say that “the native chief of the expedition was kept under arrest for a short time and then turned loose, which I believe is not far wrong, as he being only a savage chief was simply doing what his chief officers had ordered him to do. I understand to his credit, moreover, from reliable information, that the State wanted him to go out on another such expedition and he refused to go.” He would now continue Mr. Morrison's statement—

“During the months of June, July, and August of last year we had at Luebo—and in fact throughout the region between Luluaburg and Luebo—another reign of terror. A new officer, named Deschamps, had just come into power at Luluaburg. During my absence he came to Luebo, and there, without a warning to the chiefs or villagers, sent out his soldiers to catch men by force wherever they could be found. The people fled at once to the forests for safety; some of the women and children, as is their custom in such times of fear, found refuge about the Mission premises. He went away with a number of men thus caught. Upon my return to Luebo, only a few days after the departure of the officer, and finding the whole community naturally in a state of unrest, I made complaint to the authorities

about the matter. Scarcely had my letter been despatched when another officer, named Ducès, sent by Deschamps, came to 'recruit' soldiers, as he said. I went to him, and in person demanded protection for the natives, and urged that none be taken by force. This M. Ducès promised, and I in turn told the natives what he had said. Within a few days, however, he received imperative orders from his chief, Deschamps. Consequently he began catching the people by force. They fled to the forests for safety; but day after day, for perhaps a week or ten days, the soldiers scoured the woods in search of men. They succeeded in catching about eighteen or twenty, and these I saw taken away under guard, tied about the necks with ropes.

"This whole affair I reported to the Native Protection Commission appointed by the King some years ago, of which the Rev. George Grenfell is the secretary, asking it to see that the natives were protected in their rights. The only answer I received was that the State had established forced labour by law, and that doubtless the officers were acting entirely within their powers, the Commission thus sheltering itself and the officers guilty of these outrages under a form of legality."

Mr. Morrison's statements were confirmed by eight witnesses, whose names he had seen, but which, for obvious reasons, he was not able to give. Another case was that of Mrs. Banks, who described in 1895 how "she saw a native sentry beating and loudly abusing a poor woman who was crossing the station with a basket on her back. On investigating the cause of the disturbance she found that the basket was full of hands which had been cut off in one of the rubber palavers, and that instead of nineteen hands only eighteen could be found, the woman having dropped one *en route*. Mrs. Banks herself counted the smoked hands, and found some of them to belong to children, others to women, and to men. Many of the victims were relations of the poor creature who was bearing the basket to the local agent." He had seen letters from a missionary, who was stationed in the Bangala district, written within the last year, but whose name he was not able to give, for he said—

"I am not afraid of what the State may do to me personally, but I fear that some officers might try and worry me through the people with whom I work—hence my reticence in appealing in any of these matters."

Those who were interested in this matter felt that this was a most unfortunate thing, as there were many missionaries who had not the courage to speak out as to the facts. The Armenians had a

Mr. Herbert Samuel,

saying that when a man told the truth he must mount his horse and ride as far as he possibly can from the person to whom he has spoken the truth. Apparently some of the missionaries held the same view. That missionary went on to speak of the taxes, and described the meaning of the sentry system. "The State has every two miles a sentry, with a subordinate or two, and two or three servants from the locality. It is a part of his duty to see that the tax is taken up regularly, and if he does not do so he is severely rebuked by the commissaire. Now, a keen-witted soldier will see that he is not reprimanded, and an unprincipled soldier will do anything to the people to get the tax out of them rather than run the risk of a reprimand and so making himself a marked man in the commissaire's book. I leave you to imagine all the oppression and misery which arises out of this system." But the evidence they had was not only from missionaries. Mr. Pickersgill, who was British Consul in 1898, said—

"A sentry on the Congo is a dare-devil aboriginal chosen from troops impressed outside the district in which he serves, for his loyalty and force of character. Armed with a rifle and pouch of cartridges he is located in a native village to see that the labour for which its inhabitants are responsible is duly attended to. If they are india rubber collectors, his duty is to send the men into the forest and take note of those who do not return with the proper quantity. When food is the tax demanded, his business is to make sure that the women prepare and deliver it; and in every other matter connected with the Government he is the factotum, as far as that village is concerned, of the officer of the district, his power being limited only by the amount of zeal the latter may show in checking oppression."

Some years ago many hundreds of British subjects from Sierra Leone and the Gold Coast were recruited as labourers and artisans in the Congo Free State. Those that went sent home such frightful accounts of what they suffered that in 1896 our Government had to stop the recruiting. In 1896 the present Colonial Secretary said in that House that—

"Complaints had been received of these British subjects having been employed without their consent as soldiers, and of their having been cruelly flogged and in some cases shot. They were engaged with the knowledge of Her Majesty's representative, and every possible

precaution was taken in their interests, but in consequence of the complaints received the recruiting for the Congo and the West African colonies had now been prohibited."

Mr. Robert Codrington, the Administrator of North Eastern Rhodesia in 1902, reported that there was

"No trade properly so-called on the Congo coast of Tanganyika, but that all rubber and ivory are regarded as the property of the State, and have to be surrendered by the natives in fixed quantities annually; the natives are, however, continually in rebellion, and the country is unsafe, except in the immediate vicinity of the military garrisons and within the sphere of influence of the missionaries.

"When they could do so, the natives fled to the territories governed by other Powers. M. de Lamotte, the Governor of the French Congo, said in his evidence before a Commission on Colonial Concessions held in Paris in 1900—"The agents of the Abir (one of the great rubber companies) have used their powers to such effect that they have succeeded in inducing 30,000 natives to leave their territory and take refuge on the French bank of the Congo."

Mr. Hall, a missionary who had recently returned, said that those natives who lived near the Portuguese boundary were steadily migrating into Portuguese territory. When he was in Uganda a year ago he was told by a British official that it was a frequent occurrence for natives to cross over to British territory in order to be free from the treatment to which they were exposed across the border. Those instances were very far from being the whole of the cases that could be quoted. Were he to read all the instances he should keep the House until the late hours of the next morning. There were very many witnesses who had testified to these atrocities. [Mr. Herbert Samuel here read the names of a large number of persons whose evidence might be consulted.] When they remembered that no one had an interest in exposing these misdeeds, while many had an interest in defending the Congo Free State, when they remembered that it was almost by chance that these things had come to light, they might shudder at the thought of how many crimes had been committed in secret in the darkness and silence of the great forest. He was not one of those short-sighted philanthropists who thought that the natives must be treated in all respects on equal terms with white men. In the speeches he had made on behalf of the negro population of Africa he had never put forward such excessive

claims. But there were certain rights which must be common to humanity. The rights of liberty and of just treatment should be common to all humanity, and especially should those rights be received from a State which was avowedly founded for the purpose of elevating the negro population, and introducing among them the benefits of civilisation. If the administration of the Congo State was civilisation, then he asked, what was barbarism? Financially the activity of this government had been a brilliant success. There was never a deficit in the finances. The companies which had been founded to exploit the rubber industry had prospered amazingly, and the State had a share of the enormous profits which they had made. One great company, which started with a capital of £1,000,000, paid a dividend in 1899 of 270 per cent., in 1900 470 per cent., and in 1901 245 per cent. When it was remembered that the State held half the shares and received half the profits it was obvious that the Congo Free State had proved a remunerative undertaking. King Leopold had said that "the wealth of a Sovereign consisted in the prosperity of his people." They might suspect that there were sometimes other sources also!

He had done his best not to exaggerate the case. He had been anxious not to do injustice. It was only fair to say that the Congo State had done good work in excluding alcoholic liquors from the greater part of their domain, that they had established a certain number of hospitals, had diminished smallpox by means of vaccination, and had suppressed the Arab slave trade—although, in the words of our consul, Mr. Pickersgill, the system that had been introduced was "a mere modification of the evil that had been attacked." He could not but believe that King Leopold would desire that these atrocities should be stopped, but they were the inevitable outcome of the system which was authorised. In punishing those who were guilty of those atrocities they were merely dealing with symptoms and not causes. They could not have forced labour, heavy taxation, the sentry system, and these immense profits without disastrous results. Even under the best circumstances this would be so, even with officials of the very highest standard. But Belgium had no colonisation experience, and the class of Belgian officials was not

of the type which many of them would wish to see placed in command of large native populations. These officials were scattered over vast areas and were subject to the influence of a deadly climate, affected by malaria, were depressed by loneliness, and were entrusted with despotic power over greatly inferior peoples. Therefore, it was not to be wondered at that the results were disastrous. He was glad to think that public opinion was waking up to the evils of which they complained. The Associated Chambers of Commerce of England last March passed a resolution asking the Government to take action on behalf of British merchants. The Free Churches had passed resolutions. In Germany a congress had been held last year which called for international action. The exact course which should be adopted was a matter for those in authority. The Act of Berlin provided that an International Commission should be appointed, primarily to regulate the navigation of the Congo, but also to investigate any charges made of breaches of the Act. That Commission had not been appointed. His Majesty's Government might propose to the other Powers concerned that that International Commission should be established and that through its agency steps should be taken to abate these evils. It would shortly become necessary for the Powers to decide whether the duties on goods imported into the Congo State should be allowed to continue, and His Majesty's Government would then have an opportunity of taking action in concert with the other Powers. He trusted the Government would realise that in this matter apathy and delay were intolerable. Even on commercial grounds the Government could not refuse to take action. But there were many people who were stirred more by consideration of the sufferings of the negro populations than by the material considerations of matters of trade. It was to those people, inside and outside of the House, that he appealed. It had always been the boast of this country, not only that our own native subjects were governed on principles of justice, but that, ever since the days of Wilberforce, England had been the leader in all movements on behalf of the backward

racés of the earth. Here was an occasion when those responsible for our policy, basing themselves on a treaty publicly and solemnly made, publicly and flagrantly violated, might pursue those great traditions, and by taking the initiative in this matter might add to the annals of the good deeds of our country. He begged to move the Resolution standing in his name.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) said it must not be supposed that the vast district of the Congo was unknown to British trade and British missions before the King of the Belgians went there. In 1874 Lieutenant Lovett Cameron traversed the territory from end to end, and made treaties with the chiefs in the upper and lower portions of the Congo for the annexation of the Congo basin. Those treaties were subject to ratification by the Cabinet. They were submitted to the Cabinet by Lord Carnarvon, but assent was refused. In a despatch of 1876 the Government laid down the position with regard to our trading rights in the Congo State. They directed Sir William Hewett to make fresh treaties with the chiefs on the south bank of the Congo for absolute free trade, and similar treaties were made by other naval officers on the north bank. Those treaties would be found in Hertslet's "Map of Africa by Treaty," and they were intended to make it clear that we should continue to have in future and for all time those large rights by which we had profited up to that time. In 1876 Sir T. F. Buxton and the right hon. Member for the Honiton Division took part in starting at Brussels the International African Association. In 1880-81 De Brazza for the French and Mr. H. M. Stanley for the King of the Belgians made treaties on both banks of the river; and in the struggle that developed assurances were given of the utmost freedom for all who wished to extend their trade there in almost the terms of the Berlin Act. The personal assurances of King Leopold were as could be conceived. In 1882 the King informed us that his

"Sole object was to open Africa to the trade of all nations and to allow the penetration of civilisation."

Mr. Herbert Samuel.

His association had "no commercial character" but was

"An association of wealthy philanthropists who, in the disinterested aims of civilisation and for love of progress, sought to open the basin of the Congo."

That was the first solemn assurance, and that "sole object" was put before all the trading classes in this country. The Commercial Department of the Foreign Office was directed to give assurances to Hatton and Gookson, of Liverpool, who had great interests there, and to Holt, of Liverpool, and the Chambers of Commerce of Liverpool and Manchester, that continued complete freedom of trade would be in any case maintained. The Government were a party to these assurances; and it was their bounden duty to see that these assurances were continued and maintained. King Leopold was in the position of despotic ruler in the country, and could not approach the Government through his Belgian Ministers. He could only approach the Government in a private way. Sir William Mackinnon, whose philanthropy could not be doubted, was the intermediary, and on behalf of King Leopold he informed all the Chambers of Commerce of the personal pledge by the King as to his "sole object." The King offered an International Commission upon which we were to be represented, the King being first President. The Portuguese then offered a similar plan. M. de Serpa, the Portuguese Minister, used language which confirmed the view which he had put before the House on this subject, for he said—

"There exist already there commercial interests without privilege and without distinction of nationality. The Congo is already the seat of an important commerce and of European establishments."

Those were the establishments well known in Liverpool and Manchester, and they were almost all British. That was the situation then. In 1884 Sir W. Mackinnon was the intermediary, and he, on behalf of the King, promised "absolute freedom of trade" and "absence of privilege."

In 1884-85 came the Berlin Conference. Sir J. Pouncefote was sent direct from the Foreign Office. Sir E. Malet was our principal plenipotentiary, and Baron de Courcel was the principal French plenipotentiary; and the two

latter were still living and could confirm the statement that the assurances were repeated. The basis of the Conference was "freedom of commerce within the basin of the Congo," and, "to bring the natives within the pale of civilisation." Note was taken of the declarations of the King by the Berlin Act and protocols, and two sets of words were used. One declared against "monopoly or favour of any kind in matters of trade," and the other form was "no monopoly or privilege of any kind in commercial matters." Baron de Courcel, on behalf of a Committee of the Conference, explained that this included trade in "all products of the soil." The House would now see the importance of that admission when it was remembered what was the subject of those concessions and monopoly rights of which they had heard to-night. There was one point not referred to by the hon. Member for the Cleveland Division. The House had seen the correspondence with regard to missions asking for stations. There was a distinct expression of the right of foreigners to acquire "immovable possessions" in the Congo Basin. But they did not rest their case on personal assurances, or even on the protocols of the Conference; this country had a Convention with the Congo State embodying the conditions of our recognition of the existence of the State. That Convention, in language which he would have thought strong enough to cover anything, gave British subjects the "right of buying, selling, letting, or hiring lands," and from this it was evident that missionaries ought not to be obliged to beg for land; they had the most complete right to acquire stations. In the American Convention the words were equally strong, though in a different form. Our Consuls had reported to the Government on these matters, and in reply to a question with reference to representations from the Chambers of Commerce of Manchester and Liverpool, the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs said these matters "had been the subject of repeated attention by the Consul." But these things had been going on for a long time, and it had been notorious to the world that there had been violations, not only of plighted word, but of solemn treaty

engagements. It was not enough to say the subject had had attention. There must be Reports on the subject, but the House had not had them. Undoubtedly, for one reason or another, there had been a certain timidity on the part of the Government in regard to taking action.

The decrees of the State had been alluded to, and these decrees in effect made the whole land and all the products of the soil in this vast region the personal property of King Leopold. More than that, as though that were not enough by way of monopoly, almost the whole field had been covered by nine concessions to large companies. It was not a question of diminishing trade; our trade had been killed by these operations. There was nothing but monopoly; no open trade was left. These concessions covered everything worth having in the Congo Valley. One of the concessions extended even to the Bahr-el-Ghazel in the Anglo-Egyptian sphere, though this was not now being worked. It was a theoretical concession, but it showed that there was no limit to the pretensions of the Congo State. As regarded seven out of the nine concessions, the 50 per cent. arrangement prevailed; there was one about which little or nothing was known. But even in regard to those in which the State took 50 per cent., a large proportion of the remaining shares were held by the other companies. They were all tied together—a mode of operation well known in the least reputable financial quarters. There was one exception. In the case of the Katanga concession the State took two-thirds of the whole of the shares. That was a gigantic concession covering the whole of the district nearest to our own possessions, coming right up to our territory, and therefore having a closer and more immediate bearing on the development of our own territories than any other. As a specimen of the way in which this Katanga concession was likely to work in the neighbourhood of our possessions, let the House take the Rabinek case, the Papers in which had been laid on the Table. This man was arrested for the crime of desiring to trade, not in arms, not in liquor, not in any of the prohibited articles, but for

merely desiring to trade. There was, it seemed to him, the most absolute monopoly in these cases of the products of the soil, and the most absolute and direct violation of the principles laid down by Baron de Courcel. He could not imagine that the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs would deny that there had been a complete violation of the Berlin Act; and, if he admitted that, he thought they had established a case where we must insist on our treaty rights being fulfilled. It would not do for years to go on without anything being said in the matter by the Government.

As to the question of the natives, the whole anti-slavery world had been swindled by the Administration of the Congo State. There could be no doubt that the founders of the State—especially this country, the mother country of the liberty of the native, and the leader in the abolition of slavery—were honest in their original intention; they desired to improve the condition of the natives, but, as he had said, they had been swindled by the Administration of the Congo State. In 1897 he raised a debate in this House on that question, the only occasion on which the Congo question had ever been debated. At that time they had no evidence before them of the horrors of which they could now speak. They went upon what they knew must be the state of things from the decrees. It was obvious that there was a complete enslavement of the whole population, and that it could lead to nothing but a system of horrors. They had the facts of the military system before them, because Captain Hinde had written a book showing with awful simplicity that the military system in the Congo State consisted of bringing in cannibal tribes, marching them without any commissariat through the country to be attacked, and rationing them on the bodies of the killed, carrying dried bodies with them for the purpose. The Congo State had palliated, but had never attempted to deny, the charges incidentally made by Captain Hinde. Within a month they received evidence that they did not possess at the time of the debate. There came to this country the Swedish Baptist missionary, Sjöblom—a man whom everybody who heard him believed—and he

told them that everything that had been foreseen, as the result of the decrees, had existed and did exist. He described to them the sentry system, under which a wild man was brought a long distance and put down in a native village with instructions that so much rubber was to be brought to him every day. The people were given to understand this, and if any went fishing they were shot down as a warning to others. When the rubber in that particular district was exhausted, the wretched people were driven to raid the territories of neighbouring tribes, and horrible scenes of bloodshed were the result. Then a force of twenty or thirty men, armed with repeating rifles, would be sent among the people, and they would preserve the hands of the people shot to show how many had been killed. Although the Congo State had been spending money like water within the last few weeks in publishing denials of all sorts of things, and in sending lying books to Members of this House, no attempt had been made to answer the charges either of Dr. Hinde or of Mr. Sjöblom. Missionaries had been blamed, perhaps with justice, but at all events they had something to say for themselves in this matter. It was not a climate in which men would lightly take the responsibility and run the awful risk of making such charges. Mr. Sjöblom was threatened. In one book, "By a Belgian," defending the Congo State, it was said that "no clear and precise statement had ever been made to the administration of justice, and that no one would take openly the responsibility of the charges." Mr. Sjöblom did take openly the responsibility, and he had never been contradicted. But while in the State he was threatened by one of the highest officials. He was accused of having told the natives not to bring in rubber. Answering that he had never done such a thing, these words were used to him—

"If you go on with this, that charge will be brought against you, and that means five years penal servitude."

On pages 71 and 72 of the same book there were quoted as defending the State, men who would be shocked to see their names used in such a connection. Sir Harry Johnston, who had never been through the State, and had simply said some civil things about a station on the edge of the State, was cited as if defend-

ing it. He ventured to say that Sir Harry Johnston would be the first to condemn such proceedings. Among those quoted as having spoken for the Congo State was Dr. Grenfell, the Baptist missionary, who had been put on to the Commission of Inquiry. The quotations were from a letter which he wrote in 1896, before definite charges were made. But in 1897—and this was not quoted in the book—Dr. Grenfell wrote to Mr. Sjöblom, and said—

"I am very sorry to learn that my letter of a year ago has been used to throw discredit upon your communication . . . So far as I am aware, the State has not seriously denied the truth of the statements you made. . . . I think you may congratulate yourself for having very effectively discharged a very onerous responsibility and . . . materially contributed to the commencement of a new and better *régime*."

But the letter repudiated in these words was still quoted against Mr. Sjöblom. What evidence was there of the improvement of the new *régime*? What was said to have taken the place of the horrible *régime* of the past? Not one of the horrible decrees had been withdrawn. All these new concessions had been added, and the collection of rubber, out of which the sentry system grew, had been extended to the whole territory. The new *régime* was thus an extension of the old. Concerning the responsibility of this country, he suggested we were responsible in a higher degree than others. As the suppressers of slavery and the slave-trade we had always led Europe, and had the highest degree of responsibility under the engagement of the Powers at Berlin to watch over the execution of the Berlin Act for the protection of the natives. The Congo State, as he thought, had acted treacherously in the matter of the leases granted in 1894. We, through their treachery, had failed to receive the considerations for which those leases were granted, and had left the Congo State in occupation of the Lado enclave in the Anglo-Egyptian sphere. Possibly what had made us hold our hands and rather shamefully neglect to do what otherwise any British Government must desire to do might be timidity as to what might happen to the Congo State if we interfered. As an unofficial Member he could face the delicate question in a way an official Member might hesitate to do. He would say, speaking for himself, that

if the choice lay between the Congo Valley going to France and the present state of affairs continuing, it would be better in our own interests, and in the interests of the natives, that it should go to France. We did not desire this vast territory; we had declined it. All we desired was security for the natives, regard for their rights, and security for British trade against monopoly and restriction. He begged to second the Resolution.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Government of the Congo Free State having, at its inception, guaranteed to the Powers that its native subjects should be governed with humanity, and that no trading monopoly or privilege should be permitted within its dominions, and both these guarantees having been constantly violated, this House requests His Majesty's Government to confer with the other Powers, signatories of the Berlin General Act by virtue of which the Congo Free State exists, in order that measures may be adopted to abate the evils prevalent in that State."—(*Mr. Herbert Samuel.*)

SIR JOHN GORST (Cambridge University) said he hoped the Government might be able to accept this Motion, and that, strengthened by resolution of the House of Commons, they would take some practical step for the deliverance of the Congo territory from the evils which had been described. He did not think anybody now could doubt the substantial accuracy of the description given by the hon. Member who moved the Resolution of the condition of the natives in the Congo State. The evidence was perfectly overwhelming. In his early days he was in a position to test the accuracy of the evidence of missionaries as to semi-civilised races, and he formed the opinion that on the whole they could not have more reliable testimony as to anything which had happened among semi-civilised people than that given by missionaries, and in this case their evidence was amply confirmed. In that particular case one could well understand the reticence of the missionary, and he thought that what had been stated by the mover and seconder of the Resolution would convince the House that a man required a great deal of

courage and resolution to enable him to make a definite complaint while he had still to live in such a country. Besides his own safety, he would probably be animated by a fear that any hostile action on his part towards the Government might lead to reprisals against the natives. But in this case the evidence of the missionary was abundantly confirmed by natives from our own provinces, by Rhodesian officials, by the emigration of natives from this territory into French and Portuguese territory, and by perfectly independent travellers passing through Congoland and noting the extraordinary diminution of population. All this amounted to a volume of testimony which nobody could fail to credit. He would like to ask the House to consider that not only was that what was to be expected, but that things would go on growing worse unless some steps were taken to alter the state of affairs. There were plenty of such lessons in history, if people would look back on similar occurrences. There was the great example of what happened when the discovery of America took place. At that time there was no desire to enslave or exterminate the populations of the territories occupied by the Spaniards. But there was a necessity, arising out of the desire for the acquisition of property, to make use of native labour. The Spaniards first endeavoured to induce the natives to work, but when mere inducement failed, they began to try force, and when force was not altogether successful, they degenerated into a system of slavery which became so cruel that the greater part of the natives in those territories were exterminated. And that was so in spite of the most earnest efforts made on behalf of the people by the King of Spain, Emperor Ferdinand, Queen Isabella, and Charles V. All these made the most desperate efforts to prevent the enslavement and extermination of the natives. But they failed because they could not stop the covetous desire for gold and furs. The colonists said, "We must get these articles, and the only way to get them is by enslaving the natives and forcing them to work."

It appeared from the statement which had been made that the Government had power to interfere in this

matter, and they not only had the power, but they also had the right to interfere on behalf of the natives under the terms of the Berlin Act. The treaties made between the Congo State and ourselves had undoubtedly been over-ridden, and therefore he supposed the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs would not deny their right to interfere. Then arose the question, was it expedient that they should do so? His answer to that was in the affirmative. He believed it was not only expedient, but it was also in the interests of our trade to interfere. We had a duty as well as a right to do so, because of our Imperial position, and of the policy which we had always asserted in the face of the world as regarded the slavery and treatment of native races. We had an Imperial position, and we ought to assert our Imperial right, and to stand forward in the face of the world as the protectors of these tribes, for whom we had, in some sense, made ourselves responsible. In the interests of our trade, and in fulfilment of our duty as a great Imperial Power, toward those native races, we had, he asserted, an undoubted right to interfere. As to what course the interference should take, that was a matter for the Government, on which he would not venture to give a positive opinion. Clearly we had to remember that other Powers were nearly equally responsible with ourselves, and possibly a conference of the Powers, or an appeal to those Powers who were parties to the Berlin Act, would be a perfectly legitimate and inoffensive step to take in the first instance. The President of the United States, who were not parties to the Berlin Act, had, he believed, taken some steps to protest against the condition of affairs in Congoland. The interest of America in the preservation of the lives of American missionaries seemed to the President of the United States a sufficient ground for intimating the interest which they took in this question. And if a Power like that, which was not a party to the Berlin Act, deemed it right to interfere, surely we, who were responsible under the Berlin Act, and who were responsible for the existence of the Congo State, had a perfect right to take such steps as might

bring this dreadful state of things to an end.

*MR. EMMOTT (Oldham) rose to say a few words in support of the Motion of his hon. friend the Member for the Cleveland Division. Both the mover and the seconder, as well as the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Cambridge University, had borne ample testimony to the truth of the stories which had come to us from the Congo State—and ghastly stories they were, of murder, mutilation, and atrocities of every kind. To many hon. Members they were far too familiar, and he would ask hon. Gentlemen, who, on first hearing them deemed them to be so horrible as to be untrue, to investigate the history of these statements themselves, for he knew they would be as convinced as he was of the iniquities which were being perpetrated there at the present time, and which had been going on for some years past. A few months ago he knew nothing about this matter at all, and when it did reach his ears he was utterly incredulous. But friends of his, to whom he expressed his doubts, begged him to investigate the matter for himself, and it was because he had done so that he felt and spoke so strongly. He did not want to deal further, for the moment, with those horrors, nor would he dwell on the Stokes affair or the Rabinek affair. The Stokes affair was closed, but it afforded a good illustration of the kind of justice and fair play which one got in the Congo State, while the Rabinek affair was significant, because it showed that the only crime with which he was charged was that of trading in the territory monopolised by the Katanga Company. He believed these atrocities to be the direct, necessary, and inevitable result of a wrong system. The state of affairs in the Congo was not a case of the white agents who were in charge there being specially inhuman. It was due to a system which could only be worked successfully from a financial point of view by inhumanity, and that system brutalised both natives and white agents. He knew that the problem before Europe with regard to tropical Africa was one of great difficulty. They could not get rid of the negroes if they would, and did not want to if they could, because they were the only people

who could do hard manual labour there. But the problem, though difficult, was not insoluble, because the methods which were best for the negroes were also beneficial for our own people at home. The best method of civilising natives was by trade, by the gradual permeation of honest and upright trade methods. These people had old laws and customs of their own, which, in many cases, were far better than supposed by the young soldiers or supercilious civilians who were sent out from Europe to govern them. These tribes were often born traders, and he believed the right policy in regard to this question was to stand at the back of our John Holts, and men of that kind, and to help them to develop their trade—to help them here and there with railways and steamers, so as to get rid of the present deficiencies of carriage. He for one did not like the great tendency to military civilisation. These military punitive expeditions, of which there had been so many in Africa, and many of which might have been avoided by more careful treatment, caused debt, debt caused taxation, taxation sometimes brought about revolt, on top of revolt came fresh military expeditions, and following them was more debt. Yet in spite of too many military expeditions both France and ourselves had done much in Africa in building up trade.

The essence of trade in these tropical countries was that they should have materials which could be exported, otherwise no trade was possible. We had made our trade, not by taking the land of the natives without compensation, but by encouraging the natives to produce on their own lands, and thus by slow degrees we had expanded the trade and given it that sure and permanent basis which, after all, was the only method of developing the country. Judged by this standard, or by any decent standard, what were they to say of the Congo State? Look at its system. First there was the expropriation of the natives from the land without compensation; secondly there was a monopoly of the products of the soil; thirdly, the natives were forbidden to collect the products of the soil except for sale to the State; fourthly, there was a forced collection of those products, and the forced sale, at most unsatisfactory prices, to the State. The forced collection of the products neces-

sitated the employment of a cannibal army, while the whites had been ordered to devote all their energies to the collection of the products of the soil. They were at one time paid a commission on what was collected, but he was glad to say that that system had now been stopped. In addition to that, there was a system of forced levies, both for the army and for the huge number of labourers employed on the plantations of the State. Now he ventured to say that that system was not trade at all, and it was wrong to call it trade. The land was the property of a small clique, and the products of the land belonged to the State or to that clique. No satisfactory payment was made for the collection of rubber; the natives were given about 1d. per lb., although it was worth 3s. or 4s. in Europe, and, as a consequence of their being so imperfectly paid, they had nothing wherewith to buy. There was as a result no legitimate trade, and even our Rhodesian merchants could not go into the Congo Free State in order to conduct commerce. This system of so-called trade rested upon force, and that it was profitable was shown by the fact that one of the Belgian companies paid 250 per cent. per annum. Let them compare that with the profits which the French companies were making in the French Congo, where he regretted to state the same monopoly system was being introduced. The French companies were for the most part making a loss, while the Belgian companies were making a huge profit in the Congo Free State, because the former did not enforce collection while the latter did. Stanley, speaking in Manchester, he believed in 1884, promised that, in a comparatively short number of years, the Congo Free State would require from this country £25,000,000 worth of cotton cloth per annum. At that time our trade with the Congo amounted to £180,000 a year, but it had now decreased to about £100,000. We were promised free trade in the Congo State, but that free trade had proved to be the forced collection of the products of the soil and the sale of them in Europe.

What about the condition of the country? He did not for a moment maintain that it was a paradise at any time, but he did venture to say that,

Mr. Emmott.

on the whole, that condition was ten times worse now than it was before. Here and there there might be spots where law and order prevailed, but the greater part of the 900,000 square miles of territory was in a worse condition than ever. There was no safety outside the stations, large districts of the country were in revolt, and the authorities had been unable to put down those revolts for many years. Apologists said that the stories with regard to the Congo Free State were exaggerated, but he would ask why had £200,000 worth of arms and ammunition been imported into that territory during the last four years? For what purpose had it been used? It could not have been wanted in such large quantities for any other purpose than to employ force with the populations. The whole industrial system of the country rested on force. Villages were burnt out, large districts were depopulated, some of the natives were terrorised, and others terrorised the whites. Slavery went on unchecked under the system of forced labour, and slaves were even offered openly for sale in certain parts of the State, as had been stated by the Missionary, Mr. Morrison, who was recently in this country. There was something which was much worse than the slavery of men; there was the slavery and prostitution of women. He had had sent him three sworn statements on this subject, none of which he believed had yet been published. They were all from the South-Eastern portion of the State. The first was by Mr. Yule, who said:

"In the daytime they (the women) do all the usual station work, such as carrying water for the Government officials, cleaning their rooms, etc., etc., and during the night they are obliged to be at the disposal of the soldiers. The soldier must live with the woman as long as he is at the station; should he be removed, the woman must remain at the station whether she has children by him or not. The women are slaves captured by the Government soldiers when raiding the country, they are there to facilitate the ordinary requirements of labour, and to prevent the soldiers from their usual customs of raping in the native villages."

The next sworn statement was that of a woman which had been translated, and which showed how the women were treated. This woman said:

"My name is Chewema, and I belong to the Mahusi Tribe in the Congo Free State. I

remember my mother, the people in our village, but have forgotten its name. When we were transported to Lukafu we were fastened together by a rope round our necks, and at night-time our hands and feet were tied together to prevent us from escaping. At Lukafu the elder women were forced at first by the soldiers to sleep in their huts until Commandant Kasiera prohibited this. At M'pwetu I witnessed the killing of two natives who had stolen rubber from the Government stores. By the order of the white man called Lutina, the two natives were beaten by his soldiers with a hippo-hide whip, after this they were made to stand up, the soldiers then threw bricks on them till they died. One native was from Chewerchewera's village, very near M'pwetu, and was buried by his relations; the other, who had no relations so near, was thrown into the Lake Mweru."

The third sworn statement was by two natives, John and Johan, and it was dated the 19th March, 1903. It was as follows—

"We, John and Johan, natives of Karonga, Lake Nyasa, British Central Africa, do hereby declare that about four years ago we were engaged by Mr. Mohun to serve him as soldiers for the period of three years, during his constructing of a telegraph line in the Congo Free State.

"On our arrival in the Congo Free State we learnt from the inhabitants and the Government soldiers that there is always war between the white men, the soldiers and the natives. The reason of a war and the constant troubles are as follows:—

"Long ago the Belgium officials hanged the soldiers for their bad behaviour. They hanged so many that this created a vengeance to such an extent that all soldiers formed a ring under the headman, at that time the sergeant called Yankoffu, with the object to kill all officers at the different stations on or near the Lake Tanganyika. This they did and took all the guns and ammunition. They then formed a stockade and made Yankoffu their chief. Later on they were attacked by a strong force of the Belgians, also we under Mr. Mohun attacked them, we killed many people but could not get Yankoffu. Most of his people crossed the Lake to German Territory taking with them the captured guns and ammunition. After this other Belgium officers re-occupied the plundered stations, but from that time the officers became afraid of the soldiers. When we were there one officer of Marabu station, about ten days from Lake Tanganyika, thrashed a soldier with a hippo-hide whip. Sometime later the same officer received from the same soldier a letter and when reading the same the latter shot him dead. We, too, and many other soldiers, were given orders to catch the murderer, we went after him for many days but could not find him. The white men are so afraid of the soldiers that they let them do whatever they like, they rape, murder and steal everything of the inhabitants, and if the chief or villagers object they are often shot dead on the spot. The officers all know this, but they never take any notice of it as they are afraid to punish the soldiers."

These were serious statements showing the kind of thing that was going on in that country. They shed considerable light on the results of this system. They showed that the efforts of white men who were trying to do their duty were unavailing. That would continue to be the case, for the system was founded on what he could call by no other names than theft, forced labour, and forced collection under cannibal soldiery. Such a system was an offence to gods and men.

He would say a word in regard to the interest of Europe in this question. He believed that the system would break down, and that, when it did, there would be danger to ourselves and to other European Powers. He believed the monopoly system was illegal, but whether it was illegal or not, it was certainly entirely against the spirit of the Berlin Act. But even if it was in accordance with the spirit of that Act, he believed it was still the duty of Europe to intervene. The system was self-destructive. All depended on rubber, which formed four-fifths of the exports. The revenue of the country amounted to £1,120,000, and of that sum £660,000 was received from the *domaine privé* £240,000 from Customs, and £120,000 for transport. The cost of the *force publique* was £310,000 per annum, which was greater than the whole expenditure of the country in 1895. He thought that was a significant comment on the whole system, and showed that it rested on force. He believed that, owing to the forced collection, the resources of rubber were being dried up. He believed that before the replanting could be effected, the whole State would collapse. In other words, the State was exploiting its chief natural resource, and there would be nothing left to trade upon. In this, as in other tropical countries, they must develop the exports, but what would be left when the collapse came if Europe did not step in? A vast region inhabited by fierce Bantu tribes, who had an undying hatred of the white man, and a cannibal army amounting to about 25,000. These would be anything but comfortable neighbours for us in the Bahrel-Ghazel, Uganda, and British Central Africa. What Europe ought to do was perfectly clear. He thought we could

Mr. Emmott.

do something alone, and that aspect of the question had been well treated by his hon. friend. In any case two things must be born in mind. First, the system must be changed, root and branch, if any good was to be done. The finance and other things rested on this system of monopoly and of forced collection of rubber, and when these were stopped the State must collapse. Next, if we did not intervene now we would be compelled to intervene soon. He would conclude with the eloquent words of Mr. Morel:—

“There can be no half-way house. Slavery relying upon the rifles of thousands of native levies, or commerce, based upon the recognition that the Negro has the rights of a man to his freedom and property—that is what the European Statesman will shortly be called upon to decide. And as they decide, so the structure which the white people are endeavouring once more to raise up in the land of the Negroes will remain, or the great black wave—inscrutable, mysterious, enduring—will once more roll sullenly forward, even into the ocean, obliterating every trace of a civilisation which, professing to act in the name of the Most High God, has permitted the violation of every law human and Divine.”

*THE UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord CRANBORNE, Rochester) said that he was in a peculiar position, because no general attack had been delivered against His Majesty's Government. He thought it would be agreed that for the most part the debate had consisted of an attack on the Government of the Congo Free State. He was not there to represent that Government, and he could take no responsibility for the acts of that Government. But he asked himself what was the attitude which the representative of His Majesty's Government ought to take in dealing with a discussion of this kind. He did not desire for one moment to defend or to extenuate anything which might be proved to be amiss in the Congolese Government. He wished to approach the question from an impartial and *quasi-judicial* point of view becoming the Government of this country, which was in amity with the Congo Free State and its ruler. First of all, what right had this Government to deal with the state of things in the Congo Free State? We had undoubtedly a legitimate *locus standi*, not so much by virtue of the special treaties which the right hon. Baronet the Member for Forest of Dean had referred to as of

the General Act of Berlin, which really was more precise and which went further. We had the *locus standi* which every signatory to the Berlin Act possessed. But the right to comment on the state of things in the Congo Free State did not infer, as some hon. Gentlemen seemed to believe, an obligation to interfere with that Government, except as far as every right did to some extent connote an obligation. There was no question that the Congo Free State had entered into certain obligations towards us; but we had entered into no obligations whatever as to the Government of the Congo Free State. There was nothing more than the duty which belonged to every signatory to the Act of Berlin. Upon what subjects and in what directions did these obligations of the Congo Free State extend? He would treat the subject from the points of view of trade and of government. As to trade there was upon record a clause in the Act of Berlin which bound every signatory, wherever they possessed sovereign powers within the area affected by the treaty, not to grant a monopoly or favour of any kind in matters of trade. The language was very general, but in treaties it would be found that the language always was very general. He could not agree with several speakers who thought that the interpretation of that language was a matter of universal consent. His Majesty's Government were disposed to think that the system which had been established, and which was prevalent in the Congo Free State, was not altogether in accordance with the obligation into which the Congo Free State had entered. But that contention was not universally admitted. On the other side it was contended that, as long as every one was free to buy and sell in the Congo Free State the obligations of the Berlin Act were fulfilled. But the question was whether every one was free to buy and sell. He thought that a monopoly might be said to be created, when in a specified area competition was excluded and a person or a society, or even the State itself, was constituted the sole medium through which any one might buy and sell. He thought that that was not an unfair definition of a monopoly, and, taking it as the criterion, he confessed that it was difficult to escape from the conclusion that the

present administration of the Congo Free State did not satisfy the prescribed conditions. It was true, of course, that every concession was in its nature a monopoly; and he begged the House to realise that concessions were really essential to the development of any of these territories, and that it was merely a question of degree how far concessions violated the spirit of such an Act as the Berlin Act. But, of course, the concessions of the Free State were very large; they had been established with special assistance from the State; and they were under special State control. Their privileged position had been brought about largely by the power which the State possessed of disposing of unoccupied land; and he thought it would be fair to say that the administration of these large areas was as much conducted with a view to the profit of those in whose interests the concessions were held as of the natives. He thought the House would admit that it was clear that, on the same principle, the policy pursued in the Congo Free State might have been extended very much further, and that it might have embraced the whole of the State. That would have constituted an absolute monopoly.

He had said that, in the opinion of His Majesty's Government, they could not admit that the administration of the Congo State was in harmony with the prohibition of monopolies contained in the Berlin Act. We did not, however, stand alone in respect of that Act. We were only one of a number of parties who were signatories to it, and he did not think it would be reasonable to expect His Majesty's Government to act alone in respect of it. They were bound to be guided by the views, not only of themselves, but of their co-signatories of the Berlin Act. The Motion which was before the House urged the Government, among other things, to take steps to find out the views of the other Powers who were signatories to the Treaty of Berlin. The Government could not assent to the Motion as it stood; but he thought that, considering the difference of opinion which existed among the signatories as to the precise effect of the Monopoly Clause of the Berlin Act, it would be a proper and

reasonable course to institute an exchange of views with those Powers upon that particular point. He was able to assure the House that that course would be adopted by His Majesty's Government.

He would turn now to the more important matter of the condition of the natives. There was no question whatever that the civilisation of the natives afforded one of the main grounds, if not the principal ground, of the provisions of the Berlin Act, and that the Powers who signed it bound themselves severally to place in the forefront of their administration of the various areas under their control in Africa, the study of the well-being of the native races. As several speakers had reminded the House, an assurance was given to Europe that that would be the main object of the Government, not only of the Congo Free State, but of all the other territories which were within the purview of the Berlin Act. If the laws of the Congo State were regarded, he thought it would be found that very little was left to be desired, so far as their provisions were concerned. The laws were full of provisions intended to protect the natives from ill-usage and to further their material advantage. There was no doubt that the administration of the Congo Government had been marked by a very high degree of a certain kind of administrative development. There were railways, there were steamers upon the river, hospitals had been established, and all the machinery of elaborate judicial and police systems had been set up. Hon. Gentlemen in this debate had alleged that all this was a whited sepulchre, that the apparent administrative completeness of this system did not really correspond to good government. They said that the officials of the Congo Free State showed no due sense of their responsibility for the native races, and that their government had been accompanied by atrocities of a very heinous character. Now, were these things true? He did not think that the Congo Free State authorities denied the existence of these atrocities. But what they did say was that they had taken the ordinary steps of a civilised Government to punish the perpetrators, and had adopted measures to prevent the recurrence of these acts. It was undoubtedly true that in a large number of cases they had inflicted very severe

punishments for atrocities that had been proved. He had had showered upon him within the last few days masses of literature as to the penalties imposed by the Congo Free State. The question was whether the penalties had been adequate and covered all the cases which they ought to have covered. Frankly, he told the House that he did not know. It was, he thought, this very doubt as to what was the real truth in regard to the government of the Congo Free State which made public opinion throughout Europe so anxious, and which he thought the Congolese authorities themselves ought to feel as calling for some action upon their part.

The right hon. Member for the Forest of Dean had reproached the Government—and this was the only criticism which the Government had received in the whole course of the debate—that our Consuls had not afforded them fuller Reports, and that the Reports which the Consuls did send had been withheld from the House.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said that what he had stated was that the Government evidently, by their own admissions, which he quoted, had received Reports from their Consuls but had not communicated them to the House.

*LORD CRANBORNE said that in answer to a Question he had stated that the Government had received Reports, but that they were hardly full and complete enough to be laid before the House. And for this very good reason—that we had only one Consular post in the Congo Free State, and that was upon the coast, and had not been occupied by the Consul for any long period. It must be remembered, in dealing with this case, that the Congo Free State had an enormous area, and that any one only living for a few months on the coast was not in a position to afford evidence of a very reliable kind of what passed in the far interior. He would urge hon. and right hon. Gentlemen not to overstate their case. No doubt there had been atrocities, but the Congo Free State was not the only part of the world where atrocities had been committed.

Lord Cranborne.

It was much more misgovernment that was to be feared, and if possible corrected by the influence of European public opinion, than isolated atrocities. The question was, was there general misgovernment in the Congo Free State? The Congo Free State authorities urged as a reply to the accusations on this head that their system was a great improvement upon the barbarous government of the native tribes who preceded them. From some of the speeches to which they had listened, the House would hardly believe that that was the case, but he thought that was a somewhat exaggerated way of stating the situation. Of course, there had been great improvement on the former state of things, but that was not a sufficient defence at the present time for a civilised community. There was the question of compulsory labour. There had been charges that compulsory labour had been greatly abused. Then there were charges which had been brought against the armed forces of the Congo Free State, but an armed force—that was to say, a police force—was necessary to the Government of any community. Had this compulsory labour and had this armed force led to atrocities? He had some difficulty in giving a confident opinion about that, but he would refer to a passage in a book called—"The Truth about Civilisation in the Congo," which gave an account of an interview with the Father Superior of a mission in the Free State. This Gentleman was asked, "What do you think of the charges made against the officials of the State?" In reply, he quoted some observations which he said he had seen and which were to this effect. "Do not tell me that these evil customs are no longer prevalent. They are still carried on. Hands, ears, and even heads are cut off. Of course, soldiers with three, four, or five years' service respect our instructions, but can you forbid a young soldier, animated with a desire to show his prowess, to bring back some trophies?" [Cries of "Oh, oh."]

Mr. EMMOTT: Does the noble Lord defend that?

*LORD CRANBORNE said that it was precisely such a passage as that which

made one doubt whether the authorities of the Congo Free State realised their responsibilities as the white governors of these barbarous regions. It was an instructive quotation because it was made by a man evidently speaking in perfectly good faith and speaking, of course, from the Congolese point of view. But he was an independent gentleman. He did not belong to the Congolese Government, and he evidently thought that the state of things he described was not a state of things for which any shame should be expressed. All would admit that no such state of things, and no such standard, would be permitted for one moment in any Protectorate of this country, and therefore it was that a feeling of general suspicion had been aroused throughout Europe, and especially in this country—and it had been very emphatically expressed in the debate—as to whether the Congo Free State authorities had really shown that sense of their responsibilities which might be expected from the white governors of a district in Central Africa.

How did the Congolese authorities meet these criticisms? They said in the first place, and he thought due weight must be given to that reply, that the standard of civilisation which we favoured was not the growth of a single day; that it required time and continuous effort to bring it about. There was some truth in that. There was also some truth in their plea that where atrocities were proved they visited the perpetrators with condign punishment. They pleaded also that they had established a Commission whose function it was to investigate any atrocities and misgovernment which might be brought to their notice, and to provide remedies. He was bound to say, in defence of the Congo Free State authorities, that they had been very willing to give them all the information in their power in respect of the operations of this Commission, whose members consisted largely of independent persons, and which had held many meetings and made reports. An inspector had been appointed by the Commission, and it had all the machinery of a Commission such as this country would appoint if misgovernment had occurred. The Congo Free State had also expressed a perfect willingness to consider any suggestions which might

be brought before them, and, if charges were supported by sufficient evidence, to investigate them. The Government thought it right to avail themselves of the spirit in which they had been met, and they saw no reason why all the evidence of misgovernment which might have been brought to the notice of the various signatories of the Act of Berlin should not be submitted for investigation to the authorities of the Congo Free State. He thought, therefore, that in the communication which the Government were prepared to make to their colleagues in the signature of the Act of Berlin the latter should be asked whether they had received any such evidence as had been laid before this country, and such as it would be suitable to lay before the Congo Free State for their consideration. He thought the Congolese authorities would be wise to do their best to satisfy public opinion, and that where definite facts were alleged in support of suspicions it would be well in their own interests, as well as in those of the subject populations which they controlled, that they should do their best to clear up and remove those suspicions and reassure public opinion which was sensitive on the subject. He did not regret the debate which had taken place; he thought it probable that what had been said might have considerable influence—

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): Not what you have said anyhow.

* LORD CRANBORNE said the Congolese authorities and the Belgian people with whom we were so closely associated for many years had always expressed the greatest regard for the opinion of this country, and especially for the opinion of the House of Commons, and he was fully persuaded that what had been said that evening would have a great effect

Lord Cranborne.

upon them. He did not, however, think it possible for the Government to assent to the Motion in the form in which it was presented to them. They were asked not merely to indict the Congo Free State but actually to condemn them. He did not think that was an attitude they ought to adopt. Let them rather be content with bringing under the notice of the authorities the strong feeling which had been excited by the charges of misgovernment which had been brought against them. Let them be content to let the friendly advice which the British people had thought it right, through their representatives, to express have their full weight but not go the length of condemning the authorities of the Congo Free State without having in any way proved the extreme charges which had been alleged against them. The House would realise that he was not in any way sympathising with any misgovernment which might be proved against the Congolese authorities. Not at all; any British Government, as the right hon. Baronet the Member for Forest of Dean had said, would be anxious to set an example in condemning misgovernment of native races in whatever part of the world, or by whatever authority, it might be carried out. They were anxious to use all the influence they possessed to better the lot of these people. He recognised that the Congo authorities were bound by their signature to the Berlin Act to afford to the signatories of that Act every satisfaction: but the Government could not act alone. They were prepared, as he had said, to consult with their co-signatories as to the evidence of misgovernment which had been laid before them; and he was not doubtful that the strong expressions of opinion which the debate had called forth, voicing as it did public opinion not only in England but throughout Europe, would have its due effect and tend to remedy the evils of which they had, he was afraid, so much cause to complain.

* LORD EDMUND FITZMAURICE (Wiltshire, Cricklade) said that the noble Lord the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs at the opening of his speech stated that he was in a peculiar position because no attack had been made on His Majesty's Government at the moment the noble Lord said that he thought the observation was unnecessary, but as the noble Lord went on he began to feel afraid that possibly it was gradually becoming necessary that some attack should be made on the Government on this matter. They had had a debate which was no doubt long, but well sustained and exceedingly interesting, and dealt with a question of first rate importance. All those who had had the advantage of hearing the speech of his hon. friend who opened the debate, which unfortunately was delivered in a very thin House, would agree with him that it was an exceedingly clear and powerful statement of an unanswerable case. What was it that his hon. friend asked the House to agree to? He asked the House to request the Government to confer with the other Powers, signatories of the Berlin General Act, by virtue of which the Congo Free State existed, in order that measures might be adopted to abate the evils prevalent in that State. That was a very moderate request. The noble Lord said that those who had spoken from that side of the House had jumped to their conclusions, that they had taken every charge made against the Congo Free State for granted, and had generally excluded all other evidence. The noble Lord said that hon. Members on this side of the House seemed to take every statement against the Congo Free State as granted, and that they excluded all other elements. But if he had to sum

up the noble Lord's speech he would say that it was rather a lengthy development of the well-known language which chairmen of Quarter Sessions and Judges of Assize were apt to use in criminal cases when they told the jurors that they were to give the prisoner the benefit of the doubt. But in the present case the House was not asked to pass a sweeping set of resolutions dealing with a series of counts.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): Read the Resolution.

* LORD EDMUND FITZMAURICE said that the words of the Motion were as follows :—

"To call attention to the administration of the Congo Free State; and to move, That the Government of the Congo Free State having, at its inception, guaranteed to the Powers that its native subjects should be governed with humanity, and that no trading monopoly or privilege should be permitted within its dominions, this House requests His Majesty's Government to confer with the other Powers, signatories of the Berlin General Act by virtue of which the Congo Free State exists, in order that measures may be adopted to abate the evils prevalent in that State."

They were not asking the Government to adopt every statement in the pamphlet which had been read to the House; but they said that there was an unanswerable *prima facie* case against the Government of the Congo State sufficient to justify the Government in bringing the facts before the signatories of the Berlin Act. He altogether denied that they could deal with the Congo Free State as if it was a

Statelike France, Austria, Germany, or any other Power. The Congo Free State was an artificial creation; it was called into being in 1884-85 by the Berlin Act; and it was bound to carry out not only in the letter but in the spirit, the stipulations of that Act. The case against the Congo Free State was that neither in the letter nor in the spirit had it been able to carry out the duties which it undertook to perform under that Act. It was not necessary for his case in the least to assume that in everything the Congo Free State did, or omitted to do, it was actuated by positive malice or ill-will. It was quite sufficient for his case if he could show that it was so badly organised and so weak that it was unable to carry out a complicated a system of laws over a vast territory, and that, even with the best intentions, the Government of King Leopold—it was more regular to call His Majesty that than the King of the Belgians—had been unable to control their representatives in those distant lands. It would be unfair to make King Leopold or his Ministers personally responsible for all the outrages which had been committed by their subordinate officers. There might have been neglect on the part of the Belgian Government, but no one ever suggested that there was complicity, though they could not forget the judicial murder of Mr. Stokes, as to which, if time had allowed, he would have spoken. The result was that atrocities had been committed which curdled the blood, and made civilisation ashamed of its name.

He should like to refer to one observation of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Forest of Dean. The right hon. Gentleman said that of

the hon. Members now present, the right hon. Gentleman and himself were most concerned in the negotiations of 1884-85. Speaking for himself, he was sceptical at the time of the Congo State being able to fulfil its promises. He did not altogether share the beatific visions of universal peace, good-will, and prosperity set out in the preamble to the Berlin Act. The circumstances under which the Berlin Act came into existence were exceedingly peculiar. No doubt this country had very great responsibility; but, after all, the principal responsibility lay with Germany. The Conference was summoned by Prince Bismarck, when Germany, as he thought unfortunately, decided to denounce the Anglo-Portuguese Treaty, and to propose the alternative of some arrangement with the King of Belgians. It would be remembered that a treaty was signed between this country and Portugal on the basis of freedom of navigation, trade and missionary enterprise, and measures directed against slavery; and the Foreign Office realised that in dealing with Portugal this country would stand in a very favourable position. Unfortunately that treaty was not popular in this country in commercial circles. Very few voices were raised in support of it, and the opportunity was taken to denounce it and to drag this country unwillingly to the Conference at Berlin, where no doubt the British representatives, by the good will of the other Powers, succeeded in introducing all the clauses which Portugal had accepted, but they were to be carried out not under the supervision of this country, as was originally intended, but by this newly invented State which was launched with a great flourish of trumpets and which was to bring a message of peace and goodwill to all men. Was it or was it not a fact that

the promises in the Berlin Act had been fulfilled? Had the Congo Free State carried out the undertakings they solemnly entered into in the face of Europe? They on that side of the House said "No," and with no hesitating voice they asserted that it was the duty of the Government to bring this matter again before the signatory Powers. They were not asking the Government to complain on their own account, as that might be represented as a selfish attempt to recover control of the country. It should not be assumed, because the Congo Free State was invented under certain circumstances in 1884-5, that it had an international right to allow the existing condition of things to continue, which, without adopting every statement that had been made, was undoubtedly a disgrace to civilisation. He would remind the House that there was a name which they all honoured, which was imperishably associated with the Congo. He meant the name of General Gordon. When General Gordon undertook his last and fatal expedition to Khartoum he was then at the time actually engaged by the King of the Belgians to go to the Congo, and he intended to spend the remainder of his life in promoting the civilisation of that vast region. The only thing that made him hesitate about going to Egypt was that his heart was in the Congo. What would General Gordon think if he knew that "the great philanthropic enterprise of the King of the Belgians," as it then was termed, had been turned into one of the most gigantic engines of oppression against the black races, and that the high hopes which he entertained had turned into failure and disappointment? After what the noble Lord had said he

was afraid, unless a different complexion were put on the matter, it would be necessary to divide the House.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he hoped that the noble Lord had not misunderstood an interruption which he made a little time ago, and that he did not think it rude. That certainly was not the intention. He was not inclined to dissent from the position which the noble Lord had adopted in respect to the course which his Majesty's Government ought to pursue on this question. The noble Lord stated, with perfect accuracy, the effect of the last part of the Resolution, and His Majesty's Government recognised, as his noble friend recognised, and as every speaker had recognised, the responsibility of this country as one of the co-signatories of the Treaty of Berlin. They recognised their duty, acting with their colleagues, and, of course, with the Government of the Congo Free State, to deal with the question which had been discussed. That was the practical proposal which had been made, and with that practical proposal they were in agreement. That was the only important matter before them; but there was a question of procedure, he had almost said of Parliamentary decorum, to which he wished to call attention. He did not think it was wise or judicious for them without inquiry to place upon the permanent records of the House a Resolution, not merely asking the Government to take this or that step, but to pass in explicit terms, condemnation upon another Government. Hon. Gentlemen had spoken in very strong terms about the action or inaction of the Congo Government in dealing with matters as to which they had convinced themselves—he expressed no judgment on the matter—that there was an overwhelming

case. There was a very great difference in an individual gentleman coming to that conclusion and expressing himself strongly upon it and the deliberate procedure of the House of Commons. The House should not, without anything in the nature of judicial inquiry, and merely upon statements made in debate, commit itself to the condemnation of a friendly Government. It would be impossible for the Government to vote against the Resolution, because it indicated a policy the Government desired to follow. It would be more consistent with the dignity of the House to accept the assurance of his noble friend, which he repeated, that they meant to take action in this matter. He hoped the hon. Member would withdraw the Motion or put it in an amended form, free from the objectionable condemnation of a friendly Government. He suggested to the hon. Member to put the Motion in a somewhat different form, leaving out the condemnation to which he referred. He hoped his appeal would not be superfluous, and certainly it was not inimical to the objects the hon. Member had in view.

*MR. HERBERT SAMUEL said that in view of the request of the right hon. Gentleman, and the assurance that the Government would forthwith take action in the matter he would omit from the Motion the words, "and both these guarantees having been constantly violated."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : I accept that.

Motion amended—

"By leaving out the words 'and both these guarantees having been constantly violated.'"

Main Question, as amended, put, and agreed to.

Mr. A. J. Balfour.

Resolved, "That the Government of the Congo Free State having, at its inception, guaranteed to the Powers that its Native subjects should be governed with humanity, and that no trading monopoly or privilege should be permitted within its dominions, this House requests His Majesty's Government to confer with the other Powers, signatories of the Berlin General Act by virtue of which the Congo Free State exists, in order that measures may be adopted to abate the evils prevalent in that State."

CLARE RAILWAYS.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) said he regretted he had not now time to move his Motion with reference to railway communication in Clare. He would merely direct the attention of the Chief Secretary to it, in the hope that the right hon. Gentleman would inquire into it, and see if something could not be done in the direction indicated. He hoped the Government would pay attention to the matter, as it was of great importance to his constituents.

POST OFFICE SITES (EXPENSES.)

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Resolved, "That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, of all sums payable by the Postmaster-General under any Act of the present session to enable His Majesty's Postmaster-General to acquire lands in London and Bristol for the public service, and of all expenses incurred in carrying into effect the provisions of such Act."—(*Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*)

Resolution to be reported this day.

Adjourned at three minutes after
Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 21st May, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS.

The Clerk at the Table informed the House of the unavoidable absence of the Chairman of Ways and Means.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz. :—

Southampton Harbour Bill [Lords]. Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13) Bill; Local Government Provisional Order (No. 15) Bill. Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time to-morrow.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (NO STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE.)

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz. :—

Local Government Provisional Orders (Poor Law) Bill; Local Government Pro-

VOL. CXXII. [FOURTH SERIES.]

visional Orders (No. 12) Bill. Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time to-morrow.

Gas Light and Coke Company Bill, Hampton Court Gas Bill; Lancashire and Yorkshire and London and North Western Railways (Steam Vessels) Bill; Midland and Belfast and Northern Counties Railways Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Plymouth and Stonehouse Gas Bill [Lords]. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Highland and Invergarry and Fort Augustus Railway Companies Bill Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Llandrindod Wells Improvement Bill. Reported from the Police and Sanitary Committee (Preamble not proved); Report to lie upon the Table.

PETITIONS.

BURGH POLICE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Glasgow, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

COAL MINES REGULATION BILL.

Petitions in favour: from Clay Cross; Grassmoor; Gwaun cae Gurwen; and Gilwen Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

LICENCES RENEWAL AND TRANSFER BILL.

Petitions from Chesterfield, against; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING LAW (COMPENSATION FOR NON-RENEWAL) BILL.

Petition from Chesterfield, against; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Petitions for alteration: from Ellon; and Dornoch; to lie upon the Table.

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL.

Petitions in favour: from Ramsbottom; Tottington; Turn; Radstock; Chesterfield; Killamarsch; Low Moorsley; Cramlington; Toxteth; Sittingbourne; Greenstreet; Faversham;

Kirkby-in-Ashfield; Johnstone; Leicester; Wooldale; Handsworth Woodhouse; Staines and Egham; Croydon; Daventry; St. Helens; and, Lochgelly; to lie upon the Table.

RATING OF MACHINERY BILL.

Petition from Dadworth, against; to lie upon the Table.

ROMAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY IN IRELAND.

Petitions against establishment: from Annan; and Dumfries; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE DISPUTES BILL.

Petitions in favour: from Varteg; Gwaun cae Gurwen; and Gilwen Collieries; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

MEDICAL COUNCILS.

Accounts presented, for 1902, of the General Medical Council and Branch Councils, and of the Dental Registration Fund [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

LIGHTHOUSES, ETC. (LOCAL INSPECTIONS).

Copies presented, of Reports to the Board of Trade by the Trinity House of Deptford Strond, the Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses, and the Commissioners of Irish Lights of their Inspection of Local Lighthouses, Buoys, and Beacons (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 227, of session 1902) [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 176.)

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1894 AND 1896.

Copies presented, of Twenty Orders relating to the Landing of Foreign Animals in Great Britain [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACTS, 1882 AND 1888.

Copy presented, of Special Report by the Board of Trade under Section (1) of The Electric Lighting Act, 1888, respecting: (1) Kilmalcolm Electric Lighting Order, 1903; (2) Sandwich, Deal, Walmer, and District Electric Lighting Order, 1903; (3) Strood and Dartford

(Rural Districts) Electric Lighting Order, 1903; (4) Wilmslow Electric Lighting Order, 1903 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

House Tax in Bengal.

Mr. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary of State for India if he will state the amount derived from the house tax levied on every villager in Bengal, and known as the Chowkidari Tax; and whether, in view of its incidence, he will ask the Government of India to consider whether arrangements can be made for its remission.

(Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.) The aggregate amount of the rate levied for the remuneration of village watchmen in Bengal cannot be exactly stated, as the money does not pass through the public accounts. The rate is assessed according to the circumstances of the persons liable, but no assessment may exceed one rupee a month, and the poor are altogether exempt. The tax is not oppressive nor unfair in its incidence, and represents an ancient and well recognised obligation. It is not proposed to remit it.

Ecclesiastical Commission—Court of Benefices.

MR. RIGG (Westmoreland, Appleby): To ask the hon. Member for West Salford, as representing the Ecclesiastical Commission, if he will state what amount has been paid by the Ecclesiastical Commission to the officers of the Court constituted by the Benefices Act, 1898, and for other purposes connected therewith, since the passing of the Act; who are the officers in question; what duties have they discharged in the same period; what proceedings have there been in the Court in respect of which the payments have been made; and out of what fund have the payments been made, having regard to the proviso that no portion of any fund destined for the relief of necessitous incumbents shall be applied to the payment of such salaries and expenses.

(*Answered by Mr. Lees Knowles.*) A Registrar of the Court has been appointed, Mr. W. H. Macnamara, and one clerk, Mr. T. Whittall, assigned to him. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners have, during the four years ended 15th March, 1903, paid for salary to the Registrar, £1,200; paid for salary to his clerk, £200; paid for other expenses (stationery), £3 12s. 10d.; Total, £1,403 12s. 10d.; and the fees received have amounted to £10 19s. 2d; so that the net amount defrayed by them has been £1,392 13s. 8d. The Registrar's duties are defined by the rules which have been made under Section 11 of the Act, being concerned with the regulation of the procedure in relation to the hearing of matters and appeals; some interlocutory applications may, by direction of the judge, be heard and disposed of by the Registrar. The Commissioners are informed that the Registrar has dealt with applications in four cases which have been brought under the Act as well as with inquiries at the office and some correspondence. The payments by the Commissioners have, as directed by the Act, been made out of their common fund, and the revenues of that fund, after meeting the charges imposed upon it, are devoted to making additional provision for the cure of souls in parishes where such assistance is most required. The Commissioners have no other fund from which the payments could be made.

Publicans' Licences—Refusals to renew during 1901 and 1902.

SIR WILLIAM HOULDSWORTH (Manchester, N.W.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he can give the number of victuallers', beer-house, and other licences for the sale of intoxicating liquors, the renewal of which has been refused by the justices of the peace in the years 1901 and 1902.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*) This information cannot be given without calling for Returns from all the licensing districts. A Return has been issued for the present year, and there are Returns for the year 1900, and some previous years. It seems to me that this is a Return which need not

be made every year, but that its purpose is sufficiently served if it is called for periodically. It entails much labour, and, as at present advised, I do not see my way to collecting the information for the years 1901 and 1902.

Report of Chief Inspector of Factories.

SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops will be in the hands of Members.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*) I hope that the Report will go to press within a very few days; and, if so, it should be issued to Members before the end of the month.

Exports of Milling Offals.

MR. WINGFIELD-DIGBY (Dorsetshire, N.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury what was the amount of milling offals exported during each of the years 1900, 1901, and 1902.

(*Answered by Mr. Arthur Elliot.*) There are no records of the exports of offals of all kinds as such, prior to the 1st August, 1902, except as regards bran and pollard, the exports of which in each of the three years in question were as follows:—1900, 811,172 cwts.; 1901, 1,207,433 cwts.; 1902, 1,249,569 cwts. During the period from the 1st August to the 31st December, 1902, the exports of offals of all kinds, other than from bran and pollard, amounted to 210,260 cwts.

Education—Grants to Non-Provided Evening Schools.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Education if he will state whether evening schools not provided by the local education authorities may continue to receive grants direct from the Board of Education after the appointed day in each case; and, if so, whether the local education authority will have any right to control, supervision, or inspection over such evening schools.

(*Answered by Sir William Anson.*) The answer to the first part of the Question depends upon the regulations of the Board of Education for evening classes (Command Paper 1044, 1902). These regulations are now under consideration in respect of the new issue for the coming year. The rights of the local authority referred to in the second paragraph of the Question will, for the most part, depend, subject to any changes in the regulations of the Board, upon the extent to which, and the conditions on which, the local authority gives aid to such classes.

Promotion at Edinburgh Post Office.

SIR LEWIS M'IVER (Edinburgh, W.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that recent promotions to the class of clerks in the postal branch at Edinburgh have given dissatisfaction to the staff; and that, of three men promoted, one passed over thirty-seven, a second over thirty, and a third over fifty-nine seniors; whether the supervising body was consulted before these selections were made; and, if not, whether he sanctions the supervising body being passed over in such matters.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) The officers selected for promotion were those who, in my opinion, were best fitted for the duties of the vacant posts. The promotions were not authorised by me until I had given full consideration to the reports which had been obtained from the responsible officers upon the qualifications of all the persons concerned.

Edinburgh Post Office—Retirement of Staff at Sixty-five.

SIR LEWIS M'IVER: To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that an officer in the post office, Edinburgh, who this month attains the age of sixty-five, and who, according to Treasury rules, should now be retired, has been granted an extension of service; and whether he will say upon what grounds this officer is being retained.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) It is the fact that such an officer has, on my recommendation, been granted an

extension of his service by the Treasury. A new arrangement has to be made this year for dealing with the heavy parcels traffic at Christmas. The work of organising the altered services is one which requires the skill and experience possessed by this officer, and I am satisfied that his retention under the circumstances is in the interests of the public service.

Appointment of Magistrates in County Longford.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state the number of appointments to the magisterial bench in County Longford made on the recommendation of the Lieutenant of the County since 1st April, 1899; whether it is usual before submitting the names of appointees to inquire into their qualifications and eligibility; how many of these appointments were Roman Catholics and how many Protestants; and can he state the relative proportions between the Protestant and Roman Catholic population of the county.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) Five gentlemen were appointed to the magistracy for the County Longford since April, 1899, of whom two are Roman Catholics, two are Episcopalian Protestants, and one is a Methodist. The qualifications and eligibility of all persons about to be recommended for appointment are considered in the first instance by the Lieutenant of the County, and, subsequently, by the Lord Chancellor. It would appear from the last census that about 91 per cent. of the population of the County Longford is Roman Catholic.

Discharges from the Army—Case of Peter Harvey.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: To ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state whether Peter Harvey, late a military prisoner in Parkhurst, Isle of Wight, has been or will now be discharged from the Army.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) In reply to a previous Question,† the hon. Member was requested to address any communication on this subject to the

† See (4) *Debates*, cxx., 1029.

General Officer Commanding the district concerned. It is not apparent that he has done so.

5th Lancers—Second in Command.

Mr. WINSTON CHURCHILL (Oldham): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether, seeing that the officer who is second in command of the 5th Lancers is also second in command of the provisional regiment at Norwich, it is his intention to preserve the provisional regiment at Norwich; and if so, whether steps will be taken to fill the vacancy in the 5th Lancers.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.)

As these provisional regiments are only temporary, it is considered expedient to provide for their command in certain instances by taking seconds in command from permanent regiments and allowing an additional Captain to those regiments so that the senior Squadron Major may

act as second in command. To replace those officers by permanent seconds in command would cause great difficulties when the time arrives for the ultimate absorption of the supernumeraries thereby created.

Army Promotions Return.

MAJOR EVANS GORDON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will grant the Return relative to Army Promotions standing on to-day's Notice Paper.†

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.)

This Return will be granted.

† Army Promotions.—Address for Return showing the average time taken from the date of first commission in attaining respectively the ranks of Captain and of Major of Officers in the Cavalry, Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, Infantry, and Indian Army, before the late war and subsequently, in the following form:—

	Captain.		Major.	
	Year.	Months.	Year.	Months.
1898 :—				
Cavalry - - - - -				
Artillery - - - - -				
Engineers - - - - -				
Infantry - - - - -				
Indian Army - - - - -				
1903 :—				
Cavalry - - - - -				
Artillery - - - - -				
Engineers - - - - -				
Infantry - - - - -				
Indian Army - - - - -				

Tenders for Meat Contract for Limerick Garrison.

Mr. JOYCE (Limerick): To ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state how many tenders were submitted for the meat contract of the Limerick Garrison this year; when the tender which got the contract was accepted; and whether the accepted tender was the lowest.

accepted on the 9th May; this tender was not the lowest.

Royal Patriotic Commission.

Mr. KEARLEY (Devonport): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury when he proposes to introduce the Bill dealing with the administration of funds at present controlled by the Patriotic Commissioners.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.)

Ten tenders were submitted, and the tender which got the contract was

(Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.) I hope that this Bill may be introduced at an early date, and I will endeavour

to give adequate notice before the introduction.

Pensions for Widows of Seamen and Marines killed on Duty.

MR. KEARLEY: To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Government have come to any decision with regard to granting State pensions to the widows and orphans of those seamen and marines who lose their lives on duty, similar to those awarded to men killed or permanently disabled on war service.

(Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.) The Treasury and the Admiralty are at present in communication on this subject, and I am given to understand that an early decision of the question in the direction desired by the hon. Member is probable.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Royal Commission on the Militia and Volunteer Forces.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the fact that while there are four representatives of the Militia upon the Royal Commission on the Militia and Volunteer Forces, there are only three of the Volunteer Force, and that the Metropolitan and Urban Corps, and especially the regiments composed in large part of clerks and others, who find difficulty in adopting the new camp and musketry regulations, are wholly unrepresented, he will advise His Majesty to appoint an additional member, with knowledge of the internal working of a consolidated City Corps of Volunteers.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): There are three representatives of the Militia and three of the Volunteer Force on the Commission, and one of the latter commands a battalion recruited in the Metropolitan area. I fear I cannot propose an addition to the Commission. No doubt representatives of the Volunteer corps alluded to will be called to give evidence.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: The officer to whom the right hon. Gentleman refers is in command of a West Kent battalion and is not in the Metropolitan area.

*MR. BRODRICK: Three-fourths of the battalion is recruited in the Metropolitan area.

Wireless Telegraphy in Somaliland.

MR. JOHN CAMPBELL (Armagh, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state the approximate cost of the various systems of wireless telegraphy recently employed in Somaliland; whether he is aware that the wireless system was thoroughly tested during the German army manoeuvres last autumn, and failed; and whether he can inform the House what system of field telegraphy has been adopted in Germany, Austria and the United States.

*MR. BRODRICK: It is not possible at present to calculate the cost of wireless telegraphy in Somaliland. I am aware that the wireless system was tested during the German army manoeuvres last year, and judging from the information received, it did not fail. Several wireless systems have been under trial in Germany, Austria, and the United States, but none appear to have been adopted; the other systems of field telegraphy in vogue in these countries are practically the same as that adopted in the British Army.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): Is it the case that the system tried in Somaliland is not that in use by the Army, but that used in the Navy?

*MR. BRODRICK: That would not be entirely accurate. We applied to the Marconi Company to give us the best installation they could for Somaliland, but they were not yet in a position to supply us with the requirements of the field service.

MR JOHN CAMPBELL: What system has been adopted for the British Army?

*MR. BRODRICK: I cannot reply to that.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, W.): What effect has wireless telegraphy on the Somali natives?

[No answer was returned.]

British Garrison in South Africa.

*MR. BLACK (Banffshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state the number and annual cost of the British troops at present quartered in South Africa, as also the number and annual cost of the troops quartered there in 1893.

*MR. BRODRICK: The figures are as follow:—1893, 3,331, annual cost, £300,000; 1903 (present time), 33,500, £4,500,000. The numbers at present in South Africa are 4,000 in excess of those contemplated in the current year's Estimates, and they are being gradually withdrawn, as they can be spared, and as circumstances permit. This will reduce the annual cost by about £500,000, if it is found that all the Engineers and Army Medical Corps at present in excess of establishment in South Africa can be brought home.

MR. BLACK: Do these figures include the cost of housing as well?

*MR. BRODRICK: No, Sir; housing is a separate capital charge on this country.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): What fund is the housing charged on?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order. That does not arise out of the Question.

Alleged Ragging in the 21st Lancers.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL (Old-ham): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to a discussion in the Canadian Parliament about the alleged irregularities in the 21st Lancers; and will he state whether the officer said to have been maltreated is a Canadian.

MR. BRODRICK: The officer of the 21st Lancers alluded to was born at Hull, and was an officer in the 3rd Militia Battalion of the East Yorkshire Regi-

ment, from which he was appointed to a commission in his present regiment.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL: Then I understand the officer in question is not of Canadian extraction?

MR. BRODRICK: No, Sir; I imagine not, because he was born in Hull.

*SIR A. ROLLIT (Islington, S.): Is the right hon. Gentleman not aware that there is a Hull in Canada—a suburb of Ottawa?

MR. BRODRICK: The information supplied to me is that he was born in Hull, in Great Britain. Of course, there is a Hull in Canada.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that three of the Ministers who took part in the debate in the Canadian Parliament stated that he was a Canadian, and that the event would not have occurred if he had not been a Canadian?

MR. BRODRICK: I can only give the information supplied to me. It is not possible for me to go beyond the Papers supplied to me, and these state that the officer was born at Hull.

Volunteer Field Artillery.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the Royal Commission to inquire into the Auxiliary Forces, he can see his way to leave the Volunteer Field Artillery in the same condition as they were before the recent orders.

MR. BRODRICK: The order alluded to seems to have been misunderstood, the intention being to point out that the rôle of field artillery is to act in concert with Infantry and not with Cavalry. But as the whole question of the constitution of the Volunteers is under consideration by a Royal Commission, the Commander-in-Chief has determined to hold the order in abeyance pending their Report, and general officers commanding will be informed accordingly.

South African War—Report on Disease in the Army.

DR. FARQUHARSON (Aberdeenshire, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the Report of the Committee of Army Medical Officers, military and civil, sent to South Africa to report on the prevalence of enteric fever and dysentery during the war, has been received; and, if so, whether it will be laid upon the Table of the House.

MR. BRODRICK: The Report has been received, and will be laid on the Table.

British Indian Subjects in South Africa.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been drawn to the notification at Pretoria, dated 8th April last, directing that the laws of 1885 and 1886, imposing disqualifications on Indian British subjects as regards residence and trade, shall be enforced; and whether he will state whether any circumstances have arisen to necessitate the revival and enforcement under British rule of the restrictions imposed by the late Boer Government.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): The notice in question enforces the law referred to with due regard to the vested interests of traders and with a provision for the exemption of educated Asiatics from residence in places specially set apart for Asiatics. Lord Milner informs me that it was necessary to take this step pending fresh legislation in view of public feeling, but that the existing law is being carried out in the most lenient manner possible. On the receipt of Lord Milner's despatch, which I am expecting, I shall carefully consider the whole question.

Poles in Scottish Coal Pits.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if his attention has been called to the number of Poles who are employed in Scottish coal pits; and, if so, will he state whether, before being allowed to go down a mine, they are examined as to their knowledge of the British language

and of the laws and regulations for the safety of miners.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (MR. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): My right hon. friend has asked me to answer this, as coal mines are under the jurisdiction of the Home Department. It is a question which has several times in recent years engaged special attention. The Poles are not examined in the English language nor in the regulations before going down into the pits, but steps are taken by the officials of the mine to see that they are instructed in the regulations. The Inspector of Mines for the West Scotland District (where most of the Poles are employed) states that, though he has given the matter special attention for several years, he does not know of a single accident caused either to the other workmen or to the Poles themselves by their ignorance of the language or of the regulations.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: Will the matter be referred to the Alien Commission?

*MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: I believe witnesses have drawn the attention of the Alien Commission to it.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): Are the special rules printed in foreign languages and posted at the pit's mouth?

*MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: I cannot answer that. I have made inquiries to ascertain if the Poles are made thoroughly acquainted with the regulations before they are allowed to go down into the pit and I am assured that they are. If the hon. Member will repeat his Question I will endeavour to ascertain.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: Either the right hon. Gentleman or his predecessor made me a promise that it should be done.

*MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: If my predecessor promised, it will be done, and I will see to it.

Motor-Car Regulations—Race from Scotland to London.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): I beg to ask Mr.

Attorney-General if his attention has been called to the fact that several persons engaged in the non-stop race from Scotland to London committed breaches of the law; and, if so, will he state what action he proposes to take.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): My attention has not been called to the fact that several persons engaged in the non-stop race from Scotland to London committed breaches of the law. This is not a matter which would come before me in the ordinary course. It is for the local authorities to deal with.

Mr. Galloway Weir's Escape.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to cases in which motor-cars passing through Parliament Street, near the entrance to Palace Yard, have disregarded police signals; and, if so, whether he will state what steps he proposes to take in the matter.

MR. AKERS DOUGLAS: No, Sir; and the Commissioner of Police informs me that no such case has come under his notice, nor has he received any complaint on the subject.

MR. WEIR: The day before yesterday I was nearly knocked over. The chauffeur refused to obey the signals of the police.

Corn and Flour Mills in the United Kingdom.

MR. J. A. PEASE (Essex, Saffron Walden): On behalf of the hon. Member for Mid Norfolk, I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can state the number of corn and flour mills in Great Britain and their output thirty years ago, as compared with their number and production to-day.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): There are no official Returns relating to this matter, but I am informed by the Board of Agriculture that about thirty years ago there

were probably about 15,000 mills (mostly of the old type) in the United Kingdom. The total number is now estimated at about 9,000, of which about 1,000 are roller mills of the first class, while some 3,000 have a more or less incomplete roller system. As regards annual output, the estimates of wheat flour are, for a period about thirty years ago, 52,000,000 cwts., and for the present time about 76,000,000 cwts. The hon. Member will understand that these figures can only be taken as approximate.

The Port of Workington.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, in view of the fact that vessels sailing to Workington recently have been put ashore owing to their bounds being limited, through the non-clearing of the river, he will state what steps, if any, will be taken to secure the safety of vessels in future.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I have no information as to the present condition of the entrance to the port of Workington. The matter is one for the harbour authority to deal with, and I will call their attention to the statements contained in the hon. Member's Question.

Women Clerks in the General Post Office.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General, whether, in view of the fact that no examination for women clerkships in the service of the General Post Office has been held since October, 1901, he will consent to some extension of the limits of age, so that those candidates who had no opportunity of competing since then, and who may now be slightly over age, may have an opportunity of presenting themselves for examination on the next occasion.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): No examination was held because there were no vacancies to be filled by competition; but this fact does not, in my opinion, afford any sufficient reason for altering the limits of age for the next examination.

**Scottish Congested Districts Board—
New Holdings in Highland Crofting
Counties.**

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if he will state the number of new holdings which have been formed in the Highland crofting counties through the agency of the Congested Districts Board for Scotland during the year under review in the recently issued Report.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): It is not easy yet to give more exact figures than those in the Report, as, in several cases, the actual sub-division and allocation of the holdings has not yet been carried out, and the estimated number of the holdings may be less or more than the actual sub-division. The total of the estimate is 216 holdings, including the 51 potato plots in Watersay.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, in view of the fact that the recently issued Report of the Congested Districts Board for Scotland shows that early last year the Board were in negotiation for an estate which afforded facilities both for the enlargement of new holdings, and for the formation of new holdings for migrants from congested districts will he state the name of the estate referred to, and the cause of the negotiations falling through.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: The negotiations were of a confidential nature, and it is therefore not possible to give the hon. Member the information which he desires.

MR. WEIR: In what county is the estate situated?

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY declined to give the information.

**Migration of Cottars from Congested
Districts—Suggested Legislation.**

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate in view of the fact that the Report of the Congested Districts Board for Scotland shows that the Board have advertised extensively in newspapers intimating that they were prepared to negotiate for the purchase of suitable arable

or pasture land for the purpose of promoting the migration of selected crofters and cottars from congested districts in Scotland to other districts offering better chances of success to such crofters and cottars and their families, and that no suitable property had been offered to the Board, will the Secretary for Scotland consider the expediency of introducing legislation such as will give the Board compulsory powers for the acquisition of land.

*MR. A. GRAHAM-MURRAY: The Secretary for Scotland does not contemplate the introduction of a measure into Parliament containing the powers suggested by the hon. Member.

**Island of Lewis—Major Matheson and his
Tenants.**

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether the proprietor of the Island of Lewis, Major Matheson, has yet come to terms with the twenty-five applicants for feus for fishermen's dwellings near Stornoway; and, if not, will he state the cause of the delay.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I am informed by the Congested Districts Board that they understand Major Matheson is negotiating with the approved applicants for allocation of individual allotments, but that the result has not yet been communicated to them.

MR. WEIR: That fact is stated in the Report of the Congested Districts Board. When may the result be expected?

[No answer was returned.]

**Irish Board of National Education—
Building Grants.**

MR. M'KEAN (Monaghan, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he can now state the decision of the Treasury in reference to the scale on which grants are to be made for the building of new schools under the Board of National Education for Ireland in accordance with the new programme.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. ELLIOT, Durham): A decision on the recommendations of the recent Committee on Building Grants

will be deferred until the inquiry into the present educational system in Ireland is completed.

Police and Rathcline Evicted Tenants.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether he is aware that on a recent occasion two tenants living in Leherly, Barony of Rathcline, County Longford, who were evicted from their farms in 1881, were visited by the police with a view to ascertaining the facts in connection with the case; and, if so, whether it is proposed to include in the Irish Land Bill a clause that will enable such evicted tenants to be restored to their former holdings.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (MR. WYNDHAM, DOVER): These and other visits by the police were necessitated in order to collect information for the return in the name of the hon. Member for South Tipperary. I cannot anticipate the Committee stage of the Land Bill by way of question and answer.

Ellen Farrelly's Holding at Drumard.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that in 1887 Ellen Farrelly of Fehora, in the parish of Drumard, County Longford, had a rent fixed on twenty-one acres, twenty poles of land at £6 5s. per annum, and subsequently purchased same through the Land Commission; and that on the vesting order being issued the size of her tenancy was fixed at fifteen acres, two roods, and the balance, amounting to nearly six acres of bog, merged into two adjoining tenants named Anderson and Reilly; and, if so, will he direct the Land Commission to hold an inquiry into the matter with a view to such readjustment of boundaries as will restore to this woman her original holding.

MR. WYNDHAM: The agreement to purchase entered into by this tenant set out the area of the holding to be purchased at fifteen acres, two roods, eight poles. It was ascertained on inspection of the land that the area was

eighteen acres, one rood, eight poles, which area was vested in the tenant by order dated 3rd December, 1900, when the proceedings closed.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that this case has caused a great deal of annoyance locally, and will he direct the Land Commission to hold an inquiry *pro formâ* for the purpose of ascertaining the facts?

MR. WYNDHAM: The parties have their remedy.

Gun Licences in Ireland.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will explain why Sergeant Johnson, Royal Irish Constabulary, recently proceeded to the house of Thomas Grogan, near Newmarket, County Clare, and removed from Grogan's possession two guns for which he held licences.

MR. WYNDHAM: This man held no licence for either of the two guns removed.

Belfast Primary Schools.

MR. SLOAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that primary schools in Belfast are small, without class rooms or playgrounds, unsanitary, and unfitted as places of education; and whether, seeing that these schools are private property, with State-paid teachers, and that the city authority has no power over the schools and cannot make provision for the educational needs of the community, the Government has under consideration any scheme for giving the local authority control of primary education in Belfast, with power to provide by State-aid efficient primary schools to meet present requirements.

MR. WYNDHAM: I am informed by the Commissioners that there is no justification for the suggestion that State-aid is granted to schools that are unsanitary and unfitted as places of education. It is true, however, that there are some national schools throughout Ireland, and in the North of Ireland in particular, that do not come up to the standard of modern requirements in respect to air

space, fittings, accommodation, etc. These schools, however, are being gradually superseded by others of modern type.

MR. SLOAN: Will the right hon. Gentleman consider the desirability of assisting these schools?

MR. WYNDHAM: That is at present the subject of negotiation between myself and the Treasury.

Lloyd Apjohn Estate, County Limerick.

MR. LONDON (Limerick, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland can he say what progress has been made in the Land Judges' Court with the sale of the Lloyd Apjohn Estate to the tenants in the parish of Nicker, county Limerick, since the 1st January, 1903; and how the negotiations for sale and purchase stand at present.

MR. WYNDHAM: The rental has not yet been settled. The Land Judge is satisfied that the solicitor who has carriage of the proceedings is in no way responsible for the delay. It is confidently expected that the request for an inspection will be issued to the Land Commission by the 9th of July.

Royal Commission on Trade Disputes.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, having regard to the number of women workers affected by trade disputes and to the special nature of their position in the labour market, it is intended to place any woman on the proposed Royal Commission as a member.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (MR. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): Perhaps the right hon. Baronet will allow me to give him an answer similar to that which I gave yesterday to the hon. Member for Waterford. If the Commission on Trade Disputes is of the larger type, undoubtedly I think there ought to be some distinct representative of the women workers of the country upon it. Of course, if it is of the smaller type, the idea of representation falls through.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL had a question on the Paper on the same subject, but in view of the answer of the right hon. Gentleman given above did not press it.

Early Closing Saturday (Ireland) Bill.

MR. SLOAN: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can give facilities for enabling the further stages of the Early Saturday Closing (Ireland) Bill to be proceeded with during the present Session.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am afraid I can hold out to my hon. friend no hope of special facilities for this Bill. He is probably aware that it would be impossible to conduct the business of this House if controversial private Bills, after being in the hands of private Members, were to have fresh facilities given them at the end of the session.

MR. SLOAN: It is a well-known fact that all classes in Ireland are anxious that this Bill should go through.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am aware that there is a very strong feeling in favour of the Bill, but it can hardly be said to come within the category of unopposed measures.

MR. FLAVIN: On the contrary, there is a strong feeling the other way.

Company Law—Whitaker-Wright Case.

MR. JOHN CAMPBELL (Armagh, S.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, when he proposes to bring in the Bill to amend certain alleged defects in the law as disclosed by the Whitaker-Wright case.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The Bill has been for some time ready; but my hon. and learned friend the Attorney-General thinks, and I am in entire agreement with him, that it would be most inconvenient to have a discussion on the Bill while the Whitaker-Wright case was pending. It would be impossible to avoid allusion to that case, which, I think, would be most inconvenient, and indeed, improper.

Military Works (Loans) Bill.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can state when it is intended to introduce the Military Works (Loans) Bill.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No, Sir, I am afraid I cannot give my hon. friend any information on the subject.

Relief of the "Discovery."

COLONEL ROYDS (Rochdale): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether his attention has been directed to representations from the Royal Geographical Society to the effect that in order to ensure the safety of the officers and men of the Antarctic ship "Discovery," it will be necessary to send the relief ship "Morning" to the Antarctic regions next December; and whether, seeing that thirty out of the thirty-seven officers and men of the "Discovery" are on the active list of the Royal Navy, he will state whether a grant from the Exchequer has been asked for; and, if so, what is the amount and what are the intentions of the Government.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have not been able to communicate with my right hon. friend, and perhaps my hon. and gallant friend will be good enough to postpone this Question till Monday or Tuesday next.

ABSENCE OF MINISTERS.

At twenty-five minutes past two several Members who had Questions to the Secretary of State for War were called upon, but in the absence of the Minister the Questions could not be put. Subsequent Questions to the Colonial Secretary and the First Lord of the Treasury in succession could not be put for the same reason. A Question to the President of the Local Government Board also remained unanswered.

After a pause,

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.), addressing Mr. Speaker, said: On the question of order, Sir, perhaps you could tell us what course is to be followed in the

circumstances in which the House finds itself.

*MR. SPEAKER: It is not exactly a question of order. I think that in the unusual circumstances that a little delay will be found most convenient to the House.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: Would it not be much better if we were to meet at half past two?

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.): May I move the adjournment now?

*MR. SPEAKER: At the end of Questions. I think it would be convenient to wait a few minutes. The hon. Members who have Questions will not be prejudiced then.

The absent Ministers here entered the House.

MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): I wish to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, having regard to what has happened this afternoon owing to the unavoidable absence of Ministers to whom Questions were addressed, he does not think the time has arrived when the universal desire of the House to meet at a more convenient hour should be acceded to.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have indicated very clearly to the House that I am quite ready to consider any unanimous view of the House that could be given expression to without any lengthened discussion, provided the House would accept an arrangement which would not curtail the length of time given to public business. I have said that before, and the result is that it is perfectly clear that the House is not prepared to accept that solution. Under these circumstances I think the hon. Gentleman must allow the Question to stand over until we have a further trial of the new rules.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): May I ask the right hon. Gentleman what is the use of putting down

Questions to Ministers at a quarter-past two o'clock when Ministers are not here to answer them?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Gentleman is entering upon an argument which may be of importance but which clearly does not arise at Question time.

The Whitsuntide Holidays.

SIR JOSEPH LEESE (Lancashire, Accrington): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can state for the convenience of hon. Members when the House is likely to resume after the Whitsuntide holidays.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am afraid it is impossible for me to make any positive statement on that point until we see more clearly the business we are likely to get through before the holidays begin.

The Finance Bill

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL: May I ask when it is proposed to take the Second Reading of the Finance Bill?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: That depends on the progress of business.

MR. CHAPLIN (Lincolnshire, Sleaford): Arising out of that answer may I ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, before the House separates this week, he will be able to state definitely, for the convenience of a large number of Members, if the Finance Bill will be taken before Whitsuntide or after? I hope it is not an unreasonable request to make.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think the Question of my right hon. friend is most reasonable, but whether I can answer it or not is another matter. Of course, I shall do my best to give the House the earliest information as to the arrangement of business we are able to make.

MR. BRYCE: Does the right hon. Gentleman seriously entertain the impression that it will be possible to enter upon any long business after the conclusion of the proceedings

on the London Education Bill next week? Surely he must have studied the matter sufficiently to know how much remains to be done on the Bill.

No reply was made.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet): I understood the First Lord of the Treasury to say yesterday that the Finance Bill would not be taken the first day after the holidays.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: If the Finance Bill is to be deferred until after the Whitsuntide holidays, undoubtedly I shall not ask the House to take it the morning we reassemble. While I do not pledge myself to it, in all probability it will be taken on the Tuesday.

MR. CHAPLIN: Will the right hon. Gentleman tell us in the course of tomorrow if the Bill will be taken before or after Whitsuntide? There is a strong desire to know, and I think the request is a reasonable one.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The request, I admit, is reasonable, but my right hon. friend seems to think my reply unreasonable. It is my desire to give the House the earliest possible information, and as soon as I am in a position I will do so.

THE NEW MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE,

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY, (Somerset, S.) rose in his place, and asked leave to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., "the appointment of a person not being a Member of this House to the office of President of the Board of Agriculture, leaving no official of that important Department as its representative in this House;" but the pleasure of the House not having been signified, Mr. Speaker called on those Members who supported the Motion to rise in their places, and not less than forty Members having accordingly risen,

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Can any other business than Supply be taken on Thursday? It is an allotted day.

*MR. SPEAKER: On what does the hon. Member base his question? I know of nothing in the Standing Orders to prevent it.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: On the new Standing Orders.

MR. GALLOWAY (Manchester, S.W.): I think the Order provides that no business other than Supply shall be taken.

*MR. SPEAKER: The word business as there used does not include Motions for the adjournment.

The Motion stood over, under Standing Order No. 10, until the Evening Sitting, this day.

SUPPLY [TENTH ALLOTTED DAY].
Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE
DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1903-4.
CLASS III.

MR. WHITLEY (Halifax) said he would have to move to report Progress in order to call attention to the arrangement of the order of the Votes. It was understood that the Votes would be put down in the usual order, but that was not so, and the Votes some hon. Members were anxious to discuss were left out, and therefore could not be discussed at all. This was a very unusual proceeding. It was a surprise to many hon. Members who had thought that one particular Vote would probably occupy the whole sitting. He contended that an arrangement of that kind should not be made without some public intimation, and in order to elicit an explanation from the Government, he begged to move to report Progress.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report Progress; and ask leave to sit again."—*(Mr. Whitley.)*

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs) said the reason was very simple. The hon.

Member for South Molton had stated in the House that on the first or second Vote he proposed to raise a discussion with regard to a prosecution which was now pending. It was impossible that there should be a discussion in the House with regard to a case which was *sub judice*, and for that reason, and for no other, the Votes had been postponed.

MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): We were told on Tuesday that the first Vote that would be taken would be the law charges.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: No the words were "Law and Justice" which cover all the items.

SIR ROBERT REID (Dumfries Burghs) agreed as to the impropriety of discussing a pending prosecution; but, on the other hand, it was an alarming state of things that the House of Commons should, by the crime of—or rather accusation of crime against—an individual, be precluded from exercising its proper function of discussing the expenditure of the country—in this case, that of the law officers' Department—for a whole year. That was a general proposition which he could not accede to.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said if there was general consent on the part of the House that cases now pending should be excluded from the discussion, this Vote could be put down at the first opportunity. But he would point out that, if some one insisted on his technical right to raise a debate on a pending prosecution, the hon. and learned Member would at once see the difficulty of putting down the Vote. The inconvenience was not the result of the action of the Government but the determination of some hon. Members to discuss matters which it would be contrary to the ordinary decencies to bring on in the present situation. It would be wrong to have a discussion which might prejudice either the prosecution or the defence. Personally, he was only too anxious that the debate should be taken as soon as possible.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) said he could quite understand the desire of the hon. and learned Gentleman to take the first possible opportunity of vindicating his conduct, and it was an unfortunate

thing that any pending case should be discussed in that House. But surely it was a far greater evil to withhold from the House of Commons its constitutional right of discussing important Votes because possibly something might be said in the debate which might be prejudicial to the prosecution or the defence in the case alluded to. That was a doctrine in which he could not acquiesce.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.) said the Government not only did not propose to the House to accept that doctrine but it had never even been suggested by him or by any one of his colleagues. The question was a simple one. He always desired to put down the Supply which, as far as he could gather, the House desired to discuss. It never occurred to the Government to lay down a hard and fast rule that the House should be precluded from discussing its own Estimates because there was a case pending. It was simply a question of convenience as to what should be done on this particular Supply day. There were many Supply days remaining, and there was just a chance that the case might be finished by the end of the session.

MR. HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.): Is there any chance of the Wright case being finished before the end of the session?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes, there is a chance.

MR. HEMPHILL: It has not been sent over from America yet.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I believe there is a very good chance. The right hon. Gentleman continuing said he only rose to correct a misapprehension. Whatever Estimates were taken, let no one go away with the idea that there was any desire to withhold any of them from the House. He hoped the Committee would now be allowed to proceed with the Votes on the Paper, as they were the only ones which under the Standing Order could be taken that day.

MR. WHITLEY said the statement of the right hon. Gentleman was correct so

Mr. Bryce.

far as it went, but his complaint was that the House as a whole was kept in absolute ignorance of the intention to hold these Votes back until it was too late. His desire was to secure a proper discussion of the Estimates, and he would appeal to the Prime Minister to arrange, if possible, that the Supply to be taken should be placed on the Paper a week in advance, the notice now given being in his opinion too short for useful criticism in the interests of economy. That was the main reason for his protest that night.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said the common practice had been that the Supply for Thursday was stated on the preceding Monday [An Hon. Member: Too short.] If any complaint had reached his ears that this notice was too short, the practice could easily be altered. The Government had no interest whatever in keeping secret the Supply they were to take; and the sole reason why the announcement was not made earlier was that very often events occurred which made it desirable to have some immediate discussion. He had endeavoured to accede to what he believed to be the wish of the House.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) said that an intimation on Monday of the Supply to be taken on Thursday was quite long enough notice. The case of Whitaker Wright, which was remotely connected with this Vote, might be *sub judice* up to and long after the end of the session, and if the House was precluded from discussing the Vote hon. Members would not have the opportunity of discussing it this year. Moreover, he was not sure whether the question desired to be raised had anything to do with the merits of the case which was *sub judice*. The matter it was desired to discuss was the advice which had been given in the Whitaker Wright case by the law officers of the Crown. Therefore, while the doctrine laid down by the Prime Minister was a sound one, he thought the Government should give an undertaking that the fact that the Whitaker Wright case was *sub judice* would not preclude the House for ever from discussing this Vote.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that he was anxious to avoid in future anything that might lead to misconception. He did not give a pledge that this Vote would come on, but it would come on if it was the general wish of the House. He had no desire to keep it back from the House, but he could not absolutely promise to find a day for it should the House wish to discuss other Votes within the allotted time.

MR. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.) said the misunderstanding should not be attributed to hon. Members on that side of the House. On Friday last, when interrogated as to the Supply to be taken to-day, the Prime Minister promised to make a statement on Monday. The House were then told that Class III., Law Charges, would be taken. He now understood—though he had not before heard of it—that a private arrangement was entered into last night by which Vote 3, and not Vote 1, would be taken. The moral he wished to point was that these private arrangements should be publicly announced, because they constantly gave rise to misunderstanding, delayed public business, and really defeated the purpose of the House by necessitating discussions without adequate notice or full information.

* THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY (Sir A. ACLAND-HOOD, Somersetshire, Wellington) explained how the situation arose. On Monday the Prime Minister was asked what Estimates would be taken that day. Right hon. Gentlemen opposite asked that Vote 1 of one of the larger Departments connected with the Civil Service and Revenue Department should be taken, and the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Forest of Dean asked that the Home Office Vote should not be taken. Shortly afterwards, two right hon. Gentlemen opposite came to him behind the Speaker's Chair, one asking that the Local Government Board Vote should be taken, the other begging that that particular Vote should be held over. Eventually it was agreed that the Local Government Board Vote should not be taken. Having cut out the Home Office and the Local Government Board, and having got the

Treasury, the Board of Agriculture, and the Board of Trade, the field was very limited; but, finally, it was suggested that the Vote for law charges should be taken first. He communicated this to the House at midnight on Monday. Afterwards, he found that the hon. Member for South Molton wished to raise the question of Whitaker Wright, and in the ordinary way he communicated with one of the Opposition Whips, and told him that Votes 1 and 2 would not be taken, also writing a private letter to the hon. Member for South Molton to this effect. Personally, he had done all he could in accordance with Parliamentary etiquette, and he regretted if the House had been put to any inconvenience.

MR. BRYCE acknowledged that the hon. Gentleman always showed an anxious desire to serve all sections of the House, and to give the fullest information. The unfortunate thing was that, in this particular case, the information had not reached the general body of Members.

SIR JOSEPH LEESE (Lancashire Accrington) was understood to say that, it being represented that to raise this question might be unfair to a prisoner undergoing his trial, and there was also unfairness to the Attorney-General, whose mouth would be closed, he was quite certain that the good feeling of the House would be a sufficient safeguard in that direction.

MR. WHITLEY, in asking leave to withdraw the Motion, said he had always received the utmost courtesy from the hon. Gentleman for the Wellington Division in connection with these business arrangements. What had led to the difficulty was the fact that the House was not informed last night of the changed arrangements.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £180,118, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for such of the salaries and

expenses of the Supreme Court of Judicature as are not charged on the Consolidated Fund."

MR. BUCHANAN asked who was really responsible for this Estimate as a whole. In framing the Estimates, the usual course was for the head of the Department to exercise a general supervision, and then to submit his particular estimate to the Treasury or the Chancellor of the Exchequer for approval, holding himself ready to answer for the various branches and details of the Estimate. As he understood, there was no such central control over the Estimate under discussion. To illustrate the matter, he put this case to the Attorney-General—if the Lord Chancellor desired to increase his staff by a certain number of clerks, would he have to obtain the consent of the Treasury before placing the additional charge on the Estimates for the year? Where a Department wished to increase its establishment by any considerable number of officials it had to get the consent of the Treasury before it could apply to Parliament for increased expenditure. He wished to know whether the same rule applied to this Vote. The heads of the Court of Judicature were in a position of greater independence than the heads of the Civil Service Departments, and this did not tend to economical expenditure.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said that appointments under this Vote were made and held under wholly different conditions to the rest of the Civil Service, and with an almost complete absence of those checks which the wisdom of Parliament had imposed upon every other kind of expenditure. The reason might be that there was an enormous amount of fees, and it might be considered that they had a sort of right to an independent administration of their own. All the appointments and salaries were fixed by the respective heads of Departments, and not by the Treasury. This was a very large Department, incurring a large expenditure which was wholly withdrawn from the ordinary securities which attached to the expenditure of this country. He thought the Treasury had to be consulted before any

material changes were made in the existing scales of salaries. Was that so? He believed it was perfectly true that the Treasury had no sort of control over this expenditure at all, corresponding to the control which it had over other Departments. They all had the highest respect for the Judges in their judicial capacity, but he had very little respect for them in their financial capacity. He believed they were very bad financiers, probably through their early training and the demoralising effect of large fees, and he believed that they were by nature, profession, and practice addicted to extravagance of the most reckless kind. This was partly the fault of Parliament, because a lawyer generally got about ten times the salary of any other person of the highest possible eminence under these appointments. He had the very greatest conceivable distrust of His Majesty's Judges as financiers, and he thought this Department should be treated the same as other Departments which were administered and controlled by the Treasury. If there were some great contravention of principle, or some serious ground on which the withdrawal of this large Department from the control of the Treasury could be justified, he wished to know what it was. He supposed that there was some sort of answer to be given to this question. If the official answer was that this enormous judicial establishment collected fees which it would, in the ordinary way, be entitled to keep, but which it had now to hand over, that argument had no effect at all. That was recognised as a dangerous system years ago, when it was ordained that the Revenue Department should pay all Departments.

MR. WHITLEY said that on one page of the Estimates before them there was a note telling them that in the case of second class clerks the number was to be reduced by one on a vacancy. That was to say that they were overstaffed by one clerk. On the very next page he noticed that three new clerks had been engaged at exactly the same rate of salary, and apparently exactly the same class of public servant. If the Treasury did its duty in this matter, application would have to be made to them to say

whether three more second class clerks were required, and they could have made arrangements to transfer one clerk from the Department which was overstaffed. This kind of thing was continually occurring. Certain Departments were overstaffed and could well spare some of their clerks. He gave that as an illustration to show where Treasury control was useful and where economy might be brought about.

SIR ROBERT REID (Dumfries Burghs) said it was quite true that a great number of these appointments were made by the heads of Departments, and many of them were made by the Lord Chief Justice and the Master of the Rolls. Others were made by the Lord Chancellor. In regard to these appointments it should be remembered that if they wanted proper appointments made they ought to be made by some person thoroughly acquainted with the subject. If they were made by the First Lord of the Treasury or any other great official, he would only go to the Lord Chancellor or the Attorney-General for advice. So far as the minor appointments made by the President of the Probate Court, the Master of the Rolls, and the Lord Chief Justice were concerned, he should deprecate those appointments being taken away from those officials in order to be given to the Lord Chancellor, whose patronage was already far too great.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said he was only making a suggestion which he thought should be considered.

SIR ROBERT REID said the only observation he had to make on the subject was this. He did not at all suppose that there was no room for reform. Far from it. He should think it was very likely that there were superfluous offices which ought certainly to be cut down. There might be Departments which were understaffed, but he had no doubt there were some which were overstaffed, and if the hon. Gentleman or anybody else wished to bring it to a point by means of a Departmental inquiry, or in any other convenient manner, to get a thorough knowledge of

what the expense was and how it could probably be diminished, he would heartily support the proposal. He asked the Attorney-General to state how the appeals stood now. There had been for two or three years a very great excess of arrears. The present Master of the Rolls and the Court of Appeal had done their best to avoid this state of things, and they had had the assistance of a third Court. He did not know whether they had got the arrears down to a satisfactory condition, but he did say that the Court of Appeal ought not to be pressed with such an excess of work. It was a state of things which ought not to exist. It was not creditable to the country. He should very much deprecate an increase of the Court of Appeal if it could be avoided in any way, but if the amount of work which came before the Judges could be diminished by limiting appeals, or otherwise, it was desirable to avoid working the Court of Appeal at high pressure in clearing off arrears.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said the point raised by the hon. and learned Member for Dumfries was one of very great and general importance. He was glad to be able to say that according to his information the arrears were in a very much more satisfactory condition than they were last year. In regard to the Chancery appeals, where the arrears were formidable indeed, he understood that they were almost, if not altogether, disposed of; but in regard to the appeals from the Exchequer Division, the state of things was not quite so satisfactory, although he hoped the Court was not very far behind. He understood they had a number of very heavy cases which required prolonged argument, and this had prevented the Court from being so well situated with regard to progress as was hoped at one time. The improved state of things at present as compared with last year was no doubt due to the sitting of the third Court, in which the Lord Chancellor presided, and which had done substantial service in clearing off a number of cases. If assistance was required from time to time, he was sure it would be given in the same way, so that the necessity for more Judges would be avoided. Of course it was extremely

desirable that the arrears should be kept within reasonable compass, because every lawyer knew that as soon as it was known that arrears were accumulating, appeals were put down for the purpose of gaining time. It was said by a distinguished lawyer in the United States that the way to keep down arrears was to have none. If they did not have arrears they would find that appeals would not be entered. A proposal had been mooted in regard to which he was not in a position to say anything on behalf of the Government. It was that where there was a decision given by a divisional court of three Judges with the Chief Justice presiding, it might be possible to appeal from that Court direct to the House of Lords. He thought that arrangement might, if carried out, relieve the Appeal Court of a certain amount of work which at present occupied its time. He was in entire accord with what was said by his hon. friend the Member for King's Lynn in regard to appointments by the Judges. No one could say that the patronage of legal posts ought not to rest with the Judges. After all, they must trust some one, and the person most fitted to be trusted was the person who was concerned in the efficient discharge of the work. Every man in business knew that the way to secure the best appointments was to leave the appointments to a subordinate who was conversant with the work himself, and whose business it was to see that the work was efficiently done. He assured the hon. Member for Lynn Regis that he had not observed any of the symptoms which he seemed to have detected, namely, a tendency to extravagance. The hon. Member thought that the Judges were reckless in money matters, and that they were disposed to appoint officials at large salaries. Even if the Judges had any defects of that nature they were under the control of the Treasury.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Does the Treasury control these appointments?

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said the Treasury did not control the persons to be appointed. It would be a very improper thing if it did, but if any new

Sir Robert Finlay

office was created which involved any expenditure, whether out of money voted by the House, or out of fees, that expenditure could only be incurred with the consent of, and under a scheme approved by the Treasury. His hon. friend's remarks seemed rather to apply to days early in the last century when there were sinecures with which it was difficult to deal. There was one post then with emoluments amounting to £25,000 a year. When an inquiry was held the Lord Chief Justice was called as a witness, and asked whether he did not think it was possible to reduce the salary, he replied, with great force and irresistible logic, that if there were any duties attached to the office which could be reduced they could reduce the salary in proportion, but as there were no duties it was impossible to entertain the idea of reducing the salary. The hon. Member for Halifax had suggested that a clerk might sometimes be transferred from one post to another. If a clerk was appointed for some particular duties, they could not ensure that he would be an Admirable Crichton and that he would be qualified to take up the other duties to which he might be transferred. It might turn out to be a great mistake to transfer him to a totally new field, even though thereby some economy might on the face of the Estimates be obtained.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea District) said the Attorney-General had not quite answered the criticism from this side of the House. What had always struck him about this particular Vote was that under the present regulations of the House there was no efficient check upon improper appointments by the Judges. He entirely agreed with what had been said as to the propriety of allowing the Judges the patronage in regard to any offices in connection with the Courts of Justice, but the difficulty in which the Committee were placed was that the salaries of the Judges were on the consolidated fund, and they could not discuss these appointments. The salaries of the judges were properly on the Consolidated Fund in order that their judicial action might not be criticised by this House, but in the exercise of

patronage they exercised an executive and not a judicial act. It would be entirely unfair to attack an official referee in this House on the ground that he was incompetent, but it would be quite another and a proper thing to criticise adversely the action of the Lord Chancellor or the Lord Chief Justice for making the appointment. He recognised that there was very great difficulty in the matter, but still more difficulty in regard to the question of the control of subordinate offices. So far as he could see the control of the Judges over the subordinate officers was by no means adequate. He did not know, for instance, how they were to get rid of an incompetent Master or Official Referee. He wished to call the attention of the Attorney-General once more to the amalgamation of the offices of probate registrar and district registrar of the High Court of Justice. He knew that some years ago the present Lord Chancellor was anxious that many of the offices of the Courts of Justice should be amalgamated.

SIR JAMES WOODHOUSE (Huddersfield) said he was very glad to hear that the policy of the right hon. Gentleman was to abolish the intermediate appeal between the King's Bench and the House of Lords. He wished to ask whether there was no means of pensioning aged official referees who were unfitted by reason of the infirmity of years to conduct the business which they had to do. It was known that Judges of the High Court at the expiration of fifteen years were entitled to retire and receive a pension. So long as they remained vigorous no one would suggest that they should avail themselves of that course. It was notorious that legal business in certain Departments of the judicature was now very much handicapped indeed by reason of the fact that a certain gentleman retained his position although the infirmity of his years prevented him from discharging his duties to the satisfaction of those interested in the business of that Department. It was said that the reason of that was that there was no provision of the law entitling him to retire on a pension. If so, that was a defect in the law which should be remedied.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said that as regarded the exercise of patronage it would be very invidious indeed if the House were to sit in judgment on the exercise of patronage in an individual case. In regard to the amalgamation of the offices of probate registrar and that of the district registrar of the High Court of Justice there was no doubt that that was a matter which deserved consideration. He was not in a position to make a statement now on the subject, but what his hon. and learned friend said should command attention, and the nature of the matter was such that he was sure it would receive it. In regard to pensions he was not in a position to make any authoritative statement, but his impression was that if an official was disqualified by illness he was entitled to a superannuation allowance. He, however, might possibly be wrong.

MR. JAMES WOODHOUSE: Not necessarily illness, but advanced age.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said that advanced age incapacitating an official from performing the duties of his office came to the same thing as illness. If some provision was not available in such cases he thought the question was worthy of consideration.

SIR JAMES WOODHOUSE said that in the case of county court Judges, although they were not entitled to a pension, there was an express provision in the statute which enabled the Lord Chancellor to retire them on an allowance. He thought that that should be applied to three important officials in the courts now.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said he was so encouraged by the generous way in which the Attorney-General had answered him previously, and especially by the admirable illustration the right hon. Gentleman had given of the correctness of his view, that he ventured to bring under his notice another very delicate case. He referred to the retention of office by Judges at a time when it would be desirable for the public benefit that they should retire. Nobody was a greater advocate than

himself of the sound constitutional principle that the Judges should be placed beyond all outside influences.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order! There is no Vote for the salaries of Judges.

MR. BUCHANAN said there were two points he wished to bring before the Committee—one on finance and the other in regard to patronage. The Attorney-General had given a very general answer to a question put to him in regard to the first; and he would be rather surprised if the hon. Gentleman the Secretary to the Treasury were to make an answer in equally broad terms. The question he had to put was—Had the Treasury the same control over the increases in mass and detail on this Estimate as it had over the increases in mass and detail of other Estimates submitted to the House of Commons? Because, from all the evidence given before the Committee on National Expenditure and various other Committees, the Treasury control over these law charges, particularly this Vote, and the creation of new offices, and the increase of salaries of the new officials, was much less complete and effective than in other Departments of the Civil Service expenditure. It was not necessary to prove that on this Vote there had been gross expenditure, but what they pressed for was that there should be as effective control over the people who were responsible—the Lord Chancellor and others—for the Department served by this Estimate as there was over the other great Departments of the State. In regard to the second point—viz., patronage—speaking as a layman he was not sure that he quite agreed with what had been said by previous speakers. Of course there was a great distinction between the patronage of the offices contained in this Estimate and other offices in other Departments. Some of these were distinctly legal and personal offices, and it was only reasonable that the Lord Chancellor should be able to give them to those who he thought were able to discharge the functions of these offices. But was he to understand that the Lord Chancellor and other legal heads of the various Departments under this Vote had the right of

patronage over the clerks in these various Departments? That appeared to him to be no inroad on the right of private patronage. There were between 300 and 400 clerks borne on this Estimate. Were these generally appointed after open competition and examination under the Civil Service Commission, or were they not? And if not, why should they not be appointed under the same rules as the clerical staff in other Departments of the State were appointed? The work they performed was analogous to that performed by the clerks in other offices, and their appointment should no longer be entrusted to private individuals, but only after competition and examination.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES said that there were seven Masters of the Supreme Court, and two Assistant Masters. Who had authority to determine the number?

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY Mr. ELLIOT (Durham) said there appeared to be a misapprehension as to the absence of financial control on the part of the Treasury. There was no doubt whatever that the Lord Chancellor or any other great dignitary had no more power to appoint a clerk and get him paid out of public funds than any hon. Member. If any important change were proposed as to the number or salaries of particular officials at the Courts of Justice it could not be enforced without the sanction and approval of the Treasury having been obtained. He had not been very long at the Treasury, but he had been long enough there to know that it was impossible to get hold of public money without the sanction and approval of the Treasury.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES asked if that applied to superannuation?

MR. ELLIOT said that superannuation was regulated by Act of Parliament under a recognised scheme. To suppose that any great dignitary could do as he liked as regarded superannuation was a mistake.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES asked what duty the messenger of the Great

Seal discharged. The Lord Chancellor had nine personal attendants. He could understand the permanent secretary, the private secretary, the clerk of the chamber, the junior clerk of the chamber, the first clerk, and the third class clerk, but he could not understand the messenger of the Great Seal. There was also an allowance of £12 for an assistant sealer. He was given to understand that the Great Seal was in charge of the Lord Chancellor himself. He himself when in the House which the Lord Chancellor honoured with his presence saw the Great Seal in his charge. The Lord Chancellor was the custodian, and the only custodian, of the Great Seal. What, therefore, was the messenger for?

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said he thought his hon. friend would see that although the Great Seal was in charge of the Lord Chancellor it was impossible for the Lord Chancellor to carry all the documents to which the Great Seal was to be affixed. It was part of the duty of the messenger of the Great Seal to see that those documents were taken to the proper place in order that the Great Seal might be affixed to them.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid) asked whether the clerks in the first, second, and third divisions were appointed by examination under the Civil Service system.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said he was informed by the Secretary to the Treasury that the classification was the result of examination. He did not say that there was an examination in every case, as circumstances might require the appointment of a particular person possessing special qualifications, who might find it difficult at his time of life to pass an examination.

MR. CALDWELL asked if the clerks were placed in their respective divisions as the result of a Civil Service examination. The various divisions mentioned would lead hon. Members to suppose that the clerks had passed a Civil Service examination in the usual way. When he mentioned the matter five or

six years ago, the appointments were not then made as a result of a Civil Service examination, though there might have been a change since then. The clerks were then appointed on the nominations of different Judges without any examination at all. He was anxious that those clerks should be brought into the ordinary Civil Service so that no question of favouritism might arise. He wanted to know how the matter really stood now.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (SIR EDWARD CARSON, Dublin University) said he understood that the clerks were appointed as follows—they were nominated by the presidents of the various divisions, after which they had to pass an examination. There were separate examinations for each of the three classes. As regarded promotion, in the majority of cases it was by seniority, but no clerk could be promoted without having a certificate from the head of his Department that he was a proper person for promotion. There was no great distinction between that system and the system in the other great Departments.

MR. BUCHANAN said the Committee were now getting at the facts. Those clerks were not appointed by ordinary Civil Service examination. They numbered about 300, and were not elected by open competition. They were appointed under a system of private patronage with a qualifying examination. Why should there be such a large amount of private patronage, and why should those positions be closed to open public competition? He thought it would be the bounden duty of the Committee to express an opinion on the matter.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said that that was a perfectly new question. It was not the universal rule in the Civil Service that appointments should be made by competitive examination. Competitive examinations were admirable, but they were not a panacea for all human ills. He did not understand why a great Department such as Law and Justice should be held up to opprobrium because it adopted a system of nomination

in order to get the best men. As regarded the qualifying examination, it was held in accordance with a scheme settled by the Lord Chancellor and the Treasury and it was issued by the Civil Service Commissioners for the guidance of candidates. There was, however, a special power to dispense with an examination in the case of an individual possessing particular qualifications. He did not think that any complaint could be made with reference to the *personnel* of the office of Law and Justice.

MR. BUCHANAN, in consequence of the unsatisfactory nature of the reply of the hon. and learned Attorney-General, moved that the Vote be reduced by £100.

Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum not exceeding £180,018, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Buchanan.*)

SIR JOHN GORST (Cambridge University) said the hon. Member who had moved the reduction was quite in error in his view of the Civil Service of this country. The appointments were not made, as he supposed, by competitive

examination. In all branches of the Civil Service persons were selected because they had special qualifications. The Geological Survey, for instance, might desire to appoint a geologist. They would not appoint him by competitive examination, but would select some one near at hand with special qualifications, and if he had not a University degree an examination took place to test his general education.

SIR ROBERT REID said he could not vote for his hon. friend because he had seen the result of those competitive examinations. He believed himself that the appointment by competitive examination was not good for the public service. He believed that the service would be much benefited if they could find some impartial person to make the appointment. He did not wish to see the Chinese system carried into our public service.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 83; Noes, 178. (Division List No.95.)

AYES.

Allan, Sir William (*Gateshead*)
Allen, Charles P. (*Glouc., Stroud*)
Asher, Alexander
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Black, Alexander William
Bryce, Right Hon. James
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Cawley, Frederick
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Davies, M. Vaughan (*Cardigan*)
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, John Edward
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Sir F. H. (*Maidstone*)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hardie, J. Keir (*Merthyr Tydfil*)

Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristol, E.*)
Hope, John Deans (*Fife, West*)
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David Brynmor (*Swans'a*)
Jones, William (*Carnarvonsh.*)
Labouchere, Henry
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (*Accrington*)
Leng, Sir John
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*)
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*)
Murphy, John
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Palmer, Sir C. M. (*Durham*)
Partington, Oswald
Pease, J. A. (*Saffron Walden*)
Perks, Robert William
Pirie, Duncan V.

Rea, Russell
Redmond, William (*Clare*)
Rickett, J. Compton
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
Schwann, Charles E.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Stevenson, Francis S.
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glam., E.*)
Thomas, David Alfred (*Merthyr*)
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Wallace, Robert
Wason, Eugene (*Clackmannan*)
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Williams, O. (*Merioneth*)
Wilson, John (*Durham, Mid*)
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (*Huddersfd*)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES.—
Mr. Buchanan and Mr.
Soares.

NOES.

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell

Atkinson, Right Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn Sir H.
Austin, Sir John

Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (*Walsworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert

Sir Robert Finlay.

Baird, John George Alexander	Flower, Ernest	Myers, William Henry
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (<i>Manchester</i>)	Forster, Henry William	Nicol, Donal Ninian
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (<i>Hornsey</i>)	Fyler, John Arthur	Palmer, Walter (<i>Salisbury</i>)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (<i>Leeds</i>)	Gardner, Ernest	Parkes, Ebenezer
Banbury, Sir Frederick George	Garfit, William	Peel, Hn. Wm. R. Wellesley
Bartley, Sir George C. T.	Gordon, Hn. J. E. (<i>Elgin & Nairn</i>)	Plummer, Walter R.
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir Michael Hicks	Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon	Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Beckett, Ernest William	Goulding, Edward Alfred	Purvis, Robert
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.	Graham, Henry Robert	Randles, John S.
Bignold, Arthur	Greville, Hon. Ronald	Reid, James (<i>Greenock</i>)
Bill, Charles	Groves, James Grimble	Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Blundell, Colonel Henry	Gunter, Sir Robert	Ridley, Hon. M. W. (<i>Stalybridge</i>)
Bousfield, William Robert	Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.	Ridley, S. Forde (<i>Bethnal Green</i>)
Bowles, Col. H. F. (<i>Middlesex</i>)	Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G. (<i>Middlesex</i>)	Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Bowles, T. Gibson (<i>Lynn Regis</i>)	Hamilton, Marq. of (<i>London</i>)	Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Brassey, Albert	Hardy, Laurence (<i>Kent, Ashford</i>)	Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Bull, William James	Harris, Frederick Leverton	Royds, Clement Molyneux
Campbell, J. H. M. (<i>Dublin Univ.</i>)	Heath, James (<i>Staffords. N. W.</i>)	Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.	Heaton, John Henniker	Samuel, Harry S. (<i>Linchouse</i>)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (<i>Derbyshire</i>)	Helder, Augustus	Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (<i>Birmingham</i>)	Hermion-Hodge, Sir Robert T.	Saunderson, Rt. Hn. Col. Edw. J.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. A. (<i>Worcester</i>)	Hobhouse, Rt. Hn. H. (<i>Somerset</i>)	Seely, Charles Hilton (<i>Lincoln</i>)
Chaplin, Right Hon. Henry	Hogg, Lindsay	Sharpe, William Edward T.
Chapman, Edward	Hornby, Sir William Henry	Sloan, Thomas Henry
Clive, Captain Percy A.	Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry	Smith, H. C. (<i>Northumb. Tyneside</i>)
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.	Hoult, Joseph	Smith, James Parker (<i>Lanark</i>)
Coddington, Sir William	Howard, J. (<i>Middlesex, Tottenham</i>)	Spencer, Sir E. (<i>W. Bromwich</i>)
Coghill, Douglas Harry	Hutton, John (<i>Yorkshire, N. R.</i>)	Stanley, Hon. Arthur (<i>Ormskirk</i>)
Cohen, Benjamin Louis	Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse	Stanley, Edward Jas. (<i>Somerset</i>)
Corbett, T. L. (<i>Down, North</i>)	Johnstone, Heywood	Stanley, Lord (<i>Lancs.</i>)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge	Kenyon Slaney, Col. W. (<i>Salop</i>)	Stewart, Sir Mark J. M. Taggart
Craig, Charles Curtis (<i>Antrim, S.</i>)	Kimber, Henry	Stone, Sir Benjamin
Cranborne, Viscount	Knowles, Lees	Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Cripps, Charles Alfred	Law, Andrew Bonar (<i>Glasgow</i>)	Talbot, Lord E. (<i>Chichester</i>)
Cross, Alexander (<i>Glasgow</i>)	Lawrence, Wm. F. (<i>Liverpool</i>)	Taylor, Austin (<i>East Fozteth</i>)
Cross, H. Shepherd (<i>Bolton</i>)	Lawson, John Grant (<i>Yorkshire, N. R.</i>)	Thorburn, Sir Walter
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile	Lee, A. H. (<i>Hants, Fareham</i>)	Tritton, Charles Ernest
Dalkeith, Earl of	Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage	Valentia, Viscount
Dalrymple, Sir Charles	Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.	Vincent, Col. S. R. C. E. H. (<i>Sheffield</i>)
Denny, Colonel	Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.	Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.	Long, Col. Chas. W. (<i>Evesham</i>)	Wanklyn, James Leslie
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir J. E.	Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (<i>Bristol, S.</i>)	Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (<i>Notts</i>)
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers	Lonsdale, John Brownlee	Wharton, Rt. Hon. J. Lloyd
Doxford, Sir William Theodore	Lucas, Col. Francis (<i>Lowestoft</i>)	Whiteley, H. (<i>Ashton and Lyne</i>)
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin	London, W.	Wilson, John (<i>Falkirk</i>)
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas	Maconochie, A. W.	Wilson, John (<i>Glasgow</i>)
Faber, Edmund B. (<i>Hants, W.</i>)	Maxwell, W. J. H. (<i>Dumfriesshire</i>)	Wilson-Todd, W. H. (<i>Yorkshire</i>)
Faber, George Denison (<i>York</i>)	Middlemore, Jn. Throgmorton	Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (<i>Bath</i>)
Fardell, Sir T. George	Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (<i>Hants</i>)	Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward	More, Robt. Jasper (<i>Shropshire</i>)	Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (<i>Manchester</i>)	Morgan, Hn. F. (<i>Monmouthshire</i>)	Wylie, Alexander
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst	Morrison, James Archibald	Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.	Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer	Younger, William
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne	Mount, William Arthur	
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas	Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.	
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose	Muntz, Sir Philip A.	
Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon	Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (<i>Bute</i>)	
Flannery, Sir Fortescue	Murray, Col. Wyndham (<i>Bath</i>)	

TELLERS FOR THE NOES.—
Sir Alexander Acland-
Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

2. Motion made, and Question proposed,
“That a sum, not exceeding £28,144, be
granted to His Majesty, to complete the
sum necessary to defray the charge
which will come in course of payment
during the year ending on the 31st day
of March, 1904, for the salaries and
expenses of the Office of the Land
Registry.”

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.)
said that in discussing the operations of
the Land Transfer Act, the question of
whether or not land transfer by registra-
tion was the better system was one
for the public, and should not be raised
at all as a matter of professional interest.
He did not intend to discuss the
merits or demerits of the Act, but after
five or six years experience of its work-
ing in the County of London certain
criticisms had been made. The Act

was alleged to have caused an increase of cost in the transfer of land, which was a matter of great moment to land-owners, and one raising economic considerations of no small value from the social point of view. It was also said to have produced greater complication with reference to the title of land, to have caused delays both in action and in administration, and not to have been the greater check upon fraud which its supporters anticipated it would be. It was further alleged that under the Act the risk of mistakes was greater, and that there had been a large increase of officialism. Many people, too, objected to the element of compulsion. Without expressing any opinion on those criticisms, it was only natural, when an increased amount was asked for the purpose of extending the operation of the Act, that the Committee should inquire how the Act had been administered, and whether it should be regarded merely as a temporary measure, an experiment, or as having a more permanent character. The Land Transfer Bill, when under consideration in the House, encountered many obstacles and difficulties, and, though he would not say there was an express agreement that an inquiry should be held, there was no doubt the Bill was allowed to pass upon the understanding that it was an experiment, and that experience should determine whether or not it should become a permanent part of the law. To ensure its operation being watched tentatively the express provision was made that it should be put into force gradually. That that was the clear understanding the comments of the public Press abundantly proved. He did not suggest that they should revert to the former condition of things, but, allegations having been made, he did ask that some inquiry should be made as to where the facts really lay.

The Act had been in operation for some time, considerable experience had been gained, and some test should be applied to see whether its operation had been successful or not. The system of the gradual application of the Act through the counties was an important element in the inquiry, because it was obviously for the purpose of

obtaining evidence as to the success or otherwise of the Act. Inasmuch as the County Council had to determine this question it was material that they should go through some inquiry in order to know whether they should apply the Act or not. That could only be done properly by some form of public inquiry through a Committee of this House, or a joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament. Questions had been asked by several hon. Members as to whether such an inquiry would take place, and replies had been received in the negative. Were they to take the opinion of the framers and administrators of the Act? Surely that could not be satisfactory to those who took a different view of the operation of the Act. It was said officially in the House that an inquiry had taken place, but that answer was an admission of the desirability of inquiry. What was that inquiry? It was not a public and independent impartial inquiry through a Committee, but through a Departmental Committee conducted by the framers and administrators of the Act, and not bearing any of those credentials which would give the weight which such an opinion ought to have. It was no inquiry really, for it was limited to the working of the Act and to the demands of the registry as to staff and the mode in which it had been performing its work. Anything above that was beyond the purview of the inquiry. It was a Departmental inquiry of the most limited character by the terms of the reference. He asked that there should be more general, impartial, and independent inquiry, and they ought to have some assurance that such an inquiry would be held. It was quite possible an inquiry might justify the Act, and if it did, it would meet with acceptance by the public and the profession. If the facts were likely to lead to that conclusion, why was there any hesitation? An inquiry would produce conviction and settle public opinion. If, on the other hand, there were facts which would show that the charges made against the Act and registry were well founded, it was of great importance to the public that the system should be put an end to if it was found to be faulty.

An inquiry was desired by many classes of persons who were brought in

contact with dealings in land—by building societies, bankers in the City, by a large meeting in the City of representatives of Chambers of Commerce, bankers, and property owners, and by several Borough Councils. As the County Councils had the statutory responsibility of applying the Act or not according to the experience of its working in its earlier stages in the Metropolis, there should be some means of determining for their guidance what the operation of the Act had been. If it had been costly and had not answered expectations, that ought to be embodied in a Report in order to put County Councils on their guard against applying the Act. If, on the other hand, the Act had operated well, or was likely to operate well, and the Committee was satisfied with its working, no one would seek to interfere with that result, and it would be welcomed by every landowner, and this would be in the public interest. Before more money was spent on officialism and staff and registry buildings, the Committee ought to be well satisfied that the experimental stage of the measure had passed. He hoped they would hear from the learned Attorney-General what was so reasonably desired by so many classes and bodies of public men. If his reply was satisfactory no further objection would be raised to the Vote. If it was unsatisfactory then he should feel it his duty to take the sense of the Committee upon this question both from an economical and social point of view.

MR. WHITLEY thought it was desirable that this Motion should be supported by at least one hon. Member who did not belong to the profession which was so much respected in this House, but which was sometimes considered to have views of its own which did not commend themselves to all laymen. His first reason for pressing for an inquiry into the system of land registry was that in the district he represented in the West Riding of Yorkshire, there was a strong feeling that that district would, in all probability, be the next one to have this system extended to it. He was aware that that could not be done without the assent of the West Riding County Council, but he had had

several representations made to him from his constituency and from the Law Society there, urging him to press upon the Government that there should be an impartial inquiry, now that the Act had been in operation for five years, whereas the experimental term mentioned was three years. They contended that there should be a proper impartial inquiry, in order that County Councils in other parts of the country might have proper information to guide them in considering the question whether they should ask for the application of this Act to their own district or not. In the West Riding of Yorkshire they had already an excellent system of land registry at Wakefield, and they were disinclined to give up that system in favour of the one in operation in London unless there was strong evidence, taken by an impartial Committee of Inquiry, showing that the system under the Act of 1897, was one which conferred substantial benefit. This matter had been several times before the House by means of questions, but this Vote had very often come under the guillotine, and, consequently, it was not often they had had an opportunity of pressing for an inquiry into this matter. Replying to a question on the 6th of February last year, the Attorney-General said that—

“An inquiry has in fact been held, with the aid of an independent Committee, into the organisation and working of the Office of Land Registry, and the result is entirely satisfactory.”

SIR EDWARD CARSON: Hear, hear!

MR. WHITLEY: The Solicitor-General said “Hear, hear,” but he should like to know where was the result of that inquiry? They did not even know what the reference was. What they wanted was not a departmental inquiry, conducted entirely by lawyers, but an inquiry which would fairly represent the various business interests concerned as to whether the working of this Act in London had been a success or not. The reply of the Attorney-General did not meet the case. In the first place, the Committee he spoke of was the wrong sort of Committee to deal with it; and in the second place, they had not got the Report of that Committee, and the inquiry only appeared to have been made as to the

organisation and working of the office. That might be a proper thing for inquiry, but it was not the inquiry they were asking for. They wished to know if this Act had carried out the anticipations of its promoters, and whether it had simplified and cheapened land transfer in such a manner as to justify this system being applied to other parts of the country. If the result was good it was high time the system should be extended. If the idea present in the minds of those who brought in the Bill had proved to be correct why exclude other parts of the country from the benefits of the Act? If, on the other hand, the result of the working of the Act had greatly increased expense and complication, this fact ought to be made known. He was informed that a case had been decided in the High Court which appeared to show that the title was not a good one at all. He hoped some legal member of the Committee would be familiar with that case, and able to say exactly what was the result of the decision on the system now in operation in London. The Attorney-General seemed to take pride in the fact that when the Act passed through this House it was passed *nem. con.* He ventured to think that that fact was due to the assurance given to the House that it was to be experimental in the first instance, and that there would be proper inquiries into its working before it was extended to other parts of the country. If the Attorney-General believed that it had been working satisfactorily he should give the Committee some information to show that it was desirable to extend this great boon to the other parts of the country.

The increasing expense which this House was continually asked to vote entitled them to ask an inquiry. The capital account was approaching £500,000, which had been expended on the offices. This experiment was one in regard to which the Government did not seem disposed to give an adequate report or to grant an inquiry. It was not business for the Government to come and ask an increased sum of money, and that the House should vote it light-heartedly without inquiry as to whether the money was well spent or not. He was entirely unprejudiced on the question.

Mr. Whitley.

Complaints had been made by responsible persons, and that seemed to him to be quite sufficient ground for demanding an inquiry into the matter. This was not entirely a matter for lawyers. He was not one who would support a system, whether old or new, which merely brought grist to the mills of the lawyers. He thought they prospered fairly well without any addition from the legislation of this House. He read, the other day, a very interesting report from which it appeared that the building societies of this country were very greatly exercised on the question the Committee were now discussing. It appeared to him that the majority of these societies thought that the Act was bad, while others thought there was something to be said for it. These societies were concerned in cheap and efficient methods of transfer, and they wanted inquiry into the question. He thought these building societies had a claim for consideration. They were not interested from the legal point of view, but rather the reverse. What they wanted was that less money should be paid to the lawyers, and that they should obtain cheaper land on which to place their buildings. He was inclined to base his case for inquiry even more on their request than on the request that came from lawyers in all parts of the country. He thought a very strong case had been made out for inquiry. It need not involve any great expense. A few lawyers could be appointed to inquire whose interest it was to get land easily and cheaply transferred. It would be a simple thing to get a Committee which would give perfect satisfaction not only to this House, but also to the County Councils, which had a legitimate claim to know about the working of the Act. He called attention to the fact that in connection with this Vote there were footnotes explaining extra emoluments for officials. That was a practice which had prevailed in connection with old offices and it had been strongly condemned. But here was a brand new office, and the same abuse was allowed to creep in. He hoped that the Attorney-General would give that matter his careful consideration. He moved the reduction of the vote by £1,000, stating that he would go to a division unless an inquiry was promised by the Government.

Motion made, and Question put, "That a sum not exceeding £27,144, be granted for the said Service."—(Mr. Whitley.)

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said the hon. Member in objecting to the system of footnotes in regard to particular salaries said he was astonished that they should occur in connection with a new Department. He would remind the hon. Member that that might be due to the fact that some of the officials were taken over from other departments, and that this would involve a modification of the arrangements with regard to their salaries. After all, that was a very small matter. The hon. Member had referred to certain matters in connection with the expenses of the land registry. Of course there was some expense, but that was absolutely inevitable. If they were to have a Department of this kind for the purpose of registering titles, it was natural enough that there should sometimes be a certain feeling of soreness on the part of those who were asked to make additional payments at the time the transfer took place, in order to cover the expense of registration for the first time. The building societies had objected to these charges, but the question was whether what was done under the Act was not worth paying for. It was only in the course of years that they would realise the effect of that for which they were now paying, and he could not help thinking that the hon. Members for South Islington and Halifax were just a little too soon in asking the Government to institute a tribunal for the purpose of inquiring into, and reporting on the general policy of the new system. The facts were known, and the real question was whether those concerned would not ultimately reap the benefit, which was a very great one indeed, and which was well worth paying for.

He could not understand why it should be asserted that a land registry did not afford any additional security. It was clear that it did; if a man who wanted to buy a bit of land knew that, when the system came into operation, he could, without extended inquiry, and without going back forty years and it might be more, get an absolute title as against all the world. He thought that was an object which was well worth endeavour-

ing to attain to, and paying something for. Then if a possessory title was registered, it was quite true that an absolute title could not be acquired as against conflicting interests at the time of registry. But there was this enormous security, that no dealing with the land could take place after that registration; that no title could be conferred without reference to the registry. Those who grumbled at the present charge which was incurred, were sometimes forgetful that, in the course of affairs in this world, it was necessary often to bear a present burden for the sake of a future benefit. His hon. friend had referred to the evil of what he called officialism. It was perfectly obvious that they could not have a great system of registration such as was enjoyed by other countries, without having officers to work it; and it would be found that the range of direction in which the State could promote a public utility without an official staff was singularly restricted. His hon. friend said that the measure had been passed on the understanding that it was to be of a tentative nature; and he read some extracts from a leading article in *The Times* in that sense. They were all perfectly agreed that the measure was passed through the House on the understanding that it was to be applied gradually in one county after some delay, and that it was not to be extended to the other counties unless the County Councils desired to have that extension. That was in fact more than an understanding, it was embodied in the Act. He knew nothing of any other understanding. He was not himself in charge of that Bill and took hardly any part in its progress through the House; but he was present a good part of the time and had refreshed his memory by looking through the debates on the Bill, and he could not find any trace of any further promise or understanding of any sort or kind as to any inquiry. He thought that some passages in the speech of his hon. friend the Member for Islington conveyed an impression which, he was sure, was a little misleading. Certainly, apart from the express enactment, or the modification of it, for the purpose of securing the progress of this great and beneficial change in the law, there was no understanding that he ever heard of that any inquiry would be held;

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT said he had not said that it was expressly stated that there was to be an inquiry, but that the measure was passed as an experiment and tentatively, and that its application was to be gradual. That was the understanding.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said that that was exactly what he had stated. It was an experiment in the sense that it was to be applied after some delay in one county and was not to be extended to other counties unless the County Councils wanted it. But from some passages in his hon. friend's speech he led the Committee to believe that there was an understanding that there was to be some inquiry. It was right that it should be understood by the Committee and by the public that there was no promise, so far as he was aware, either express or implied, that there was to be an inquiry. Now he came to the question whether it was desirable that an inquiry should now be held into this subject. The inquiry referred to by the hon. Member for Halifax was an inquiry which bore merely on the organisation and working of the office. It was an inquiry held by several highly competent gentlemen, one of whom was selected for nomination by the Law Society of which his hon. friend the Member for Islington was president. These gentlemen made numerous suggestions in regard to the working of the Department, and these suggestions had been embodied in rules which were now actually in force. The inquiry now asked for was of a totally different kind—an inquiry into the general question of policy which the House determined when it passed this measure into law. He did not say for a moment that the decision of this House, and of Parliament as a whole, when this measure became law, was to preclude any inquiry, at the proper time, into the way in which the measure worked and with the view of deciding whether it was doing good. But the question arose, were they now in any better position for holding an inquiry before a Committee such as, he understood, his hon. friend suggested—viz., an inquiry on the general policy of the measure? All the materials that could be brought, in the nature of things,

before that Committee would be details of the expenditure that had been incurred in the first stage. They would have members of various societies, including a good many members of the legal profession, coming forward and giving the Committee details as to what the measure had cost. But then, in order to get an answer to the question as to the general policy of the measure, they must realise what would be the ultimate effect of that registration for which they were at this stage paying. Surely that was hardly a matter for investigation by such a Committee as his hon. friend foreshadowed. That was the question of general policy—the very question which the House had already determined.

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT: Into the operation of the Act.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: Yes, into the operation of the Act; he quite agreed. But until the Act had been in operation for some time that inquiry would not be of any great service.

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT said that the term of three years operation was the period distinctly mentioned as the time for the experiment.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said he must repeat that there was no expectation held out when the Bill was passing through the House that there would be an inquiry after three years or any other specific period.

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT: It was said that the Bill was an experiment, and for three years.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: It was an experiment for this one county. Anything said by the Lord Chancellor, either in the letter to which reference had been made or elsewhere, had been absolutely carried out, not only in the letter but in the spirit, and every pledge given had been absolutely fulfilled. So that the question his hon. friend raised was whether such a Committee as he suggested, would be able to throw any light on the general question of policy and as to the advantages of registration.

and whether it would be worth while to go to that expense for the purpose of bringing one county under the operation of the Act? He very respectfully suggested to the Committee that this inquiry would be a little premature. It would be bringing into undue relief the initial charges, because the Committee would necessarily not be in a position to say what advantages the Act would bring in the future, and they would be pulling up the plant to see how it was growing.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.) said he did not think the Attorney-General was quite correct in his assumption that this Department had paid its way. There was no statement on the Estimates of that portion of the income which came from the old Middlesex Land Registry. On the Estimates the expenses of the Land Registry Department were calculated at £48,144 which was a net increase of £8,951 on the preceding year, with an additional expenditure charged to other items of over £12,000. Therefore the Department was costing at the present £60,000 a year. The fees were estimated at £74,000, but unless they knew what amount was included in respect of the Middlesex Land Registry, which was practically a sinecure and which now went into the coffers of the existing Land Registry, they could not say how income and expenditure really stood. He did not say that this was an extravagant office, nor did he deny that they could not have a change of this sort without a good deal of annual expense. As to the general question, his hon. friend the Member for York would remember that when this Act was being passed in 1897, the hon. Member for York moved that the House should go into Committee on the Bill that day three months. They were then towards the end of the session and it was hopeless for the Government to carry the Bill in the shape it then stood. The First Lord of the Treasury, who said he had listened with interest and attention to the debate, intervened to make what he called a conciliatory proposal, because he understood that the whole objection to the Bill arose from the compulsory clause. The Government, the right hon. Gentleman said, were prepared to make a compromise and introduce an Amendment

by which it would be impossible to force on any County Council the provisions of the Bill without the initiation and the consent of that county. He thought that the offer of the First Lord of the Treasury was very fair on the part of the Government, and he urged his hon. friend to accept it, and his hon. friend the Member for York withdrew his Amendment. The matter was not definitely settled that night because the Committee wanted to see the exact words by which the Attorney-General would carry out the proposal. Next day he ventured to state to the House that he was willing to accept the statement of the Attorney-General; but to prevent any possible misconception he wished to state what he understood to be the position. "In the first instance the Lord Chancellor might select any county he thought proper, and there was a distinct understanding that that county was to be the administrative County of London. The Lord Chancellor might give notice to the County Council of London, and they would have the option within three months, of determining whether or not they would have this compulsion. If they said they would not, then the Lord Chancellor would have to select some other county in which to try the experiment; but assuming they did accept it, and assuming the Act to be put in force in London, then no further order was to be made under this Act at all for three years. At the expiration of three years no order could be made by the Privy Council unless and until a County Council asked for it in accordance with the terms of the Act." There was no doubt an impression, to some extent in the legal profession, that the three years having elapsed, the experiment, so to speak, being over, that the Lord Chancellor had now the power to introduce this compulsory registration in any county he thought proper. That was not the case. The Lord Chancellor could not introduce it into any county which did not take the initiative. At the close of his remarks the First Lord of the Treasury was good enough to say that he (Sir Henry Fowler) "had, with perfect lucidity, explained the arrangement; and that it would be carried out." That was the only understanding which was arrived at. No doubt a period of three years was mentioned; but that was only an indication of the time which the

Lord Chancellor thought fair in which to test the experiment.

He understood that the Attorney-General objected to the proposal on the ground that it was premature; but he did not object to it on the ground of principle. Parliament had decided, as far back as 1875, that a proper, economical, and effective—and to be effective it must be compulsory—system of land registration ought to be embodied in the laws of this country. He knew nothing personally about the working of the Act, but he was speaking the opinion of competent persons, viz., members of the legal profession who were familiar with the working of the Act, and persons who had to pay fees for the transfer of land. The general impression was, rightly or wrongly, that the present system was dilatory and unnecessarily expensive, and did not give that protection to title which Parliament no doubt intended to give. He did not say whether that allegation was true or not; but it was made by persons who were not anonymous or inexperienced. Surely the great building societies of England and Wales ought to know something of the transfer of land, and their views were adverse to the views which prevailed in 1897. The Attorney-General said that there was no ground for those statements; but all his hon. friend asked for was that these conflicting facts should be brought before an independent tribunal, not to reverse the decision of Parliament but for the guidance of the County Councils. The County Councils, before they became involved in expenditure, should know whether it would be satisfactory or not. They should not be at the mercy of advocates recommending different systems. No inquiry could be more satisfactory than a Departmental Committee or a Committee of the House of Commons. It was not a Party but an administrative question, on which he declined to express any opinion, because he had not sufficient evidence before him. They asked the Government, not in any menacing or Party manner, to consider the question of an inquiry. He hoped his hon. friend the Member for Halifax would not ask the Committee to divide. To express an opinion on the question now would only have the effect of misleading the public. The proper course was to impress on the

Government that there was a *bonâ fide* desire to know whether the administration, not the organisation, was working efficiently and economically, and whether the system was such that the County Councils ought to take it up.

* MR. E. BECKETT FABER (Hampshire, Andover) said they were not satisfied with the working of the Act in Yorkshire. He did not intend to touch upon the legal aspect of the case, but from a business point of view he found there were very strong objections to the Act in the minds of the business men in the West Riding. Without entering upon the question of policy, he wished to point out, as an example of the inconvenience, that before it was passed, if a man went into his bankers with his deeds in his hand the banker looked at the deeds and was able to lend money on them then and there. Under this Act the banker could no longer do that, and it was necessary for him to tell his customer that he could not lend the money without first searching the registry at Wakefield. He had the privilege, when this Act came into force some years ago, of representing the country bankers at the London office, and he had the opportunity of interviewing Mr. Brickdale when this question of registration was discussed. The difficulties were then pointed out, and it was arranged that a certificate should be given to anyone depositing deeds with the Registration Office in London, and on that certificate should be set out all particulars of the land, so that the customer could take the certificate to his banker and borrow money upon it. If his memory served him rightly Mr. Brickdale gave them to understand that this Act would be first applied to London, and before it was applied to any other county they should have a statement as to its working in the County of London. During the last few months the County Council of the West Riding of Yorkshire had been asking for guidance as to their actions in this matter. They did not know when they should bring the Act into force and they could not come to a decision until they had some evidence put before them of the working of the Act in London.

Sir Henry Fowler

SIR ROBERT REID said that the matter was a very important one. No doubt there was a great ferment in the profession against the Act. Men who were long accustomed to deal with deeds were haunted by apprehension as to the effect of the Act. There was no doubt that for many years the influence of solicitors, and also to a certain extent of the Bar, was directed against this system of the registration of titles; and that was one of the reasons why this country was so far behind other nations in this matter. In Australia a man might purchase 20,000 acres of land, and get an absolute title at the registration office in twenty minutes. So it would be in this country if those who urged this reform and supported the Government when it brought forward the beneficent Act of 1897 could succeed in getting a fair opportunity for it to work. The fact was, when they were beginning a system they could not say, in the first instance, that all the land in a particular county should be registered. What had been said was that if there was a transfer of land it should be by registration. In the first place, it became necessary to establish a title, and once that was done by a transfer having been registered, for all time to come the expenses would become infinitely less until they came to be practically nothing, and the value of property would be considerably enhanced. The scheme for the registration of land was not one to which any particular person was entitled to lay a claim. It was a great scheme, which existed in all our self-governing colonies,—notably in Australia—and in nearly the whole civilised world, and there was now happily a prospect of its being adopted in this country. The inquiry that had been asked for could at best be only a mutilated inquiry, and could only yield imperfect results, because it could only be an inquiry into the operation of the Act, and therefore could only inform the Committee with regard to the most cumbersome and expensive stages. It would only disclose half the truth, and that half which was of the least benefit to the community. The Lord Chancellor supported this Act, the late Lord Chancellor supported it, the late Attorney-General—present Lord Chief Justice—co-operated with him (Sir Robert Reid) in

trying to pass it, and he believed the present Attorney-General also. He hoped hon. Members would not interpose objections, however well meant they might be, to the extension of what was a great Act.

*MR. BUTCHER (York) supported the desire that had been expressed for an inquiry into its administration and the effect of its working in London. It was the duty of the County Councils to consider the question of extending the Act to their counties. That was a most important duty to impose upon them and this inquiry was necessary to give them proper materials to enable them to form a decision. The late Attorney-General seemed to think that in asking for this inquiry they were desirous of destroying the Act. That was not their intention at all. They only desired to put the County Councils in possession of information upon which they would be able to act. He thought the County Councils would be well advised to wait until they got that information, and he did not see how any County Council could ask for an extension of the Act to their county without first having the materials supplied to them by which they could be guided as to whether it would be beneficial or not. He did not regard this as a lawyer's question but from the point of view of those who were interested in the cheap and quick transfer of land. Building societies often had large transactions in land and mortgages, and it would be calamitous to adopt any system which would increase the charges made for dealing with land. Then again the bankers desired to be able to transact their business, in their own interests and in the interests of their clients, both cheaply and quickly. It was important that before this Act was extended all over the country there should be some means of finding out whether it would benefit the country at large. The late Attorney-General went into a panegyric upon the system of land transfer under this Act; on that subject he did not wish to say anything, and in regard to it he had a perfectly open mind. This question was not a new one. The experiment was first made in 1862, and there was another in 1875, but that failed, and it was remarkable if the system was so simple as the late

Attorney-General represented it to be that the people of the country should have been so exceedingly stupid as not to have adopted it before. They wished to keep an entirely open mind as to whether the Act would work well or for ill, but they certainly ought to acquaint the County Councils with the result of its working. When the Bill was originally brought in it did not contain any provision whereby there should be an experimental working for three years, but in order to get the Bill through the House the First Lord of the Treasury said it would be applied to the County of London for three years and would not be applied to the other counties unless they asked for it. The Act had now been in operation for five years; millions of money had changed hands through the transfer of property under this system, and he should have thought that, if an inquiry were instituted, it would be possible to ascertain not merely the present cost, but whether that cost was likely to have a good result in the future. If the Government were satisfied that the present movement was premature, he would accept their decision, but it should be clearly understood that the Attorney-General accepted the view that an inquiry was necessary, and that before the County Councils could be asked to extend the Act to their respective counties they ought to be informed of the result of its operation in London by means of an inquiry.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: I never said that.

*MR. BUTCHER said he understood the hon. and learned Member to say that an inquiry might hereafter become necessary, and what would be the good of an inquiry except to enable County Councils to form a judgment as to the desirability of applying the Act? It would be folly for the Councils to extend the operations of the Act to their respective areas without knowing how the system had worked in London, and he hoped the Attorney-General would give an assurance that in due time an inquiry should be made.

MR. MARKHAM (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield), as one who had taken an

Mr. Butcher.

interest in this question for some years, earnestly hoped the Attorney-General would reconsider his decision. County Councils hesitated to put the Act into operation because they knew the system was being tried in London, and they wanted to know the result. There was an urgent necessity for a radical alteration in the present system of land transfer. Great Britain was practically the only civilised country in the world in which the antiquated and tortuous system of land tenure under which we suffered, was permitted to continue. Why should the House of Commons, dominated by the interests of lawyers, refuse to allow this reform? He should certainly support the Amendment.

MR. WHITLEY said the reply of the Attorney-General was altogether unsatisfactory. If the hon. and learned Member would promise an inquiry at the end of seven years, he personally would be quite satisfied. If the Act had all the virtues ascribed to it by the hon. and learned Member for Dumfries, he desired to see it extended to his constituents. Why should they be deprived of its advantages for an indefinite period simply because the Attorney-General would not appoint a Committee whose Report would enable the County Councils to decide as to the desirability of extending the Act? Unless an assurance was given that an inquiry would be made within a reasonable time, he would be compelled to go to a division.

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT thought the Committee were indebted to the hon. Member for Halifax for his efforts in this matter. It was true they had not received all the assurances they desired, but the debate had produced two notable admissions—first, that there were hardships and objections in the administration of the Act, and, secondly, that time might overcome them. The fair inference was that after a time an inquiry would be justified, and, he assumed, would take place. After those admissions and the advice of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Wolverhampton, he suggested the Amendment should be withdrawn.

MR. WHITLEY said his impression was that the withdrawal of such a Motion wiped it out of the mind of the Minister concerned. The process of passing through the lobbies seemed to impress the matter on the Minister's mind. They had not got an inquiry this year, but possibly, if they took a division now, they might get it next year.

Question put.

The Committee divided: Ayes, 92; Noes, 215. (Division List No. 96.)

AYES.

Allan, Sir William (*Gateshead*)
Allen, Chas. P. (*Glos., Stroud*)
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Austin, Sir John
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Black, Alexander William
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Bull, William James
Burt, Thomas
Butcher, John George
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Cawley, Frederick
Craig, Robert Hunter (*Lanark*)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Davies, M. Vaughan- (*Cardign*)
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Emmott, Alfred
Faber, E. B. (*Hants, W.*)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.

Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Hope, John Deans (*Eife, West*)
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Johnstone, Heywood
Joicey, Sir James
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leng, Sir John
Lewis, John Herbert
M'Killop, W. (*Stigo, North*)
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Markham, Arthur Basil
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*)
Murphy, John
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Palmer, Sir Charles M. (*Durham*)
Pease, J. A. (*Saffron Walden*)
Perks, Robert William
Pirie, Duncan V.
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
Robertson, Edmund (*Dundee*)

Robinson, Brooke
Robson, William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
Schwann, Charles E.
Shaw, Charles E. (*Stafford*)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Stevenson, Francis S.
Taylor, Theo. C. (*Radcliffe*)
Thomas, Abel (*Carmarthen, E.*)
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glam., E.*)
Thomas, David A. (*Merthyr*)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Wallace, Robert
Walton, J. Lawson (*Leeds, S.*)
Wason, E. (*Clackmannan*)
Wason, J. Cathcart (*Orkney*)
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
Whiteley, G. (*York, W. R.*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, John (*Durham, Mid*)
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (*Huddersfd*)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Whitley and Mr.
Charles Hobhouse.

NOES.

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir H.
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (*Manch'r*)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (*Leeds*)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barry, Sir Fras. T. (*Windsor*)
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, T. G. (*King's Lynn*)

Brassey, Albert
Campbell, J. H. M. (*Dublin Univ.*)
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbysh.*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (*Birm*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A. (*Worc*)
Chaplin, Right Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Cox, Irwin Edwd. Bainbridge
Craig, Charles Curtis (*Antrim, S.*)
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Alexander (*Glasgow*)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (*Bolton.*)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Denny, Colonel
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph C.

Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellows, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (*Leith*)
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (*Man'r*)
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson

Gardner, Ernest
Garfit William
Gibbs, Hn A. G. H. (*City of Lond*)
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nrn*)
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (*West Ham*)
Greene, Sir E. W. (*Bury St. Ed.*)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Gunter, Sir Robert
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hamilton, Rt Hn Ld. G. (*Midx*)
Hamilton, Marq. of (*Londondy*)
Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashfd*)
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Heath, James (*Staffs., N. W.*)
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hobhouse, Rt. Hn H. (*Somrst, E.*)
Hogg, Lindsay
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, Jno (*Kent, Faver'ham*)
Howard, J. (*Midd., Tott'ham*)
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (*Yorks, N. R.*)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Jones, David Brynmor (*Swansea*)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*)
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (*Monm'th*)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*)
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks N. R.*)
Lee, A. H. (*Hants, Fareham*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (*Evesham*)
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (*Bristol, S*)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*)

Maconochie, A. W.
McKillop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)
Majendie, James A. H.
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H. E. (*W. Yt'n*)
Maxwell, W. J. H. (*Dumfriessh.*)
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (*Hants.*)
More, Robt. Jasper (*Shropshire*)
Morgan, Hn. F. (*Monm'thsh.*)
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*)
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
Myers, William Henry
Nicol, Donald Ninian
O'Kelly, J. (*Roscommon, N.*)
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (*Salisbury*)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pemberton, John S. G.
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretymann, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Randles, John S.
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (*Dumfries*)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ridley, Hon. M. W. (*Stalybridge*)
Ridley, S. F. (*Bethnal Green*)
Ritchie, Rt Hon. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander

Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
Saunders, Rt. Hn. Col. E. J.
Seely, Chas. Hilton (*Lincoln*)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renjrew*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, H. C. (*North'm'b Tyneside*)
Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks.*)
Spencer, Sir E. W. (*Bromwich*)
Stanley, Hon. A. (*Ormskirk*)
Stanley, Edward Jas. (*Somerset*)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir M. J. M. Taggart
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hn. Humphrey Napier
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col Sir C. E. H. (*Sheffield*)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (*Notts.*)
Wharton, Rt. Hon. J. Lloyd
Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (*Yorks.*)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*)
Wolf, Gustav Wilhelm
Worsley-Taylor, Hry. Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir Alexander Acland-
Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

Original Question put and agreed to.

3. £25,000, to complete the sum for County Courts.

4. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £26,390, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1904, for the salaries of the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioners of the Metropolitan Police, and of the Receiver for the Metropolitan Police District, the pay and expenses of officers of Metropolitan Police employed on special duties, and the salaries and expenses of the Inspectors of Constabulary."

MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.) said he thought a great deal of blame was put upon the police force which they did not rightly deserve. They were a body which performed great civil duties, and the fault did not always lie with them. The fault was that there were too few of them. As was often said of the British Army, they were splendid soldiers, but there were too few of them. He should be able to lay before the Committee reasons why there ought to be a considerable increase in the police force within the metropolitan area. The police force had not grown with the population. The police area extended to within a fifteen miles radius from Charing Cross, and included such populous districts as Enfield, Barnet, Wimbledon, Kingston,

Croydon and other places well known to hon. Members. Many of those suburbs were, as far as burglars were concerned, a regular paradise and a happy hunting ground. He knew of one case in Wimbledon in which the burglars came just after twelve o'clock at night with a horse and cart and stripped the whole first floor of everything without the slightest interruption. It seemed almost impossible that such an act should take place. Up to the year 1890 the police were regularly augmented by about 400 annually, but after that date only very insignificant additions had been made to the force. In 1890 the population of the metropolitan police district was 5,500,000, and the police force numbered 15,725 men. In the year 1900 the population was 6,500,000, and the number of policemen was 15,847, or 122 more than in 1890. The population during that period increased by 1,000,000, and the Home Office thought the addition of 122 men was sufficient to meet the requirements of that increase in the population. He believed the Committee would agree with him that, under these circumstances, there was a *prima facie* case for the Home Secretary to explain.

In 1901, London grew to the extent of sixty miles of new streets, and there were 27,174 new houses built. That might seem impossible, but he wished the Committee to understand that the area included the districts immediately around London, such towns as Ilford, Enfield, and other places which had increased enormously, and almost beyond the range of imagination. In the ten years from 1890, there were 202,127 new houses built, and 2,643 new streets formed, representing 531 miles. All these additional houses and streets had to be looked after by a police force in 1900, which showed only 122 additional men as compared with the year 1890. That would be something if the whole number of police were available for police duties, but 1765 had to be deducted in respect of the number of men employed in the dockyards, patrolling gardens, and protecting many institutions, including the Houses of Parliament. That reduced the total number to 14,082 to do the whole of the police work of London. But even of that number they had to cut off 1,361

who were permanently on sick leave or absent from duty for other reasons. That reduced the force to 12,721, and in that number were included superintendents, inspectors, and sergeants, and from the portly appearance of those officers it did not appear to him that they did an enormous amount of work. Practically the number of policemen for street duty was 12,721; of that number a certain proportion were on night duty. Of course that was the most important and the most dangerous part of their work. The number on night duty was 7,632. They went on duty at 10 p.m. and remain till 6 a.m. The rest of the policemen were divided into two shifts, each of 2,544, for the day service. Half of them commenced work at 6 a.m. and remained on duty till 2 p.m. The other set went on duty at 2 p.m. and left off at 10 p.m. The estimated population of London in this area was 6,678,808, and that meant that there was one policeman for 2,625 persons, which was considerably less than the average in 1890, when there was one policeman for 2,000. He hoped the Home Secretary would tell the Committee that he was impressed with the dangers which overawed His Majesty's subjects, that he had in his mind the increasing of the police of the Metropolitan area, and that he would distinguish himself by providing a remedy for the dangers referred to.

The rateable property in London had increased largely, as everybody knew. In 1890 it was £35,500,000, and in 1900 £44,000,000. That, of course, was satisfactory as showing the growth of property in the Metropolis, but it was not satisfactory to the owners if their prosperity was imperilled by the absence of police protection. He would not go into the statistics showing the increase in the loss of property during the past ten years, but he could inform the Committee that there had been an increase. There were in the official returns proofs that the effectiveness of the police had weakened. Street accidents had nearly doubled since 1890. In 1891 the killed and injured in this area were 5,784, and in 1901 the number was 9,293. The danger to life in the streets had no doubt increased on account of motor-cars and cycles being introduced. Now it required very accurate eyes to calculate

whether one could escape being run down by these vehicles. Fewer hackney drivers had been summoned before the magistrates in 1900 than in the previous year, the numbers being 9,758 as against 11,419. He hoped that this decrease was because of better conduct and more skilful driving. Protection of property was a small thing in comparison with the protection of the public in the streets. Where there was no control by the police there was frequently disorder, and very often it came absolute lawlessness, and from it rose the serious evils which were generally classified under the name of hooliganism. A good deal of this, he believed, arose from the monotonous lives which were led by many young persons in London, and those people who had greater advantages of education and birth must feel sympathy for lads who were misled, and had fewer opportunities for improvement, and who had less self control. If a gang of lads were allowed to run wild in the streets they indulged in different forms of mischief, and as a result they had those cases of the use of the knife and other lethal weapons, which had so often to be deplored. They all remembered the case of Murray Spicer, who was attacked in the neighbourhood of Tavistock Place, near Euston Road. In that case a respectable man was violently attacked in a respectable neighbourhood. To-day he read in the *Daily Chronicle* an account of a case in which some foreigners in the same neighbourhood had formed themselves into a gang, and lived by robbery and other disreputable means. He thought the attention of the Home Secretary ought to be called to these facts. The right hon. Gentleman might be able to point out some redeeming features which had not presented themselves to him. He thought that the evil of hooliganism might, to some extent, be dealt with by having habitual offenders segregated for the rest of their lives, after it had become evident that their nefarious occupation was professional. He was not lawyer sufficient to say what the exact number of years should be, but he thought the Home Secretary should turn his attention to the range of facts laid before the public by Mr. Anderson. That gentleman had pointed out that there were 300 or 400 men

well known to the police, their names, habitations, and how many times they had been convicted, who devoted themselves to training up young criminals. They did not mind spending a couple of years in prison, and when they came out they went for a trip to Monte Carlo to spend there their nefarious gains, acquired before being convicted. But for these criminals many persons who had drifted into crime might have been decent members of society. He begged to move to reduce the Vote by £100.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £26,290, be granted for the said Service."—(Mr. Schwann.)

*MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty) said he noticed that there was a reduction of £5,000 in the cost of police officers specially employed. He thought that, instead of a decrease, there ought to have been an increase of men to look after motor-cars, the curse of our streets. He had called the attention of the Home Secretary that afternoon to the fact that, at a quarter-past four on Monday last, a motor-car driver set at defiance the orders of the police at the crossing from Parliament Street to Palace Yard. But he had got no satisfaction, and he intended to follow the matter up until he got satisfaction. More police were wanted. They should have power to deal with these motor-car drivers. He suggested that the police should be provided with a lasso, to catch the drivers such as he had seen at a recent exhibition. Perhaps the Prime Minister would suffer; but the right hon. Gentleman must take his chance, and the law must be no respecter of persons. Police officers might also be provided with motor bicycles for the pursuit of runaway motor-car drivers. There certainly ought to be numbers on motor-cars, although that was a matter which, he assumed, required legislation. The President of the Local Government Board and the Home Secretary, should not allow the existing state of matters to continue. It was for these Departments to devise some means by which the police could effect the capture of reckless drivers who had no more regard for

Mr. Schwann.

human life than they had for flies. He hoped they would have some assurance from the Home Secretary that he would take some steps in the matter. He had a great deal of sympathy with the right hon. Gentleman, who was new to his office, but it was his business to inquire into this serious public danger. This was not solely the complaint of one Member. Judging from the cheers from both sides of the House, it was a general grievance, and there was a general desire that something should be done to put down the furious driving of motor-cars.

DR. HUTCHINSON (Sussex, Rye) thought it would be well if the Colonial Secretary were to descend from the empyrean heights of African mists, and come to hear this discussion. He thought this question was too trivial for the Imperial Parliament. The House should be left to grapple with bigger matters, and the time of Parliament should not be taken up with discussions on managing the street traffic of London, or preventing burglaries in suburban villas. Such small matters ought to be delegated to some other body.

THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN: Order, order! That question does not arise on this Vote.

DR. HUTCHINSON said he only wanted to draw attention to the fact that these were purely municipal questions.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton) said that for his part he thought that the life, liberty, and comfort of one single citizen of London were of more importance to the House than the millions in Sokoto, or any outlandish part of Africa. He believed that delegation would be desirable, but they had not got delegation, and this was the only opportunity which they had of calling attention to what was going on in the Metropolis. His friend had complained of what took place in regard to motor-cars. He did not agree with him that it would be necessary to increase the number of police, because if a motor-car was rushing past, there would be no possibility of the police stopping it

unless a large force flung themselves on the ground before it. His hon. friend had suggested the use of the lasso, but he suspected it would probably prove just as dangerous to the innocent passer-by as to the motor-car driver. He urged on the right hon. Gentleman that it was very desirable that these cars should be numbered. They could not really stop the motor-cars when they were found to be going at an excessive pace, or when the drivers were disobeying the police, but if the cars were numbered the men would be known, and could be punished. He thought that if a few of these people were haled before the police magistrate and fined, an end would be put to what was becoming an abuse and a pest.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (MR. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's) said the hon. Member for Ross and Cromarty had asked him about an accident, or what was very nearly an accident, near Palace Yard. He had applied to the police for information on the subject, and the answer he had received was that an accident had not been reported to them, and therefore presumably the police on duty did not think the occurrence of sufficient importance to call the attention of the Commissioner of Police to it. He agreed, on different grounds, however, with his two hon. friends that some legislation was becoming essential in regard to the regulation of motor-cars. Such legislation, as the House knew, was in contemplation, and would be introduced by the President of the Local Government Board. The hon. Member had called attention to the decrease of £5,000 in the Vote for the expense of officers specially employed, and he argued from that, that if this reduction had not been made, there would have been a much larger number of officers in London for the purpose of watching and preventing the excessive speed of motor-cars. He would point out, however, that these specially employed officers were not engaged for general police work in London, certainly not in connection with motor-cars, but only at ports and in connection with public buildings. The hon. Member for North Manchester had complained that the numbers of the Metropolitan Police Force had not kept pace with the increase

of the population—not that they were inefficient, but that they were not sufficient. The hon. Member had pointed out that whereas the population had increased since 1880 by something like 2,000,000, there had been a very small corresponding increase in the numbers of the Police Force. On looking into the Returns furnished to him, he found that the population in London in 1880 was about 4,706,000, and the number of effective police was about 9,640. Last year, with a population of over 6,700,000, there were 14,470 effective police, to whom the addition of another 100 had been sanctioned recently. The large increase which had been alluded to as having taken place between 1880 and 1890 was due to the particular necessities of the moment. That period included the dynamite outrages and the subsequent scare. The increases of 1900–01 were not, he admitted, as large as they might have been; but this was accounted for by the fact that, owing to the continuance of the war, recruitments had been much smaller than usual. The Commissioner of Police felt that it was desirable to wait for filling up the numbers until a more efficient supply of recruits could be secured. The figures which he had given did not include any of the men employed on special duty or in dockyards. Moreover, there had been during recent years a direct increase of effectiveness by the withdrawal of men as far as possible from all non-effective duties, so that the figures did not show the real amount of increase. In addition to that there had been since the early years which the hon. Member had quoted a very large increase in the number of new stations, of police signal-boxes, and of fixed points where constables were to be found.

He had not the figures showing the proportion of police to population for the period 1890–1900, but he would give the figures for the twenty years ending with the latter date. During that time the population of the Metropolitan Police district increased from about 4,706,000 to over 6,700,000, or more than 39 per cent. During the same time the police force available for ordinary duties increased

from about 9,640, to 13,900, or over 40 per cent. In 1880 there were 20·5 police for every 10,000 persons; in 1900 there were 21·2. This proved that there had been no falling away as compared with 1880, if it did not get rid of the argument that more police were needed. It was said that the police were not as numerous in the Metropolis as they were in other cities in the country; but comparing London with other centres of population, he found that in 1900 there were in London 21 policemen to 10,000 persons. in Birmingham, 12·8, Leeds, 11·6, Liverpool, 21·3, Manchester, 18·3, Sheffield, 12·2, and Bristol, 15·1. But efficiency was not to be tested entirely by numbers, but by the work which was performed. The hon. Member stated that the number of accidents in London had increased, and that the amount of lost and stolen property had also increased. He could not give the hon. Gentleman the figures he asked for at the moment; but he would point out that during the period dealt with by the hon. Gentleman, the County of London had enormously increased, and in addition to an enormous increase in the ordinary traffic, there was the motor-car traffic and also a large increase in the bicycle traffic. All that should be taken into consideration when comparing the number of accidents now with the number ten years ago.

The proof of the pudding was in the eating; and they had got to see what the police were able to do now as compared with what they were able to do ten years ago. There had been an increase in the arrests in London for misdemeanour and petty crime. Thirty thousand more such arrests took place in 1901 than in 1890. In serious crime there had been a very considerable decrease. In 1880 the number of felonies committed in the district was 25,368; in 1890 the number was 18,815; and in 1901, 18,918. There had, therefore, practically been no increase, notwithstanding the large increase of population in the last ten years, in the cases of serious crime compared with the state of things ten years ago. The effective strength of the police available had actually increased, because the whole of the force had been made more efficient. Surely it was better to have a force efficient

Mr. Akers Douglas.

and moderate in size rather than a larger force which might not be as efficient, and which would entail increased expenditure on the ratepayers of the Metropolis. He believed that, at the present time, the police force in London was perfectly adequate to meet all the requirements made on it, and that its efficiency was greater than at any other period of its history. With regard to hooliganism, he was glad to think that, by the action of the police and the salutary sentences passed by those who administered justice in London, this form of lawlessness had practically ceased to exist. At all events it was nothing compared to what it was a few years ago. At the same time, he would not forget the warning which the hon. Member had given him, and he would watch very carefully the necessities of the situation. With regard to habitual criminals, he certainly thought some better means ought to be provided of dealing with habitual professional criminals, so that society might be more effectively protected against their misdoings. The matter was at the present moment engaging the attention of his Department.

MR. NUSSEY (Pontefract) called attention to a reduction in the pay and expenses of officers specially employed of £5,000, and said he would be much obliged if the Home Secretary would inform the Committee what public buildings sub-head B referred to, and what were the special services referred to.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said there was not a more admirable body in the world than the Metropolitan Police Force. A celebrated field-marshal of France had said only recently that the only forces he envied England the possession of were her men in blue, by which were meant the blue jackets on the one hand and the policemen on the other. The duties of the Metropolitan Police were largely concerned with traffic, and in his opinion the powers under which they dealt with the traffic of this great city had become insufficient for the purpose. They ought to have much larger powers. They should have the

power to order that heavy vans should only pass over the streets between certain hours, and they ought to have power to characterise vehicles, especially that obnoxious and brutal vehicle the hooded van, in which the driver sat without being able to see on either side and only very imperfectly in front. That was a most fruitful source of accident and still more of bad temper and improper language. It might seem to be a small thing, but in the condition at which traffic had arrived it was a very large question. He thought the right hon. Gentleman should introduce a Bill which would readily pass the House giving the police power to deal with these matters. He should like in this House to bear his testimony to the extraordinary merit of the late Chief Commissioner of Police, Sir Edward Bradford. He was not only the handsomest man on a horse in all the processions in which he was engaged, but he was the best policeman we had ever had in this country. He handled his men with considerable discipline and when there came great occasions, such as we had had during his term of service, he had handled the police with the most masterly and consummate ability.

MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire) drew attention to the flagrant breaches of the law in supplying children with intoxicating liquors in bottles not properly sealed. He said, although a great many cases had been brought to the notice of the police no prosecutions had occurred, and all he desired to ask the right hon. Gentleman now was whether he would instruct the police when they came across a particularly grave case, to report it to the Commissioners.

* MR. BURDETT COUTTS (Westminster) asked the Home Secretary if he contemplated meeting the request of the hon. Member for King's Lynn, whether he would extend and enlarge the powers so as to control a new and very extraordinary feature of the street traffic in London. What were practically almost railway trains were, without any objection, apparently, of the authorities, taken off the line and run through the streets of London. There was not only a serious danger caused to life and obstruction to the traffic but he believed also injury to

the buildings in London. Over and over again he had practically felt the buildings in which he happened to be, shaken almost to their foundations by these freight-trains which were allowed to run through the streets. The streets were constructed for ordinary vehicular traffic, and underneath there was a perfect network of tunnels and sewers and so forth, and they were never meant to carry these enormous weights. He thought if any further powers were given to the police, those powers ought to include power to deal with this class of traffic.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) complained of the way in which children were allowed to beg with boxes in the streets. It was, he said, impossible to come out of the large hotels in the Strand, even at midnight, without being pestered by children shaking money boxes in one's face. If a poor person begged for a penny he would at once be hauled off to Bow Street, but these children, as he understood, were sent out by charitable societies in South London with a box to beg, and he believed received threepence for every shilling they collected when the box, which was a sealed box, was opened.

SIR GEORGE BARTLEY (Islington, N.) said the question of the traffic of London and the powers of the police to regulate it was now being considered by the Traffic Commission. It was a very great question and the powers of the police were very little understood, but the whole matter was now being considered by the Traffic Commission.

*MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS said the question of collecting money in the streets was engaging his attention, and it was his intention to ask Parliament to give him power to deal with the matter. He would introduce a Bill as soon as possible, and he hoped it would have the support of the hon. Member opposite. He entirely agreed with his hon. friend the Member for King's Lynn in his criticism with regard to hooded vans, and as to the necessity for wider powers being given to the police, but he did not think it would be courteous to the Royal Commission if any action were taken by the Government while they were sitting.

Mr. Burdett Coutts.

The reduction of £5,000 was in regard to police employed on special duty at the ports and public buildings and institutions, where it had been found possible to reduce the number of men employed.

MR. SCHWANN asked leave to withdraw his Motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolutions to be reported To-morrow.

Committee to sit again this evening.

----- EVENING SITTING. -----

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.

ADJOURNMENT (UNDER STANDING ORDER No. 10).

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.) said in moving that the House do now adjourn, he did so in order to call attention to the appointment which had been made of a person who was not a Member of this House as the President of the Board of Agriculture. That his Motion was not a political one was evidenced by the front Opposition Bench. He did not make this Motion from any objection he had to the noble Earl who had been appointed, or on the ground of his unfitness for the position, because from his training as a Member of many Government Departments and from his having been under the Colonial Secretary at the Colonial Office, he would naturally be a man of business qualities, and no doubt to a certain extent able to fill the position. He did not oppose the appointment of the noble Earl on the ground that he was a Peer, although he was aware of the fact that the agricultural journals of the day did so. There was a very strong objection indeed to the President of the Board of Agriculture being in the House of Lords when there was not an official in this House to represent that Department. Up to now the precedents were all in his favour; on no

occasion had a President of the Board of Agriculture been appointed who was not a Member of this House. What good reason was there for the Government departing from these precedents? He was, of course, aware that at the present time no county seat was safe; but even if that were so, the position could be filled by an hon. Member who, like the late President or the President of the Local Government Board, sat for a great borough. If the Government thought the boroughs were also shaky, then why not appoint the Secretary to the late Mr. Hanbury to the position? It was well known that the late President of the Board of Agriculture had had no great experience of agriculture, but he brought great business abilities to his Department, and was an ideal President whom it would be difficult to replace from either side of the House. Mr. Hanbury was an ideal President because he was a man who had absolute independence and firmness, and was prepared to stand up for his Department and the agricultural interest in this House even against his colleagues. It was very undesirable that this House should have no representative at all, in an official sense, of the Board of Agriculture. Of course, there was the hon. Member for North Huntingdonshire who would represent it—in the way of a Member sitting on the Treasury Bench as a junior Lord of the Treasury to answer questions put to him—but he would be only a mouthpiece, and have no power or initiative—he would be, as had been aptly suggested, merely the phonograph of the noble Earl sitting in another place.

What would happen in the case of a Bill being brought up, a new Bill of great interest to agriculture, such as the Adulteration of Butter Bill, the Sheep Scab Bill, or even the Food and Drugs Bill? They would in future have to come down from the other House, where they might not have been discussed at all. But supposing, for the sake of argument, they were introduced into this House, the hon. Member for North Huntingdonshire would have no power to make alterations in them, or make concessions. He would have to consult the noble Lord in another place. He might be told that the Government intended that the hon. Member for

North Huntingdonshire should be practically the President, but if that was so he would ask why they had not appointed him President of the Board of Agriculture. They could not say he would not be well-fitted to succeed the late Mr. Hanbury, because the hon. Member was a practical agriculturist and understood what the farmers wanted in this matter. He was one of those members of the Government who would not have to seek re-election upon accepting office under the Crown, and therefore the Government would not risk a shaky seat. But if he was wanted by the Government as a Whip, then why could they not look a little lower down on the Treasury Benches and appoint the hon. Member for one of the Divisions of Suffolk, in which case the Government had nothing to fear in case of a bye-election, because his seat again would not be affected by his taking office at the present moment. It was really impossible to understand why it was so necessary to go to another place for a President of the Board of Agriculture. On the benches opposite there were twenty or thirty hon. Members perfectly capable of succeeding the late President. With regard to the question as to whether the President of the Board of Agriculture should sit in another place, he might point out that that system was adopted in the last Parliament with regard to the Post Office, and was a failure. The Duke of Norfolk was appointed Postmaster-General, and his appointment had been most inconvenient. They wanted a responsible man in this House who could answer them face to face when they attacked his Department, and who might explain away, if he could, the objections taken to the methods of that Department. It would be found to be practically impossible to get into touch with the President of the Board of Agriculture, because when they went up to another place they would probably find the House of Lords had adjourned, and that the noble Earl's whereabouts were not discoverable. The late Mr. Hanbury, in season and out of season, was always anxious to see agricultural Members, and that was a state of things that was of great advantage to the agricultural

to the power and dignity of the House of Commons, and he sincerely trusted that the matter might again draw attention to the question of limiting still further the necessity for re-elections on accepting or changing office; but he was quite aware that some of his hon. friends would not agree with him in this opinion. They desired to raise the question on strict constitutional grounds, holding that according to immemorial practice the Board of Agriculture should be represented in that House, and not on any personal ground.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): The speech of the noble Lord may be divided into halves, one devoted to history and the other devoted to humour. The historical part was exceedingly interesting, and I think there is no man better qualified than the noble Lord, who has made a great study of constitutional history, to remind the House of the strange and most interesting vicissitudes of opinion which have influenced the House in its dealings with its own Members who have held office under the Crown. He has reminded us, and worthily reminded us, of the times, not so far distant, when this House was nervously anxious that not too many office-holders should be amongst its Members, and if it has any anxiety at the present time it is in the reverse direction. With regard to the humorous part of the noble Lord's speech I shall say nothing; it speaks for itself. But there was one observation which fell from him at the close of his speech which came upon me as a matter of surprise. It was when he spoke of the matter in dispute as not being one with regard to whether the Minister for Agriculture should be in this House or in the House of Lords, not a question whether the new Minister for Agriculture was, or was not qualified to carry out his high functions, but a question of a by-election. I confess that never occurred to me before. It never occurred to me that any hon. Member would get up in this House at three o'clock, and solemnly ask leave to discuss as a matter of urgent public importance an appointment which the Government had made, not because the appointment was a bad one, not because the person

appointed was in another place rather than here, but because it did not vacate a seat which hon. Members opposite thought they had a chance of winning. That is the newest version of a "question of urgent public importance."

Now let us turn to the speeches of the mover and the seconder of the Motion. Neither of those hon. Members attempted to traverse the proposition that Lord Onslow is eminently fitted to carry out the duties of Minister for Agriculture. In my judgment, no man not in the Cabinet, has to a greater degree shown by long service to the country in different offices, his capacity to carry out the functions now to be entrusted to him than Lord Onslow. He is himself an agriculturist; he is an administrator; he has carried out administrative work in at least three great Departments of State; he has had not only British but colonial experience. Except for the fact that he is a Peer I cannot conceive of any human being who would suggest that he is not eminently fitted for the office he is to occupy. If I may incidentally allude to it in this connection, the fact that Lord Onslow will be assisted in this House by my hon. friend the Member for North Huntingdonshire, to whom well-deserved eulogistic allusions have been made, shows that the interests of agriculture will suffer neither in this House nor in the other. I take it, therefore, that it is not a question of the fitness of the individual for the office. What, then, is it? It is the question whether it is consistent with the conduct of public business and with the dignity of this House that the President of the Board of Agriculture should be in the House of Lords. What theory of the Minister for Agriculture lies at the bottom of this criticism? We on this side of the House have taken a very different view of the position of the Minister for Agriculture from hon. Gentlemen opposite. This zeal of theirs for the Minister for Agriculture is new-born. The office was initiated by the Party on this side of the House. When Mr. Gladstone came to appoint the only Minister for Agriculture who has been appointed by the Party opposite, it is true he did not take him from the House of Lords, but he did not put him in the Cabinet. Therefore, if we are to estimate by precedent the conception of the Party

Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice.

opposite of the dignity and importance of this office, we are forced to the conclusion that the Minister for Agriculture may be in this House possibly, but certainly not a Member of the Cabinet. That is the doctrine which hon. Members opposite commend to the great agriculturists of the country. ["No."] I am talking not of their speeches but of their practice. It is not to their professions when we are in office, but to their practice when they are in office, that the agricultural interest will look, and it will then be seen what an enormous difference there is between the views of the two parties as to the importance of the Minister for Agriculture.

That being conceded, as I think it must be, the principal question for us to consider is whether or not it is proper that the Minister for Agriculture should be in the other House. I may ask hon. Gentlemen opposite on what principle they think that offices should be allocated between the two Houses. The noble Lord quoted a sentence from some remarks of Mr. Gladstone's in 1869, declaring that the two heads of the great spending Departments should always be in the House of Commons, and he incidentally observed that that had been the invariable practice of Mr. Gladstone when he had the opportunity himself of making a Government. I do not remember the occasion; I do not happen to carry it in my mind when he laid down that dictum, but I do know that he hardly ever kept it. I am not aware that, subsequent to the Ministry which existed in 1869, Mr. Gladstone ever appointed the heads of the two spending Departments in this House. We remember that Lord Northbrook, Lord Ripon, and Lord Spencer were heads of the Admiralty. Can any hon. Gentleman recollect that after 1869 any hon. Member of this House was appointed to that office? ["Oh."] Well, perhaps the hon. Member's memory is better than my own. I therefore assume the right of saying that, after the dictum laid down in 1869, Mr. Gladstone felt it to be absolutely necessary, as long as the Legislature consists of two Houses, that there should be a due proportion of Ministers at the head of great Departments in the other House.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): Mr. Childers.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Mr. Childers was a Minister in the very administration of which I am speaking. I say that the year 1869, the date of the dictum, is the date in which Mr. Gladstone put the First Lord of the Admiralty in this House. This is admitted to be the universal practice of the Constitution, a practice going back to time immemorial, sanctioned by Mr. Gladstone himself. That practice is that you must have a due proportion of the great Ministers of the Crown in the House of Lords, even if some of those Ministers represent spending Departments over which this House has a special and natural right of control. If that is true of the First Lord of the Admiralty, it is true of the Minister of Agriculture. The complaint is not that my hon. friend the Member for Huntingdonshire is inefficient, but that he is so efficient that he ought to be the Minister for Agriculture himself. That was the allegation of the hon. Gentleman opposite.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs): But he is not an official of the Department.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Gentleman must be perfectly aware that by the practice of this country, where there is not a secretary allocated to an office, it is the practice that he should be represented by a person who is not a Minister. I should like to point out to the House the tendency which seems to me to influence these matters. There is a very growing desire in this House to have Ministers representing the Departments among its Members. That is a natural tendency; and yet there is another tendency that cannot be ignored—I am afraid I am rather travelling away from the question of the Minister for Agriculture—["Hear, hear!"]—there is another tendency which makes it more and more difficult to have the more laborious Departments represented on this Bench. Never again, I think, shall we see a Minister for Foreign Affairs in this House. ["Oh, oh!"] Well, hon. Gentlemen may have the gift of prophecy denied to myself, but

I have some knowledge and experience of the matter upon which I am speaking. There have been great Ministers for Foreign Affairs in this House; but I do not believe it will be physically possible in the future for a Minister for Foreign Affairs to sit in this House, carrying on at the same time the duties of an ordinary Member of Parliament and the duties of a member of the Government. The growing strain of official work is a thing that is not, and perhaps hardly can be, appreciated by those who have not had experimental knowledge of it. The noble Lord opposite has held a high official position, and he knows that in his time the work was far greater than it was ten years before; and I can assure him that in the Department he represented in this House the work is now far greater than it was in his time; and I believe it is true also under modern conditions, of every Department, or almost every Department, of State that it is, if not actually overworked, at all events worked up to the highest pitch and strain its staff can possibly endure. The idea that a Minister can do the current work of the Department of Foreign Affairs and the current work of a Member of this House at the same time would never enter the head of any man who knows the amount of work to be done by a modern Minister for Foreign Affairs. The mere labour of keeping abreast of the vast pile of documents poured in upon him day by day, alone renders such a thing impossible.

We have, therefore, in these modern times to deal with a double stream of tendencies running in opposite directions. This House is still increasing, as it has increased through many generations, its relative power in the body politic as compared with the other Chamber; and with the increase of its power, responsibilities, and activity, there naturally arises the desire that more and more of the Ministers responsible for the discharge of duties of high offices should sit on this bench, and should assist the House with information, should be compelled to give direct answers, and to take part in the day-to-day controversies across the floor of the House. Yet I am convinced that the difficulty of carrying that out will be found increasingly great, and that as you pile one duty after another upon the heads of great Departments, so it will make it less and less possible for a

man to be a Member of the House of Commons and a great Minister at the same time. We know it has been made matter of comment that as compared with times past, the number of gentlemen who are able to sit on this bench throughout an ordinary debate, in which their respective Departments are not concerned, is getting smaller and smaller. I believe that, so far as I am individually concerned, some comments have been made upon my not being present last night during a large part of a debate upon a matter in which I, at all events, take great interest. It is perfectly true. You cannot avoid it. It is absolutely impossible that the work of the country can be carried on inside the House and outside the House at the same time by the same man. And when I read, as I do, of the many hours spent by Mr. Disraeli, when Leader of the House, on this bench, and when I am told that there is less done now than was done then, I think that history has exaggerated, and I do not believe it is possible for anybody holding a great office to spend very much time on this bench during discussion of matters in which he is not directly concerned. I am afraid I have unintentionally become rather egotistical. I did not mean to touch upon my own case. I want the House to remember that the very fact of the growing influence and importance of the duties placed on Ministers makes it more necessary that a due proportion of those Ministers should be allocated to the other House.

There is one other point I should like to mention before I sit down. Two of the hon. Gentlemen who have been good enough to address us to-night spent a good deal of eloquence on explaining how much better they would have made up his Majesty's Government than we have made it. They have explained what recommendations they would have made to the King if they had been Prime Minister for the Unionist Party. But then they are not Prime Ministers for the Unionist Party. I am quite sure that when, in due course, they have the burdensome responsibility they will make a proper selection; but I do not think they have any greater claim to

make up our Administration than I have to make up their Administration. I shall be quite ready when the time comes to offer my advice, perhaps it will not be eagerly sought, as to how the next Administration should be formed. I am quite ready to act as a Board of Conciliation, or whatever the approved phrase may be, and to give the best advice which a long—too long, perhaps—acquaintance with delicate questions has enabled me perhaps to give with some advantage. When that time comes, my advice, in private, will be at their disposal. But certainly it would never occur to me to move the adjournment and ask as a matter of urgent public importance why this Minister is in the House of Lords and that Minister in the House of Commons, or to thrust my advice on them in public, after long speeches, as to the various qualifications of gentlemen who are going to form the next Administration; that, I think, would be travelling far beyond my duty, and would amount almost to an indelicacy. It is an indelicacy which I think hon. Members opposite have not been reluctant to commit on the present occasion. But I can assure them that this interference with our domestic politics is really quite unnecessary, that we can settle for ourselves who shall best represent the Departments which they have got to preside over, and that I am perfectly ready to give to them all the freedom which we claim for ourselves. I would ask them to remember this one additional thing. It is not an easy matter to form a Government, as perhaps they will one day know; it is not an easy matter to allocate the various offices among the various persons thoroughly competent to fill them. But I do say in the interests of those who may come after me that any such arbitrary rule as apparently hon. Gentlemen opposite wish to lay down to-night—that this office is to be held in the House of Lords and that office in the House of Commons—will add a difficulty which may greatly interfere with the proper constitution of the future Governments of this country.

The difficulty is got over in some foreign States, I am aware, by providing that the Minister of the Crown, or what corresponds in those States to the Minister of the Crown here, should have the right of expressing his

views in either House, and should be cross-examined in either House. I think that is wholly alien to our wishes and our traditions. We wish the Ministers of the Departments to belong to one House or to the other; and, so far as the Ministers in this House are concerned, they may be the friends of the House, or the victims of the House, or the tyrants of the House, or whatever it may be, but they must belong to the House, to be bullied by the House, to coerce the House, or to conciliate the House, whichever their particular functions and abilities may enable them to do to the best advantage. We should not tolerate some gentleman coming down from another place and giving us a lecture on any subject whatever, even if it was his own Department; and I daresay they would be as fastidious, in the House of Lords as we should certainly be here. That being so, if no interchange is possible, then depend upon it you must have some fair balance of forces between the two Houses; and you will only hamper the Minister responsible for the choice of the best man to serve his country, his office, and Party, if you lay down arbitrary restrictions with regard to this or that Minister. I have explained to the House how Mr. Gladstone, after having laid down, in 1869, that the heads of the two spending Departments must always be in this House, was himself driven by the logic of events always to have the head of one spending Department in the other House. Can there be a more striking proof of the folly of laying down these dicta, these new constitutional maxims, not based either on the history of the past, on the necessity of the present, or on the legitimate desire which this House properly has of supervising the action of the Government? Such maxims, if the House once accepts them, will do nothing, in my judgment, to add to the dignity of the House or to its power in the State, but will only entangle the future framers of Ministries in a series of arbitrary rules, which can only result in the less efficient man being chosen for the office simply in order to carry out some rules laid down in times gone by which have no reasonable application to present circumstances. These, Sir, are grounds not narrow, small, or personal—grounds, I

venture to say, of great and lasting importance, which ought to induce this House uncompromisingly to reject this Motion, which, as far as I know, is absolutely without parallel; and for that reason, if for no other, I am sure they ought utterly to thrust it aside.

MR. ELLIS GRIFFITH (Anglesey) said they were indebted to the First Lord for his offer of future conciliation between the ranks of the Liberal Party, and he rejoiced that the right hon. Gentleman was having now such experience as would enable him to give very good advice. The more experience of that sort the First Lord had, the sooner probably would the time come when his advice might be necessary. He would not traverse the Prime Minister's history, or his criticism, or humour. He was bound to say the right hon. Gentleman had extracted a good deal more humour from the noble Lord's speech than was intended or contained in it. The humour of the speech was entirely the Prime Minister's. He spoke about by-elections, but he did not think the noble Lord was anxious about by-elections.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: But he spoke about them.

MR. ELLIS GRIFFITH said he did not see where the humour of the situation came in except in the mind of the Prime Minister. He could assure the right hon. Gentlemen that there was not much humour in the by-elections from a Government point of view. [MINISTERIAL interruptions and cries of "Question."] He said if he were out of order Mr. Speaker would correct him, and he could assure hon. Gentlemen opposite who were interrupting him that he was in no hurry. They were discussing the appointment of a new Minister for Agriculture. The First Lord had not said that the noble Earl appointed to the post was the best man he could find for it. He had said it was very difficult to form a Government. It was sometimes difficult to keep it together when it was formed.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I did not say that.

Mr. A. J. Balfour.

MR. ELLIS GRIFFITH: No, no, that was my addition. One recommendation for the present appointment might, perhaps, be found in the fact that the House of Lords owned about one fifth of the land of the country. He did not know whether that qualification had formed the basis for this appointment. It was said that they had a capable hon. Member to represent the noble Lord in this House. It was a curious thing that the hon. Member was not present during the first debate upon this question. The right hon. Gentleman had stated that the work of some Departments was so laborious that they ought to put the Ministers representing them in another place where they could devote all their time to administration. That might be true. If there was one office where the work was so laborious as to require the whole time of the person in charge it was the Board of Agriculture. The hon. Gentleman who was to represent the Department in the House was a Whip. Surely this was not a time to increase the labours of a Government Whip. He had not only to whip his own side, but to whip eighty Members from Ireland. He protested against the burden which was put on the hon. Member for North Huntingdonshire. He was new to the duties. The post of Minister of Agriculture essentially belonged to a Member of the House of Commons. There were many Members who had great claims upon the office, but the Prime Minister seemed to have felt that it would be invidious to make a selection from his followers in this House. He would not make a point of by-elections. He understood that the Prime Minister had one difficulty. He was told that there were certain revolts on the Government side of the House. It would have been very awkward to have promoted a revolter. It would have been putting a premium on revolt. The training of the noble Lord appointed to the office had been essentially bad. The noble Lord had received it under the Colonial Secretary. No man could possibly have a worse training than that. The Colonial Secretary was autocratic and all-powerful. Did any one imagine that the right hon. Gentleman allowed the noble Lord to say a word as to colonial policy? Not a single cheer

was raised in answer to that. The noble Lord had obediently and reverently carried out the policy of the Colonial Secretary. Was that a qualification for a man appointed to the head of a Department? Why, the noble Lord would not know what to do when he got on his own legs. There were a great many men in this House sitting behind the Prime Minister who ought to have been preferred for this appointment.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): This debate has been raised in order to call attention to a point of some constitutional importance. I have been told that the course of the debate hitherto has been confined to the constitutional question, and that nobody on the other side has introduced into the discussion anything like reflections upon my noble friend the Minister of Agriculture. It has been reserved for the hon. Member for Anglesey to complain, not merely of the appointment with reference to the question of the precise position the Minister of Agriculture should occupy in the one House or the other, but also on the ground of the position he is in, as more or less an intimate acquaintance of mine. It is that which has induced me to intervene in the debate. Having had the great advantage of the assistance of Lord Onslow during the past few years, I can truly say to the House that, having in view my noble friend's judgment, energy, initiative, and industry, the Government, the country, and, above all, the agricultural interest, are extremely fortunate in obtaining his services. When the hon. Gentleman says that my noble friend as Under Secretary was the mere tool of his superior he shows a grotesque ignorance of the administration of a Government Department. When the hon. Gentleman is the head of a great and responsible Department, I hope he will treat his subordinates much better than he seems to think it is desirable to do under similar circumstances. For myself, I can say of my noble friend that, during the period we have been working together, I have always valued his opinion, and have often followed it; and certainly he has never been deterred by any terror of me from expressing his

opinion, whether he agreed with me or not. Now that he has been placed in a position in which he will have greater opportunities of individually distinguishing himself, I am perfectly certain that he will justify the choice which has been made by the Prime Minister and the confidence which all who know him feel in him.

MR. DALZIEL said that the Secretary for the Colonies had ably defended the appointment of his colleague, but he ventured to say, with all respect, that the qualifications of Lord Onslow did not form the question before the House. This debate had been justified, if by nothing else, by the interesting declarations which had been made from both front benches. The Prime Minister had declared that, in his opinion, never in the future of this House would the Foreign Secretary occupy a seat here. What was the reason the right hon. Gentleman gave for that? It was that the office was so important, that the duties were so responsible, and that the necessities of the office required such an amount of time, that it was quite impossible for the Foreign Secretary to discharge the duties of the office and occupy a seat in this House at the same time.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: What I said was that no man could be Foreign Secretary and at the same time attend to the ordinary duties of a Member of this House.

MR. DALZIEL said the analogy of the Foreign Office was not closely applicable in the case they were discussing. The Foreign Office was not an administrative office. Did the Prime Minister hold that the office of Foreign Secretary was the most important in the Government, and that it was the only office that no Member of the House of Commons could hold? He ventured to say that the Secretary for the Colonies did not believe that his office was less important than that of Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

*MR. SPEAKER: The discussion of the relative importance of the different posts in the Government is out of order, unless it bears on the question now

before the House. The right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury made an allusion to the office of Foreign Secretary, and I did not interrupt him, although it was not strictly relevant, because I thought the whole House was listening with interest to it.

MR. DALZIEL said he would, of course, strictly observe that ruling. [Cries of "Divide."] He hoped that the hon. Member for Lowestoft would control himself a little.

COLONEL LUCAS (Suffolk, Lowestoft): I was not opening my mouth even.

MR. DALZIEL: It is sometimes possible to make a noise without opening your mouth. [Cries of "Withdraw."] I would withdraw if I thought I had made a mistake. The hon. Member said the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Cricklade Division had argued that when the head of a Department was appointed there should be no by-election, and that the law should be so altered as to enable a Member of this House to accept office without having to seek re-election. He entirely differed from the right hon. Gentleman on that point. The argument put forward by the Prime Minister suggested that his position was troublesome and full of anxiety, and he had appealed to them to pity the sorrows of a poor Prime Minister who had no time even for golf. [MINISTERIAL cries of "Oh," and repeated cries of "Divide."]

MR. SPEAKER: I must appeal to hon. Members to maintain order. On the other hand, I trust the hon. Member will address himself to the question.

MR. DALZIEL said he did not intend any remark he had made to be offensive to the Prime Minister. If the right hon. Gentleman regarded it as offensive he would withdraw it. He contended that the House had a right to criticise the appointment of the head of an important office. Lord Onslow could not properly represent the Board of Agriculture in the House of Lords, and the interests of agriculture would be practically unrepresented in the House of Commons.

MAJOR JAMESON (Clare, W.) said he absolutely brushed aside the fact that Lord Onslow was a Member of the House of Lords. That was his misfortune and not his fault, and it should not be the means of penalising one of the best men of the country who could have been chosen to fill the post of Minister of Agriculture. Lord Onslow was a practical agriculturist, and there was no Member on the Ministerial Bench who knew half as much about agriculture as the noble Lord did. The noble Lord was the one man whom the Government had never sufficiently rewarded for his great services to the country and the Empire as Governor of New Zealand. He congratulated the Prime Minister on having appointed a Minister who had rendered greater services to the Empire than any other Member of Parliament. He supported the Government most heartily in the appointment they had made.

Question put.

House divided:—Ayes, 54; Noes, 178. (Division List No. 97.)

AYES.

Allen, Chas. P. (*Glos., Stroud*)
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Black, Alexander William
Brigg, John
Caldwell, James
Cawley, Frederick
Craig, Robert Hunter (*Lanark*)
Crooks, William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Davies, M. Vaughan (*Cardig'n*)
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)

Duncan, J. Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Fenwick, Charles
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Helme, Norval Watson
Hope, John Deans (*Fife, West*)
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.

Hutchinson, Dr. Chas. Fredk.
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Perks, Robert William
Pirie, Duncan V.

Mr. Speaker.

Rea, Russell
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
 Runciman, Walter
 Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
 Shipman, Dr. John G.
 Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
 Sullivan, Donal

Taylor, Theo. C. (*Radcliffe*)
 Thomas, A. (*Carmarthen, E.*)
 Thomas, Sir A. (*Glamorgan, E.*)
 Thomas, David Alfred (*Merthyr*)
 Wason, E. (*Clackmannan*)
 Wason, John Cathcart (*Orkney*)
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)

Williams, O. (*Merioneth*)
 Wilson, John (*Durham, Mid*)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir Edward Strachey and
 Mr. Soares.

NOES.

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Arkwright, John Stanhope
 Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
 Arrol, Sir William
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
 Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
 Bain, Colonel James Robert
 Baird, John George Alexander
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Manch'r.*)
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. Gerald W. (*Leeds*)
 Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch*)
 Banbury, Sir Frederick George
 Bartley, Sir George C. T.
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Bignold, Arthur
 Bigwood, James
 Bill, Charles
 Bond, Edward
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Burdett-Coutts, W.
 Butcher, John George
 Campbell, J. H. M. (*Dublin Univ.*)
 Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
 Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
 Cavendish, R. F. (*N. Lancs.*)
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*)
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (*Birm.*)
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A. (*Worc*)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Chapman, Edward
 Charrington, Spencer
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
 Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasgow*)
 Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
 Craig, Charles Curtis (*Antrim, S*)
 Cranborne, Lord
 Cross, Alexander (*Glasgow*)
 Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Denny, Colonel
 Dewar, Sir T. R. (*Tr. Ham'ts*)
 Dickinson, Robert Edmond
 Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph C.
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
 Doxford, Sir William Theodore
 Duke, Henry Edward
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (*Manch'r*)
 Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
 Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas

Fisher, William Hayes
 Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Flower, Ernest
 Forster, Henry William
 Fyler, John Arthur
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Garfit, William
 Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nairn*)
 Gordon, Maj. Evans (*L'nd'nd'ts*)
 Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (*West Ham*)
 Greene, Sir E. W. (*Bury St. Ed.*)
 Greene, Hy. D. (*Shrewsbury*)
 Grenfell, William Henry
 Groves, James Grimble
 Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord G. (*Midd'x*)
 Hamilton, Marq. of (*L'nd'nd'ts*)
 Harris, Frederick Leverton
 Heath, James (*Staffords. N. W.*)
 Helder, Augustus
 Hoare, Sir Samuel
 Hobhouse, Rt. Hn. H. (*Somerset, E*)
 Houlst, Joseph
 Houston, Robert Paterson
 Howard, John (*Kent, Faw'rsham*)
 Hutton, John (*Yorks, N. R.*)
 Jameson, Major J. Eustace
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Johnstone, Heywood
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*)
 Keswick, William
 Knowles, Lees
 Lambton, Hn. Frederick Wm.
 Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
 Lawson, John G. (*Yorks. N. R.*)
 Lee, Arthur H. (*Hants. Fareham*)
 Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
 Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S.*)
 Lonsdale, John Brownlee
 Lowther, C. (*Cumb., Eskdale*)
 Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*)
 London, W.
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Majendie, James A. H.
 Malcolm, Ian
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Maxwell, W. J. H. (*Dumfriessh.*)
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Mitchell, William (*Burnley*)
 Molesworth, Sir Lewis
 Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (*Hants*)
 More, Robt. Jasper (*Shropshire*)
 Morgan, David J. (*Walthamstow*)
 Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
 Mount, William Arthur
 Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
 Muntz, Sir Philip A.

Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (*Bute*)
 Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
 Myers, William Henry
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Peel, Hn. Wm. R. Wellesley
 Pilkington, Lieut.-Col. Richard
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Randles, John S.
 Ratcliff, R. F.
 Rattigan, Sir William Henry
 Reid, James (*Greenock*)
 Remnant, James Farquharson
 Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
 Renwick, George
 Ridley, Hn. M. W. (*Stalybridge*)
 Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
 Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
 Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
 Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Roys, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W.
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
 Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
 Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
 Seely, Charles Hilton (*Lincoln*)
 Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*)
 Smith, H. C. (*North'mb. Tyneside*)
 Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks*)
 Stanley, Hon. A. (*Ormskirk*)
 Stanley, Edward Jas. (*Somerset*)
 Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
 Stewart, Sir Mark J. M. Taggart
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
 Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
 Thorburn, Sir Walter
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Tuke, Sir John Batty
 Valentia, Viscount
 Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
 Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (*Notts.*)
 Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir Alexander Acland-Hood
 and Mr. Anstruther.

*PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.*ULSTER AND CONNAUGHT LIGHT
RAILWAYS BILL (By ORDER)

[SECOND READING.]

Order read, for resuming adjourned debate on Question (14th May), "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Question again proposed.

Debate resumed.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed.

ALL SAINTS, POPLAR (RATE ABOLI-
TION), BILL [LORDS] (By ORDER).

[SECOND READING.]

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

MR. PERKS (Lincolnshire, Louth) begged to move "That this Bill be read a second time this day six months." This Bill, he said, was called a Church Rate Abolition Bill, but that was a great misnomer; it should be properly called a Church Rate Perpetuation Bill. The Bill no doubt would primarily have a direct effect on the parish of Poplar, but it would also manifestly affect other parts of London. He ventured to say that the Bill was one of the most singular measures presented to Parliament in the shape of a private Bill for many a day. He trusted there were many Members in the House who would bring to the consideration of this Bill an unfettered judgment. It was promoted privately, and was being assisted in its passage through the House by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. He hoped that the opposition which he brought to it would be fairly considered by his Nonconformist friends on the other side of the House, and by others who were not Nonconformists, but represented constituencies

where there were large numbers of people who belonged to the Free Churches, and that they would act in unison with the wishes of their constituents. The Bill was intended to commute, at what he thought was an exorbitant price, a rate levied since 1817 for the benefit of the Church of England in the parish of Poplar. In the year 1817 the rate was authorised for the purpose of building a parish church at the cost of £30,000, and also for paying the stipend of £400 a year to the parish clergyman, and for employing a lecturer, and two or three subordinate officials. This rate was unfortunately not extinguished in 1868, when the Church Rate Abolition Act was passed. From 1868 to 1882 the rate was levied under the provisions of the old statute, but many of the parishioners strongly objected, and alleged that a number of the objects for which the rate was levied were illegal. The question was raised in the courts of law that year, when it was found that fourteen of the objects to which the money derived from the rates had been applied since 1868 were absolutely illegal, and that there should be paid out of the rate a salary of £450 a year to the clergyman, not less than £60 a year to the lecturer, and £10 a year to the clerk. These payments went on from the year 1882 to 1899, when Poplar was formed into a local municipality. This rate, not being taken over by the local authority, had had to be collected and enforced by the Vestry. Difficulties at once arose, and many parishioners protested against the payment of the rate, which was only partially collected, so strong was the antipathy to it. The result was that the clergyman's salary, and those of the lecturer and the clerk, had been advanced by money-lenders, whose names he did not know. Under these circumstances an effort had been made by various parties to commute these payments. A statement circulated to hon. Members alleged that the bargain proposed in the Bill was approved of by a large number of people, whose names were set out. He observed that the hon. Member for Poplar, whose name had been put to the Whip in support of the Bill, was not present. If that hon. Member had been present he would have asked him to explain how it was that a few years ago he took a strong attitude against a similar measure introduced for the parish

of Marylebone. It was stated that the Bishop of the diocese was in favour of the Bill. Well, one very seldom found an arrangement which had the effect of putting a very large sum of money into the hands of the Church which had not the support of the bishop. Again, it was said that the Vestry was in favour of the Bill. He understood that the Vestry had called the meeting, at which fewer than twenty people were present, and, naturally being unable to collect the rate, they wanted to get out of the difficulty. The lecturer, who was now getting £100 a year, the clerk, who got £10 a year, and the sexton, who received a small sum, were also in favour of the Bill.

The whole of the money originally raised in 1817 for building the Church had been paid back long ago, and he had made a calculation that no less than £100,000 had been paid out of the rate to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for the benefit of the parish. The Bill provided that £19,000 was to be paid over by the local authority to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, who were to invest it at 3 per cent., and pay the interest to the parish. But the parish was to raise this £19,000 by levying a rate for sixty years, so that instead of this being a Rate Abolition Bill, it was a Bill to impose a rate identical in character for sixty years.

There used to be a rule that the short title of a Bill must not mislead the public or the House as to the contents of the Bill, but he insisted that it was a complete caricature of the Bill to call it a Church Rate Abolition Bill. Having made this neat little bargain for the Church, what did the promoters proceed to do? They went to the unfortunate lecturer, a gentleman of some intelligence and influence in the parish, and said to him "You have been receiving £100 a year; what will you take to vacate your office?" They proposed to give him £300; that was three years' purchase. Having got rid of him, they went to the clerk and said "What will you vacate your office and give up your emolument of £10 a year for?" And they proposed to give him £30, which was also three years' purchase. Then they proceeded to deal with the balance of £19,000; and they gravely proposed to capitalise the salary

of the happy incumbent in possession at no less than forty-two years' purchase of that salary, leaving the Ecclesiastical Commissioners with the rest of the plunder. Not only that; they took the parish property of this important church, and the very important site of the church house, clean out of the hands of the parishioners, who could have utilised it and done what they liked with it, subject to ecclesiastical law, and vested it in the Ecclesiastical Commissioners by a Trust Deed under the Church Building Act. So that the parishioners were disendowed, and disestablished, and dispossessed completely, and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners were left in control of the £19,000, subject to the payment of 3 per cent. to the parish.

It was well known that the Ecclesiastical Commission was one of the richest corporations, and the most exacting, in London. They extorted the very highest rack-rents from their lessees and refused to renew leases except on the most extravagant terms. They invested their money in building land in the neighbourhood of London. He could point to hundreds of acres in the suburbs which had been bought by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for £100 an acre, for which they now claimed £1,000 or £1,500 an acre. [AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear.] His hon. friend said "Hear, hear"; but he was not a member of the Anglican Church.

COLONEL LUCAS (Suffolk, Lowestoft) said he was hardly listening to the hon. Member. The subject did not interest him very much, and he asked the hon. Member to withdraw.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTSON (Hackney, S.) said it was he who had said "Hear, hear."

MR. PERKS said he withdrew the remark, but he certainly was under the impression that it was the hon. Gentleman who had made the interruption. If the hon. Member had not heard anything he was saying, he trusted that he would try and listen now, and convey what he said to some of the Nonconformists in his constituency. He had been pointing out that the Ecclesiastical Commissioners were

going to make a huge profit out of this £19,000. The bargain was a very bad one for the parish, but a very good one for the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. The more one studied the operation of this little deal between the Church and these unfortunate parishioners who had bartered away their rights at a ridiculous figure, the more one would say that this was a Bill which ought not to receive further consideration. No harm whatever could arise if the Bill were postponed, and it would give an opportunity to the parishioners who had not yet studied the effect of the measure to carefully consider it. He was told that a large number of the parishioners at Poplar knew nothing about it, and that the whole business had been privately managed, and that there had been very little publicity brought to bear on the matter in the Borough Council. The representatives of the portions of the borough which were exempted from the operation of the Bill were permitted to vote in its favour. The Bill was not only unjust, but a very bad commercial bargain, and on both those grounds he trusted the House would not read it a second time.

MR. THEODORE TAYLOR (Lancashire, Radcliffe) seconded the Amendment. He said the Bill on page 4 drew attention to the fact that great dissatisfaction existed with regard to the rate dealt with in the Bill, and yet it was proposed to continue the rate for the next sixty years, and make its collection smooth and comfortable. Surely it was rather too late in the day to give special legislative facilities for the very kind of thing on which hon. Members were lectured so severely the other night by the Prime Minister, who declared that those who favoured passive resistance to the Church rate were acting contrary to common-sense. This was a religious and not an education question, and the inhabitants of Poplar were not all of one mind in regard to religious matters. No one wanted to deprive anyone of proper commutation, but the forty-two years purchase proposed in the case of the incumbent was excessive. While the poorer members of the brotherhood, the lecturer and the clerk, were to be bought out at three years purchase, the incumbent was to get no less than forty-two

years purchase, or more than twice the rate at which Irish landlords were willing to sell. He thought an arrangement might have been made which was fairer to the ratepayers, if it were considered desirable to reimpose this rate, which was practically what Parliament was asked to do.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Mr. Perks.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

MR. STUART WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) said the House would not wish to be drawn aside into a discussion on the general administration of the property of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners: the remarks of the hon. Member on that point, if they proved anything, pointed to the fact that the Commissioners were very good trustees indeed. The hon. Member who moved the rejection of the Bill had stated that the Ecclesiastical Commissioners were going to make a considerable profit out of this transaction. It was nothing of the kind. They were making a serious and solid contribution to a proper settlement of a very difficult question. After paying arrears and extinguishing certain interests, which cost something over £2,000, there remained £16,700 in their hands, which at 3 per cent. interest produced a little over £500 a year. Out of that they had undertaken to pay £450 a year to the parson, which was no more and no less than he was entitled to by statute and by the decision of two learned judges. They had also undertaken to pay £50 a year for the reinsurance and repairs of the rectory house. They had in addition undertaken to pay the salaries of such officers attached to the church as the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and the Bishop of London might determine, as well as the salary of the incumbent of any district or new parish which might wholly or partly be formed out of the original limits of the parish of All Saints, Poplar. That surely was not a winning bargain for the Commissioners. He submitted that so far from this Bill being so monstrous in principle, as it had been described by the

Mr. Perks.

hon. Member, that it should not be sent to a Committee, it merely gave effect to that which the Borough Council had with singular loyalty and good sense stated ought to be given effect to—namely, that the undoubted rights of these people, sanctioned by Parliament and upheld by the courts of law, should be settled on a satisfactory basis. He entreated the House not to do less than the representatives of Poplar were willing should be done.

MR. CROOKS (Woolwich) said he had often heard it stated that in order to learn anything about one's home a person must live away from it. The statement of the hon. Member for Louth was an absolute revelation to him. He was born in Poplar, and, so he understood, was his father, and he had never heard complaints that this matter was dealt with in a hole-and-corner fashion. There had always been the fullest possible publicity. As to those who were alleged to be badly treated; one, a personal friend of his, was nearly eighty years of age, and surely three years' purchase in his case was fair; while the other, the clerk, was exceedingly anxious that the Bill should become law, as his one desire was to serve the parish. He would like to point out if the parish were to go on collecting this rate of £500 or £600 it would be put to the expense of paying an additional £400 a year for another rate collector. It was utterly unreasonable to ask them to incur that expenditure. As to the complaint that members of the Borough Council had voted on that Bill who were not interested, he might remark that the decision was a unanimous one, so that it made no difference whatever. He hoped, on the ground of economy, that the House would give Poplar what it wanted.

MR. PERKS said he would not put the House to the trouble of a division.

Leave to withdraw Amendment refused.

Question put, and agreed to.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed.

SUPPLY [10th ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1903-4.

CLASS III.

£375,897, to complete the sum for Prisons, England and the Colonies.

MR. WHITLEY (Halifax) asked for some explanation of the increase of over £55,000 in this Vote. Seeing that the addition was so substantial he thought the Committee was entitled to hear from the Minister in charge why it was necessary to ask for that increased sum.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE (Bristol, E.) wished to know whether, in consequence of the lamented death of Colonel Garsia, any, and if so what, alterations had taken place in the manner of the appointment and control of the Director of Military Prisons. This official was essentially an army man, and he had control of men sent temporarily from the Army generally for some purely military offence. He would like to hear whether that office was to be entirely dissociated from the Home Office and handed over to the War Office, or whether the unfortunate system of dual control was to be continued.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) wished to raise a question as to the arrangements recently made by the Prison Commissioners for carrying out executions—and especially of women, in a great prison in the North of London which was originally intended to be used only as a house of detention. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman the Home Secretary would be able to make an announcement that no executions would be carried out in the prison at Holloway in the future. That prison was situated in a very respectable locality, and the value

of property had been greatly reduced by reason of executions taking place within its walls, and if the right hon. Gentleman could give the pledge he had suggested it would be gratefully received in the North of London, and would afford much satisfaction to many supporters of the Government as well as to himself.

*MR. JOHN HUTTON (Yorkshire, Richmond) asked the Home Secretary whether his attention had been called to the very large increase, in Yorkshire at all events, in the number of committals to prison for vagrancy and in the punishments for idleness in the prison itself. In the year ended the 31st March, 1901 the committals in the North Riding numbered 1006; in 1902 they were 1223, and in 1903 they had risen to 1521. The figures regarding committals for vagrancy in these three years were respectively 190, 306, and 547—a marked and rapid increase. In the same years the punishments for idleness were respectively 52, 57 and 617. This great increase occurred exactly at the time that the nature of the punishments in prisons had been mitigated, and he was afraid the reason for it was to be found in the fact that vagrants now regarded the prison as so much more comfortable than the casual ward. He would like to know whether this increase of committals was common all over the country or was confined to the North of England. Prisons were now so much more comfortable than casual wards that vagrants endeavoured to get convicted in order that they might be sent to prison. As a matter of fact, the dietary in the casual wards in the North Riding was considerably less than in the prisons; and whereas four pounds of oakum had to be picked in the casual wards only two pounds had to be picked in the prisons. The tread-mill and the plank bed had been abolished and the dietary had been increased. The removal of those restrictions and punishments had undoubtedly had an effect on vagrants, who deliberately committed offences in order that they might be sent to prison. Surely, that ought not to be. Surely, the prison ought not to be made so much more comfortable than the workhouse. He did not think that they could expect guardians to raise the comfort of the

casual wards in order to compete with the prisons. Vagrants should not be dealt with by the poor-law at all, but by the State. They were a class of people who went about threatening poor people in country villages and wayside houses. They were dealt with very severely in every other country, and he thought the time had come when the House should take some steps to compel them to work, or, at all events, to prevent them going about the country causing annoyance and injury to its peaceable inhabitants.

He wished to direct the attention of the Home Secretary to the punishments for idleness in prisons; and he maintained that, in doing away with the plank bed and flogging, a very great injury had been done to prison discipline. The abolition of flogging took away from the justices the great power they possessed of maintaining discipline in prisons. He had been Chairman of a Visiting Committee for many years, and the very fact that they were empowered to inflict the cat enabled them to maintain discipline among a class of men who were frightened by nothing but the prospect of being flogged. For the class of vagrants to which he referred, and who might be committed to prison for seven or fourteen days, there was now nothing in the way of punishment. They knew they could not be flogged, and that their diet could not be well diminished; and when brought before the magistrates again they only got another seven days. He thought the time had come for the Home Secretary to seriously consider whether, in the interests of prison discipline, it would not be better to restore such disagreeable attributes of prison life as the plank bed and the cat.

Then as to short sentences, he had been opposed to them almost all his life. They were neither restrictive nor reformatory. If a professional criminal were committed for seven days he cared nothing about it. He enjoyed the rest and the warmth. If a first offender were committed he came out with the tar brush of the prison upon him. He ventured to suggest that it would be in the interest of the State if short sentences under twenty-eight days were entirely done away with. If a man did not deserve imprisonment for twenty-

eight days, it would only do harm to himself and cause expense to send him to prison at all. It would be much better to let him off altogether. He hoped the Home Secretary would be good enough to consider that very important matter.

Then as to the position of prison officers, they were probably the most worthy class of officials employed by the State. Those men felt that the terms of their engagement were not entirely satisfactory. They had very difficult and responsible employment, but they could not get full pensions until after forty years' service, whereas policemen and other officials obtained a pension after twenty-five years' service. The late Home Secretary said that he hoped to improve the position of the warders, and that he would consider whether or not an improvement could be effected in their rates of pay which would enable them to receive increased pensions. He should like to ask his right hon. friend whether he was prepared to consider the proposal of his predecessor. He knew his right hon. friend had only been a short time at the Home Office, and that it was impossible for him to be acquainted with all the details; but he hoped his right hon. friend would give his most careful consideration to the points he had mentioned.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. COCHRANE, Ayrshire, N.) said that the increased estimate was partly due to the fact that the prison population had increased during the year, but it was mainly due to the improved dietary which the House had sanctioned. The local authorities had been unable to assign any reason why there had been an increase in the prison population, but, sad to state, there had been, during the last three years, a steady growth in prison population.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.) asked if that applied to Ireland.

MR. COCHRANE said he was not alluding to Ireland, and he was glad to know that the prison population was declining in that country. They had taken every possible means to find out what the

reason for the increase was, but they had been unable to fix on any particular cause. It was put down to the extension of borough limits, the activity of the police, and to the by-laws, which imposed penalties being carried out with greater activity, and to the greater competition which drove men out of employment. They must always expect fluctuations in their prison population, but while there had been an increase in that population, there had been no increase in serious crime, which was, on the contrary, steadily decreasing. In 1880, the number of persons committed at assizes and quarter sessions was thirty-seven per 100,000 of the population. In 1902, the proportion was only twenty-three per 100,000.

Further, a good many more persons had been committed in default of paying fines. He had heard of instances where the person fined arrived at the prison with sufficient in his pocket to pay, but preferred not to pay. It was curious, and he did not profess to be able to explain it. His hon. friend alluded to the number of cases of misbehaviour in prisons, and also the number of paupers sent from workhouses to prisons. That might be due to some extent to the fact that the conditions of prisons had been rendered, by the consent and full cognisance of the House, less harsh than they had been in the past. As to the difference between prison dietary and the dietary in casual wards, it was a mere matter of a few ounces of bread. He agreed with his hon. friend that prisons were not the most appropriate places for vagrants, and it was quite conceivable that some better method might be found of dealing with such short-sentence prisoners. Being imprisoned for a short time did not act as a deterrent. He was glad to be able to inform his hon. friend that the offences committed in prisons in his hon. friend's district were in excess of the average number for the country. Offences in prisons had not increased in the ratio mentioned by his hon. friend.

During the period from 1895 to 1898, the average number of offences committed in prisons was 147 per 1,000 of prison population, whereas the prison offences committed in 1889

averaged only 132 per 1,000. He thought, therefore, that there must be exceptional circumstances connected with the prisons in his hon. friend's district to account for the great increase which had taken place there.

His hon. friend pointed out that more oakum had to be picked in a casual ward than in a prison. He thought his hon. friend was under a slight misapprehension. No doubt a certain number of pounds had to be picked in a workhouse, but it depended whether the task was enforced or not. He believed it was not always enforced. In addition, mechanical means were allowed in workhouses but were not allowed in prisons. As to the pensions of warders, one was always inclined to think one's own children the most deserving, and he thought that the warders had a great call on their sympathy; but over them all was the Treasury, who stood in *loco parentis* to the children of all the Departments. If they succeeded in obtaining increased pay for the warders undoubtedly a claim would be put in on behalf of men engaged by some other Department, who might be equally deserving. Therefore, much as he admired the loyal and earnest manner in which the warders carried out their duties, he could not, with the eyes of the Treasury upon him, give any undertaking.

With reference to executions at Holloway, the execution of females was now a very rare occurrence, and he hoped the hon. Gentleman would believe that his right hon. friend the Home Secretary was paying attention to the matter. As regarded military prisons he was sure they all deplored the loss of Colonel Garsia, who did so much for military prisons. Under his guiding hand military prisons, which had been so injurious to the prestige and morale of the Army, had been so reorganised that soldiers were now able to return to the ranks untarnished in reputation by not having to associate with ordinary criminals.

*MR. AKERS DOUGLAS said as to executions at Holloway he was sorry he could not give a definite answer yet. He fully understood the strong feeling which existed in Holloway on the point, but he could not undertake to say that executions should not take place at that prison. He would say, however, that unless they found means by which the

death sentence could be carried out in such a manner as to be absolutely unobservable from anywhere around, executions would not be carried out there. The only other alternative would be to transfer the executions to Pentonville, which would necessitate the creation of a female staff in that prison, which would be very undesirable. He was sorry he could not say at that moment that no further executions would be carried out at Holloway, as he was still considering the matter. He would certainly give the hon. Gentleman an assurance that they would not be carried out there, except under proper conditions.

And, it being Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolution to be reported upon Tuesday next; Committee to sit again upon Monday next.

POST OFFICE SITES [EXPENSES].

Resolution reported—

"That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, of all sums payable by the Postmaster-General under any Act of the present session to enable His Majesty's Postmaster-General to acquire lands in London and Bristol for the public service, and of all expenses incurred in carrying into effect the provisions of such Act."

Resolution agreed to.

NEW BILL.

TRUSTEE ACT (1893) AMENDMENT (No. 2).

Bill to amend the Trustee Act, 1893, ordered to be brought in by Sir Alexander Henderson, Mr. Charles Seale-Hayne, Mr. Vicary Gibbs, and Mr. Perks.

TRUSTEE ACT (1893) AMENDMENT (No. 2) BILL.

"To amend the Trustee Act, 1893," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday next, and to be printed. (Bill 208.)

Adjourned at five minutes after Twelve o'clock

Mr. Cochrane.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, 22nd May, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with :—

Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1) [H.L.]; Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) [H.L.]; Gas and Water Orders Confirmation [H.L.].

And the Certificates that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with :—

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6); Gorleston and Southtown Gas; London United Tramways; New Hunstanton Improvement.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

Kip's Patents Bill [H.L.]. Presented, read 1^a; and referred to the Examiners.

Pentillie Estate Bill [H.L.]. The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that, in pursuance of Standing Order No. 163A, relating to Private Bills, he had, on the requisition of the Chairman of Committees, appointed the Rev. Ernest Henry Glencross, of Morval, in the county of Cornwall, Clerk in Holy Orders, as guardian or protector of the infants John Tillie Coryton, Edmund George Coryton, Ruth Evelyn Coryton, Mary Louisa Coryton, William Alec Coryton, and Joan Elizabeth Loveday Coryton, named in the Bill, to represent such infants before the Committee on the Bill.

Maryport Harbour Bill [H.L.]. The King's consent signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Exeter Corporation Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Bill [H.L.]. The King's consent

signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Bridgwater Gas Bill. The King's consent signified; and Bill reported, with Amendments.

Electric Lighting (London) Bill [H.L.]. Reported, with Amendments, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

Cardiff Railway Bill [H.L.]; Aston Manor Improvement Bill [H.L.]; King's College, London, Bill [H.L.]; Sutton District Water Bill; Tynemouth and District Tramways Bill [H.L.]; British Gas Light Company (Norwich) Bill [H.L.]; Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation Bill [H.L.]. Reported, with Amendments.

Port Talbot Railway and Docks Bill [H.L.]. Reported, with Amendments.

St. Philip's Chapel (Regent Street) Bill [H.L.]. The King's consent signified; and Bill reported, with Amendments.

North Middlesex Gas Bill. Reported, without Amendment.

London Hydraulic Power Bill. Reported, with an Amendment.

London and North-Western Railway Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Preston and Horwich Tramways Bill [H.L.], now Preston, Chorley, and Horwich Tramways Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Pentillie Estate Bill [H.L.]. Read 2^a.

Walker and Wallsend Union Gas Bill. Read 2^a, and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Scarborough Gas Bill; Market Drayton Gas Bill; Commercial Gas Bill; Read 2^a, and committed.

Worthing Corporation Tramways Bill [H.L.]. Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Crystal Palace District Gas Bill; Ebbw Vale Water and Improvement Bill; Leigh Corporation Bill; Gas Light and Coke Company Bill; Hampton Court Gas Bill; Lancashire and Yorkshire and London and North-Western Railways (Steam Vessels) Bill; Midland and Belfast and Northern Counties Railways Bill; Metropolitan District Railway (Various Powers) Bill. Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; and referred to the Examiners.

Torquay Corporation Water Bill [H.L.]; Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Mid Yorkshire Tramways Bill [H.L.]; The order made on the 14th instant appointing certain Lords the Select Committee to consider the said Bill, discharged.

Bury and District Joint Water Board Bill [H.L.]; Brighton Corporation Bill [H.L.]; The orders made on the 4th instant appointing certain Lords the Select Committee to consider the said Bills, discharged.

Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill. Read 2^a (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]; Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [H.L.]; Water Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.]. Read 2^a (according to Order).

Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London) Bill [H.L.]. Committed; the Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (East Ham, etc.) Bill [H.L.]; Pier and Harbour Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]. Committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LIGHT LOAD LINE.

Report from the Select Committee (with the proceedings of the Committee) made, and to be printed. (No. 81.) Minutes of Evidence, together with an appendix, laid upon the Table, and to be delivered out.

TRADE REPORTS—ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 2983. Germany (German Colonies).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (IRELAND).

Annual Report for the year ended March, 1902.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACTS, 1882 AND 1888.

Special Report, by the Board of Trade, under Section 1 of the Electric Lighting Act, 1888.

MERCANTILE MARINE.

Report of the Committee appointed by the Board of Trade to inquire into certain questions affecting the Mercantile Marine; with minutes of evidence, appendices, and index.

Report; Minutes of evidence; Appendices to evidence, analysis of evidence, and subject index.

Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1894 AND 1896.

Twenty Orders relating to the landing of foreign animals in Great Britain.

NATIONAL SCHOOL TEACHERS (IRELAND) PENSION FUND.

Account of receipts and payments for the year ended 31st December, 1902.

GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL (RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE).

Returns of receipts and expenditure of the General Medical Council and of the Branch Councils, also of receipts and expenditure of the Dental Registration Fund, for the year ended 31st December, 1902.

PATENTS, DESIGNS, AND TRADE MARKS.

Twentieth Report of the Comptroller-General of Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks, with appendices, for the year 1902.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND CHARGES ACT, 1891.

Treasury minute, dated the 19th May, 1903, directing the appropriation of Colonial contributions towards the expenses of the Pacific cable in aid of moneys provided by Parliament.

LIGHTHOUSES, ETC. (LOCAL INSPECTIONS.)

Reports to the Board of Trade by the Trinity House of Deptford Strand, the Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses, and the Commissioners of Irish Lights, of their inspection of local lighthouses, buoys, and beacons (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 227, of Session 1902).

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

THE REGULATION OF MOTOR-CARS.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: Seeing the noble Lord the Secretary for Scotland in his place, I wish to repeat a Question which I put to him the other day, namely, whether His Majesty's Government will introduce their Bill for the regulation of the speed of motor-cars in this House.

*THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH): In answer to the noble Earl's Question I have to inform him and the House that I have fulfilled my pledge and have consulted the President of the Local Government Board on the subject. My colleague is quite willing that the Bill should originate in this House, and will endeavour to have it presented on as early a day as possible after the Whitsuntide recess.

LAND DRAINAGE PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

[THIRD READING.]

Order of the Day for the Third Reading read.

*EARL HOWE: My Lords, in asking your Lordships to assent to the Third Reading of this Bill, which I know is a formal matter, I hope I may be allowed to say that nearly three years have elapsed since I was asked by Lord Salisbury, then at the head of the Government, to represent the Board of Agriculture in this House. Within the last few days my noble friend Lord Onslow has been appointed to the position of President of that Board, and this will, of course, relieve me of the duty and pleasure of looking after the interests of the Department in your Lordships' House. I wish in saying these few words, to offer my warmest congratulations to my noble friend on his appointment.

Bill read 3^a (according to Order) and passed.

OUTDOOR RELIEF (FRIENDLY SOCIETIES) BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

*LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD: My Lords, I have to ask your Lordships to give your assent to the Second Reading of this Bill. It will probably be within your Lordships' recollection that two years ago a Bill identically the same as the one now before your Lordships was rejected on the Motion for the Third Reading. I felt that that result was largely due to the exact extent and scope of the Bill not having been presented to your Lordships, and that I was to some extent answerable for such omission. Since then those in charge of Poor Law administration in this country have had a further two years experience of the working of the present law, and now, for the second time, this Bill is presented to your Lordships for consideration, having passed through the House of Commons without opposition. When I remind you that the other House has twice unanimously passed this Bill and presented it to your Lordships, I hope I shall not be misunderstood, for I do not for one moment suggest that the judgment of this House should in any degree be sacrificed. To

my mind it would be an evil day for this House and for the Constitution if your Lordships did not enter into a consideration of every Bill that came before you. But I think I may venture to say that the fact that the House of Commons have twice unanimously passed the Bill ought not to be disregarded. There is one other matter with regard to the nature of this Bill to which I desire to call attention. In one sense the Bill is a money Bill, as, if it is carried, the rates may be increased to a slight extent. Whilst not wishing for one moment to belittle the rights and privileges of this House, I add that fact to the unanimous decision of the House of Commons in urging your Lordships not to reject this Bill without full consideration.

May I, in a few words, give to your Lordships the history of the matter which is now brought before you? As early as 1870, when my hon. friend Viscount Goschen was President of the Local Government Board, attention was called to the fact that the law was not obeyed by Boards of Guardians. That law was, of course, the old Poor Law, that destitution, and destitution only, was to be relieved, and everything received by the applicant had to be taken into account. Lord Goschen had learnt that this law was being disregarded and that Boards of Guardians were in the habit of granting relief out of the poor rates to persons who were receiving payments by reason of their membership of friendly societies. A circular on the subject was issued to Boards of Guardians. I do not know whether my noble friend's memory carries him back so far, but it is the fact that no regard whatever was paid to that circular. Boards of Guardians took no heed of it, and the result was that the matter had eventually to be dealt with. The Act of 1894, which was presented during the time Mr. Lefevre was President of the Local Government Board, legalised that which was previously illegal; it allowed Boards of Guardians, in the exercise of their discretion, to pass unnoticed the amounts received from friendly societies and give relief without consideration of such payments. To that Bill Mr. Lefevre, representing the Local Government Board of the day, gave his adhesion. From his experience and knowledge of Poor Law administration he admitted that the law

could not remain in its then position. He consented to the Bill passing, and gave his reasons for so doing, describing the measure as a wise one and calculated to promote thrift. The Bill passed through the House of Commons without dissent. It came to this House, and, with the assent of the Leaders on both sides and with only one speech delivered against it, it passed into law. Now, I think, we shall find, before this debate closes, that every opponent of the Bill, the Second Reading of which I am now moving, is compelled by force of logic to say that the Act of 1894 was wrongly passed. But since 1894 that Act has been in force, and under it Boards of Guardians have discretion left to them to consider in their allotment of relief whether they will or will not take into consideration any such sum as the applicant may be receiving by reason of his membership of a friendly society. There comes the evil that has to be remedied. We have had nine years experience of that Act, and we have now the statement of the President of the Local Government Board that that law is most unsatisfactory, and that this Bill, which takes away the discretion of the Guardians, ought to pass into law. The Act of 1894 has got us into a wrong position. We have got into the middle of the stream. We cannot stop there; we must go forward or go back. We cannot go back because the House of Commons stands on the bank and will not allow us to land. That House has passed this Bill, which is a Bill for advancing, unanimously; therefore, we must go forward. It may be that before admitting that I have established that proposition, you may ask me to show why we cannot remain where we are, in the middle of the stream. I think I shall be able to convince your Lordships that it is impossible to remain in that position. I assume that there is not one Member of your Lordships' House who does not desire to do his utmost to assist thrift among the poorer classes. That, surely, is not a matter now to be made a subject of discussion. We hear on all sides that everything ought to be done to encourage thrift, and that it is the duty both of the Legislature and of individuals to promote it. We also hear much in the air—I am

Lord James of Hereford.

afraid it is only in the air at present—that much ought to be done to differentiate between the deserving and undeserving poor. My Lords, this Bill affords a practical opportunity of encouraging those who deserve well.

What is the position with regard to the law which this Bill seeks to amend? In the first place, the present law does not encourage thrift, for if a man has invested his money in a friendly society and subsequently needs outdoor relief, that money may be taken from him. Under the law as it at present exists, the Poor Law Guardians have absolute discretion in the matter—a discretion which is exercised in one sense in one place and in a different sense in another, so as to render the treatment of the poor a matter of geography rather than of justice. Is it not likely that unless there is some amendment of the law men will hesitate before investing their money? There are obvious reasons why a labouring man who has exerted sufficient self-denial to provide in some limited manner for his old age should not be penalised by being placed on the same level with a spendthrift. There are at present uncertainty and inequality which are unworthy of our laws. This is a point which should not be left to Boards of Guardians to determine differently. You are subjecting the people of this realm to different laws according to the will of different Boards of Guardians, and not according to the wisdom of Parliament. Is it becoming to leave to Boards of Guardians the determination of the broad question of policy whether this allowance ought or ought not to be made? I ask your Lordships to take the responsibility of deciding that matter. Then if the discretion is to be exercised in relation to individuals, according to what standard is it to be resolved whether A or B is, or is not, to be penalised in this way? Is it to be a question as to his moral life, or as to whether or not he attends church or chapel? I venture to say that such a discretion ought not to be exercised by Poor Law Guardians. If a man has been thrifty and saved money for himself in his old age, the right to receive it ought to be governed by principle and not by

the views of particular individuals on the local Boards of Guardians.

When this matter was discussed two years ago I endeavoured, in the few words I then addressed to your Lordships, to instance the effect of this uncertainty in men's mind. I asked your Lordships to consider the position of two men. One man meets another, and asks, "Where are you going?" and he replies, "I am going to the friendly society to pay in my money. I want to provide against sickness and for old age." The other man at once says, "What a stupid fellow you are. I have got the same amount of money in my pocket, but I am going to spend it in the public-house. If I were fool enough to go with you to the friendly society and invest my money I may never get it back. The friendly society people would wish to give it to me, but the Guardians may take it from me. They will take your money, which you have saved, and apply it to the purposes of the rates. Then you will get nothing but what the rates will give you; I shall get that without making any provision at all. I am going to have my quarts of beer and enjoy my money, and I shall be in exactly the same position as you will be." This state of uncertainty, if allowed to exist, will prevent men from being thrifty. You want to drive men away from public-houses, and encourage them to make provision for their old age, yet every discouragement against thrift exists in the present law. Surely, a Board of Guardians which deducts the amount of a society's allowance from what they would otherwise have given to the recipient, are doing everything in their power to prove to the poor that there is nothing to be gained by saving, and to show them that it is better to obtain from their money as much enjoyment as the present day will afford, rather than to practise economy merely for the future benefit of the ratepayers.

I know it will be said that if you pass this Bill you will be making an exception on behalf of the friendly societies. Well, you did that in 1894, and no Member of your Lordships' House objected to it then. It passed without opposition, and not one of the present opponents of this Bill took the slightest objection to the Act of 1894. By that Act you gave an advantage to friendly societies only, and the object of this Bill is to extend that

principle. A Bill has been introduced into the House of Commons, and is down for Third Reading—it has been unopposed up to that stage—which seeks to exempt also the pensions of soldiers and sailors from consideration when granting outdoor relief. I have no right to discuss that Bill to-day, but here is an extension of this principle coming up for your consideration. I am told that there are Members of this House who have great sympathy with the military profession, who are opposed to the Bill now before your Lordships, and I ask them to say whether, when the Bill to which I have referred comes up for discussion, they will oppose it. I venture to think that this Bill has greater claims on your Lordships' consideration than any Bill which may be presented for the exemption of the pensions of soldiers and sailors, for that which is sought to be exempted in the Bill I am now moving is the result of a man's own voluntary savings. Pensions of soldiers and sailors are not obtained by individual exertion or sacrifice, but come automatically. I am somewhat encouraged by the fact that when the Act of 1894 was before your Lordships the then Leader of the House, Lord Kimberley, and also Lord Salisbury, agreed that the Bill was a permissive Bill; but Lord Salisbury, in his speech giving assent to that Bill, put forward his view that there ought to be compulsion. He would, he said, support a compulsory Bill compelling Boards of Guardians to pass over unnoticed and not deduct pensions of soldiers and sailors. I am told that there is a great weight of authority against this Bill, but I would point out that the experience, not only of Mr. Lefevre, but also of the present President of the Local Government Board, has shown that there is a demand in the interests of the proper administration of the Poor Law that this Bill should pass into law, in order to make the application of the law equal and certain, and so prevent any man being left in doubt as to his position in relation to his act of thrift. My Lords, I feel that the opinions of those who oppose this Bill are entitled to the greatest weight, but one can be guided only by the light within one, and as from my conscience I believe this Bill to be

Lord James of Hereford.

beneficent in its provisions, I venture in all confidence to commend it to your Lordships' favourable consideration.

Moved, that the Bill be now read 2a—
(*Lord James of Hereford*)

THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: My Lords, as two years ago I was the means, by moving the rejection of a similar Bill to the present one, and of preventing it from passing your Lordships' House, I think it may be convenient if I now state to your Lordships the course which I propose to take on the present occasion. I am not going to vote against the Second Reading of this Bill, for two reasons. In the first place, I agree with my noble and learned friend who moved the Second Reading of the Bill that, although this House has a right to act upon its own judgment in any matter that comes before it, at the same time it is the desire of all of your Lordships to pay consideration to what passes in the House of Commons, and I should not like, myself, to take the extreme step of rejecting without inquiry a Bill which has come up twice practically unopposed, from the House of Commons. My other reason is that I am so great a friend of friendly societies and thrift generally, that I should like to give the friendly societies an opportunity of stating their case more in detail and with greater support of facts than it has already received. Therefore, my Lords, I propose to move that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee, in order that the principle of the Bill may be considered by the Committee, and, if there is any technical difficulty as to the form of my Motion, I am prepared to add such words as may give to the Select Committee full power to enquire into the principles of the Bill.

My reasons for thinking that an enquiry is necessary I will venture to put before your Lordships. In the first place, no one who has paid any attention to the subject can deny that this Bill, although my noble and learned friend has endeavoured to hang it on as an essential corollary of the Act of 1894, introduces a new principle into Poor Law administration. Never before has

it been proposed to interfere with the discretion of Boards of Guardians in dealing with cases of relief that come before them. This Bill takes away that discretion, and it takes it away in one class of cases only, namely, in respect to benefits up to the amount of five shillings received by members of friendly societies. Can it be supposed, my Lords, that if the very important principle contained in this Bill receives the sanction of Parliament it will not be extended in all directions? Is it possible to prevent its extension to other kinds of thrift besides the thrift of subscribers to friendly societies? My noble and learned friend alluded just now to a Bill which has passed the House of Commons extending the same principle to pensioners. Where is this principle to end if the discretion of Boards of Guardians is once interfered with? This is a matter of the gravest moment. Mr. Brabrook, the Registrar of Friendly Societies, whose report is here on the Table for any of your Lordships to consult if you desire to do so, has pointed out the danger even of going so far as the Act of 1894 went in respect to interfering with the principles of Poor Law administration. So far, my Lords, as regards the principle. I doubt if any of your Lordships can deny that there is an important principle involved in the Bill, and that the full effect of admitting that principle has certainly not been touched upon by my noble and learned friend who moved the Second Reading, nor, so far as I have seen, in the speech made by the President of the Local Government Board in the House of Commons, a copy of which has been circulated to your Lordships.

If, then, it is admitted, as I think it must be admitted, that the Bill involves an important principle, what is the justification of it? Where is the necessity of passing this Bill? The Act of 1894 permitted Boards of Guardians to take into consideration the benefits received by members of friendly societies if, unfortunately, they have to apply for relief. My noble and learned friend has produced no instance whatever in which it can be shown that Boards of Guardians have not taken advantage of the option given to them,

and have neglected to take into consideration the claims of subscribers to friendly societies. I have watched very carefully all the discussions on this Bill. The question was brought, in March of last year, before the great meeting of Boards of Guardians, of which my noble friend Viscount Cross was the Chairman. On that occasion this Bill was advocated by Mr. Frome Wilkinson, the President of the Friendly Societies' Association, but he did not produce one single instance in which it could be said that Boards of Guardians had not paid attention to the claims of friendly societies. I consider that the very foundation of this Bill depends on the proof of the neglect of Boards of Guardians to take those claims into consideration. Therefore I say, no evidence whatever having been brought forward by my noble and learned friend, no evidence whatever having been stated in the House of Commons by the President of the Local Government Board, who makes an assertion of which he gives no evidence whatever, there should be an inquiry in order to produce that evidence. My noble friend Lord Lamington, who has taken great interest in this question, asked the Government the other day whether they had any information to produce on this subject, and the answer was that they had no information. Hence we may assume that the conclusions of the Government are based upon no evidence, and therefore the very foundation of the Bill would fail unless evidence could be produced before a Committee to substantiate the case for it.

I think that in the eloquent language of my noble and learned friend praising thrift, in which I entirely concur, he avoided discussing the question whether this Bill is really in the interest of friendly societies. Now, my Lords, I take it that the opinion of Mr. Brabrook, the Registrar of Friendly Societies, is as good an opinion as there can be on that matter. Two years ago the President of the Local Government Board informed me that Mr. Brabrook's opinion was against the Bill. He has been kind enough this year to assent to my Motion to lay that Report upon the Table, and I commend it to the notice of noble Lords. In my county there lives one of the highest authorities in England upon

friendly societies. I refer to Sir Wyndham Portal, who started the Hampshire Friendly Society on a thoroughly satisfactory footing, and who, during his whole life, has been a supporter of friendly societies. I asked him his opinion of this Bill, and I will venture to read to your Lordships what he says, because I know that his name and authority in this matter will carry weight. He says—

“Notwithstanding that the national conference of friendly societies were of opinion that the Bill should pass, I, as having administered Poor Law relief for fifty years, am still of opinion that guardians should be left with a free hand to administer outdoor relief as they deem expedient, dealing with each case on its merits. They have now the power of dealing with friendly society cases as seems best in their judgment, and I hope this freedom of action will still be permitted. With regard to the effect of the Bill on friendly societies, I think that, although the large societies will not be affected, it will encourage small and weak clubs and check thrift instead of encouraging it.”

At any rate, that is an opinion from a most competent authority, who believes that the Bill will not encourage thrift. The same line was taken, I noticed, the other day at a meeting of friendly societies at Newcastle. The chairman said they did not at all approve of this Bill, and thought it was not of any use to friendly societies. Will noble Lords consider for a moment what the effect of this Bill may be, and how it may be absolutely injurious to those members of friendly societies who are obliged to apply for Poor Law relief? A Board of Guardians may say “We are forced by law to omit consideration of this five shillings, and shall be obliged to give what we consider extravagant relief to an applicant, and relief on a scale perfectly unfair to other applicants.” Is it not possible that they will refuse outdoor relief altogether, and that the Bill, though intended to be an advantage to friendly societies, may very likely be to their disadvantage? That is the view of the clerk to my own Board of Guardians in the country.

There is another point: How does this Bill affect the desire which every one who is in favour of sound friendly societies has that there should be a change in the terms of a great many of the policies, that instead of a man going in for a policy for sick-pay for

life he should go in for a policy for sick-pay up to a certain age and afterwards a pension for the remainder of his life? This Bill, being confined to sick-pay, will have the effect of deterring people from going in for the sounder policy of thrift, and of inducing them to increase their contributions for sick-pay. The strongest point, I think, that was made in the eloquent speech of my noble and learned friend was the argument he used that the present condition of the law deters people from joining friendly societies. He put the case very clearly. He said—Here is a man who thinks of joining a friendly society. He says to himself, “When I get old and want relief, shall I get assistance from the Poor Law?” He asks the office, and they tell him that there is nothing fixed in the matter. The guardians might consider his case and they might not. My noble and learned friend has put that forward as likely to deter persons from joining friendly societies. The point is that it is not put forward by the friendly societies themselves. The friendly societies have issued to your Lordships their view of this Bill, and their reasons for asking your Lordships to agree to it. What do they say in regard to this matter? I suppose my noble and learned friend will admit that they are more likely to know than he is, the feelings of people who join their societies. They say—

“The persons chiefly affected joined the societies many years ago. . . . The very object they had in joining was to avoid the necessity in their old age of applying to Boards of Guardians.”

The same thing obtains now. Do you suppose a man joins a friendly society for the purpose of going also on the poor rate? It would be a miserable state of things if that were the case. This circular of the friendly societies goes on to say—

“We are in a position to assert that those who join friendly societies at the present time are actuated by the same motives.”

So that the friendly societies themselves do not endorse that part of my noble and learned friend's speech. So much, my Lords, for the Bill as it affects friendly societies. I think I have shown your Lordships that there are matters which fully justify my Motion

The Earl of Northbrook.

that there shall be an inquiry into this matter. There was one subject to which my noble and learned friend omitted any reference whatever, namely—the alteration in the principle and the manner in which the Boards of Guardians of this country look upon this Bill. What do the Boards of Guardians think of the Bill? Two years ago there was a meeting of an association of Boards of Guardians which passed a Resolution in favour of the Bill, but since that time there have been two important meetings. There was a meeting in the Autumn of 1901 of the South-Eastern Poor Law Conference, of which my noble friend Lord Avebury was chairman, and they came to a decision against the Bill. There was also the meeting, to which I referred before, and of which Viscount Cross was chairman, of some 500 representatives of Boards of Guardians representing certainly 200 different Boards. Of that number only forty-five were in favour of this Bill after a full discussion, and after it had been very ably advocated by Mr. Frome Wilkinson, the President of the Friendly Societies' Association. I say that Boards of Guardians should be allowed to state their case. They ought not to be ignored in this matter, and I think that the President of the Local Government Board should also be there to state his case. He says in his speech that the permanent officials of his office are in favour of the Bill. I think we ought to know their opinion. We ought to know what the Poor Law inspectors think of this matter, and that is another reason why there should be an inquiry.

My noble and learned friend, I thought, said that if the Act of 1894 was right this Bill naturally follows, and he quoted some words of Lord Salisbury's—I do not know exactly to what they referred, but they could not have referred to the Act of 1894—on the matter. I consider that the position of this House to the Bill of 1894 was a very strong reason to justify your Lordships in having an inquiry before passing the present Bill, because the Act of 1894 passed this House on the distinct understanding that the discretion of Boards of Guardians was not to be interfered with; and the only thing

that this Bill does is to interfere with that discretion. The words used by Lord Salisbury were—

“In my view the thing should be done according to the circumstances of each case and according to the discretion of Boards of Guardians. There are cases in which it ought to be done, and others in which it ought not to be done. It ought to be quite clear that it is absolutely in their discretion.”

That was the view of Lord Salisbury. The last formal inquiry into the subject was before the Royal Commission on the Aged Poor, who stated in the Report which they presented to Parliament—

“We are of opinion that it would be undesirable to interfere, either by Statute or Order, with the discretion vested in guardians as to the manner in which relief should be given, since it is in our view of essential importance that guardians should have power to deal on its merits with each individual case.”

Now, I do not think a stronger expression of opinion from a more competent body could be produced.

I should like to say a word upon the position of the Government in this matter. Two years ago, in moving the rejection of the Bill then before your Lordships, I said I thought that a matter of this importance ought not to be allowed to be passed on a Bill introduced by a private Member, but that the Government, if they thought an Amendment of the law was necessary, should take the responsibility of fully considering the matter, and bring in a Bill on their own authority, stating the reasons for it and presenting to the House the full information upon which their conclusions were founded. Two years ago the question was left an open one by the Government. When my noble and learned friend communicated to me his intention of moving the Second Reading of this Bill he told me that the Government were strongly in favour of the measure. I therefore thought it was only right to consult the noble Duke the Leader of the House, and ask him what the intentions of the Government were in respect to this Bill. The noble Duke said, in reply—

“I have spoken to Mr. Walter Long about the Bill. As Lord James told you, he supports the Bill, but we shall not make it a Government question or have Government tellers.”

I therefore thought that we should have the same free discussion on the matter

as we had two years ago, and I was very surprised yesterday to receive a little paper, vulgarly called a whip—it was a three-line whip—from the Unionist Whip, to this effect—

“Your Lordship’s attendance is particularly requested to support the Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill.”

Of course I was greatly surprised at getting this after the assurance I had received from my noble friend, and I wrote him a note on the subject. My noble friend sent me a very kind letter in reply, in which he said he was extremely sorry, but he had forgotten all about the assurance he had given me three weeks ago. I am perfectly certain that no man in England could have less desired to mislead me or any one else, than my noble friend. I know his character so well that I believe he was exceedingly sorry the thing had happened, and it was an entire accident on his part. I do not make any complaint. My noble friend was kind enough to suggest that if I was put in a position of any disadvantage in the matter I had a perfect right to ask that the Second Reading should be postponed. But I know the inconvenience that would be caused by such a step. Moreover, when I put it to your Lordships that three weeks ago there was to have been no three-line whip, and now there is a three-line whip, I feel confident that, whip or no whip, your Lordships will listen to the arguments, and vote according to the manner which you think right. Therefore, I put myself entirely in your Lordships’ hands, but I say that this incident, of which I do not complain, is, to my mind, the strongest argument I can bring before your Lordships as to the necessity of an inquiry into the Bill. If the noble Duke the Leader of this House and the President of the Local Government Board only three weeks ago thought the Bill was one that might be left an open question in your Lordships’ House, and if, after three weeks, the attitude of my noble friend and the right hon. Gentleman has changed, and they consider that it should be made a Government Bill, I think your Lordships will say that there is, shall I say, some little doubt, some little vacillation and want of consideration of a very important subject, and that there

The Earl of Northbrook.

should be a calm inquiry into the merits of the Bill. That is the last word I have to say on the subject. I propose to move the reference of this Bill to a Select Committee, taking care by any Amendment of the Motion, to enable the Select Committee to go thoroughly into the principle of this Bill.

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE): My Lords, I rise rather for the purpose of making a very short personal explanation than of following my noble friend in the argument which he has addressed to the House on the subject of this Bill. I need not say that I deeply regret that my noble friend should have had any reason to complain of the communication made to him with regard to the Bill. It is perfectly true, as my noble friend has stated, that three or four weeks ago he wrote to me and asked whether this Bill would, as on a former occasion, be made a Government measure; and in reply to that letter I said that after communication with Mr. Walter Long I was informed of the fact that Mr. Long supported the measure, but that it would not be a Government Bill, and that there would not be Government tellers. In the same note my noble friend asked me for some information, a part of which has been laid on the Table of the House. When a few days ago I had a message from Mr. Walter Long that he hoped very much that this Bill would not be again thrown out in this House, and that a Government whip would be sent out, I am bound to confess that I had not at the time the slightest recollection of the communication which had passed between my noble friend and myself, and that if I had been reminded that any correspondence had taken place I should not have recollected anything about it except that he had asked for certain information and I had taken measures to ascertain whether that information could be given. I must point out, as to the assurance which I gave my noble friend, that it is not contravened by any action of Government in the letter. This Bill is not a Government measure, and the Government tellers will not act in the event of a division being taken. I most fully and freely admit that if I had had the

slightest recollection of this correspondence I should at once have told my noble friend that we intended to send out a Government whip, so as to prevent the possibility of his being placed at any disadvantage. I need not say that I most deeply regret that my noble friend should have had any reason to make this complaint, and I fully admit my responsibility in regard to it; but I cannot see, even as matters at present stand, that my noble friend has been put in any position of disadvantage. As we know now, it was not his intention to oppose the Second Reading of the Bill. All that he proposes to do is to move that after the Second Reading the Bill shall be referred to a Select Committee. If my noble friend's supporters are not here in consequence of the misunderstanding which has taken place, it is perfectly competent for my noble friend at the next stage of the Bill, when the Motion is made, that the House go into Committee upon it, to move an Amendment that the Bill go to a Select Committee. I am bound to say that I cannot follow the arguments of my noble friend as to the expediency of this course. My noble friend does not propose to oppose the Second Reading of the Bill; that is to say, he allows the House, without opposition, to assent to the principle of the Bill. If it does that, it will have assented to everything. The Bill only contains one clause.

THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: I am quite prepared to move that it be referred to a Select Committee as an Amendment to the Second Reading. I put it down in that form, but I was told at the Table that it was not competent for me to do so.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I do not know whether it would have been competent for the noble Lord to do it or not. But by assenting to the Second Reading of the Bill he will have assented to the principle, and all that a Select Committee could do would be to consider the provisions of the Bill, and, if necessary, suggest Amendments. I do not know whether the noble Earl could have taken a different course or not; but, at all events, I submit that no argument whatever can be brought forward in favour of the course he now suggests. If he still thinks this a

desirable course to take, and that he has been placed at any disadvantage by the misunderstanding that has taken place, it is equally competent for him to move his Amendment when we go into Committee on the Bill as it is for him to move it at the present stage. As I have said, I did not rise to follow my noble friend in the arguments he has addressed to the House. I only rose to make this personal statement. If the debate should be continued, the noble Lord the Secretary for Scotland is, I believe, informed as to the views which are taken upon the subject by the Local Government Board, and I do not think any useful object will be achieved in my attempting to anticipate the observations he may think it necessary to address to your Lordships.

*VISCOUNT GOSCHEN: My Lords, before I address some remarks to your Lordships with reference to the speech of my noble and learned friend Lord James, and to the principle involved in the Bill, I should like to ask your Lordships exactly how we stand, because it appears to me that we might get into a tangle. The question is—are those who are opposed to the Bill without the information before us to vote in support of the Bill, having been warned by the noble Duke that it would be practically impossible for us to enter upon a discussion of the principle of the Bill, and of all the matters relating to the Bill? What I personally would recommend to those who are opposed to the Bill is that unless, before this debate concludes, there is some clear statement made as to what will follow after it has been read a second time, and to what extent we shall be precluded from any further inquiry, they should vote against the Second Reading of the Bill. It appears to me that the case for inquiry is a strong one. The speech which the noble Lord has just delivered shows that we ought to be informed on two or three branches of the subject, and I must say that, this not being a small Bill, as I should wish to show to your Lordships, but a Bill involving a very considerable departure from principle, I think it would be right that your Lordships should have before you more than the meagre but eloquent statement of

my noble and learned friend Lord James. He has made certain statements, but we have absolutely nothing before us to show how the Act of 1894 has worked. Before I come to that part of the subject, I would wish, like my noble and learned friend, to recapitulate, in the shortest possible phrases, the present position. My noble and learned friend went back to the year 1870, when, inspired by much the same views as animate me at the present moment, I saw the danger of the particular tendency which has the approbation of my noble and learned friend. Notwithstanding the circular which was issued by the Local Government Board, certain Boards of Guardians exercised a certain discretion, and in special cases they departed from the principle of the circular, and dealt with those cases according to the special circumstances. It appears to me, though I have been a strict administrator of the Poor Law, that there is a vast difference between saying that in all cases funds derived from friendly or other societies should be deducted, and considering individual cases occasionally.

I should be very sorry if any remarks I make to your Lordships on this occasion should be considered to be dictated by any kind of hostility to the great friendly societies, which have done untold service to the country—a service which I myself, on one occasion, recognised in a great assembly of representatives from these friendly societies. I investigated at one time their origin; I have seen how self-government was at the bottom of their success, and how they carried self government and self-help side by side, but not in partnership with, the Poor Law; and one of the great claims they have on the gratitude of the country, is that, side by side with the Poor Law, and without availing themselves of its provisions, they have voluntarily encouraged their members to make provision for their later days, and for times of sickness and distress. This Bill, and the course they are taking, seems to be a departure from the traditions of the friendly societies—a departure which they did not make when the old age pension question was investigated, because at that time they said, “No, let us stand alone.” I am surprised that,

Viscount Goschen.

in this small matter—it is small, I believe, as regards numbers—they have departed from their traditions. The Act of 1894 simply legalised discretion. My noble and learned friend says that because discretion is legalised, therefore discretion should be taken away. The substance of his plea is that those who voted to legalise discretion should now vote to make it compulsory. I confess I do not see that. But see how the germ has increased. See what an insidious process this is. First, the Boards of Guardians act on their own discretion, sporadically. Then you legalise it, and then comes a speech from the President of the Local Government Board in which he actually admitted that the friendly societies have a right to have this five shillings considered. I think that is a dangerous process.

The noble and learned Lord gave the reasons why, in his judgment, the Bill should be passed. They were, I think, two. The first was the injustice of some obtaining, and others not obtaining, this advantage, and the second was the disagreeable position of having Boards of Guardians discussing whether this man or that man should be entitled to such favour. With reference to the latter, my noble and learned friend showed very little confidence in the administrators of the Poor Law. One might have thought that he was speaking of seventy years ago when all the abuses which he described took place. Boards of Guardians are not now influenced by such motives as whether a man goes to church or chapel or to the public-house. They would administer this discretion, I believe, with precisely the same justice as they display at present in regard to the outdoor relief system, which has stood the test of many years. Now, what evidence has the noble and learned Lord given? We should like to know how the Act of 1894 has been administered, and how much the friendly societies have lost through the uncertainty as to this five shillings which, as they allege, has existed during the last nine years. If my noble and learned friend is correct, during the last nine years you would have seen a falling off in the numbers of friendly societies. Do they complain that the absence of the privilege which is now asked is weakening the tendency to come

into the friendly societies? I do not know whether any evidence can be given on that point. Are they less flourishing? My noble friend says, "You take away this five shillings." He puts it as if the five shillings was simply withdrawn from them. But I take it that is not at all the universal case. He continually spoke of the five shillings vanishing, as it were, and therefore discouraging men from joining friendly societies; but I can scarcely believe that that is the case. That is a matter upon which we want information.

Now, as to the question of the justice of the proposal in the Bill, savings invested in friendly societies are only a very small proportion of the thrift of the country. I would put this to my noble friend. One man has invested in the Post Office Savings Bank, and another has invested in a friendly society. Both are in receipt of the sum of five shillings weekly. According to this Bill we are to compel the guardians to take no cognisance of the five shillings received from the friendly society, while they are to deduct the five shillings received in respect of savings in the Post Office Savings Bank. Then there are those who invest in cottages. A man receiving five shillings per week from cottage property which he had been able to acquire, would have that five shillings deducted, whilst the recipient of five shillings from a friendly society would not. The same applies to the five shillings which might be given weekly by an employer to his late labourer. That five shillings would be taken into account when he received Poor Law relief, and it could be made an excellent argument by the employer that it would be no good giving this five shillings to a labourer, if when he was thrown on the rates the advantage of the five shillings was lost. Thus we come to the great principle which underlies the whole Bill. I contend that you cannot treat this Bill simply from the point of view of the friendly societies. I do not think you can say that they shall be put in such a privileged position that their form of thrift shall be the only thrift that shall receive preferential treatment. I can quite understand that friendly societies may desire this Bill, from the very point of being able to show the advantage of investing in a friendly

society rather than in the Post Office Savings Bank or in any other form of investment. That conversation which my noble and learned friend invented between a friendly society member and the man who goes to the public-house might equally be held by a champion of a friendly society and the man who goes to invest in the Post Office Savings Bank. He would say, "What folly to invest in the savings bank. You will get that five shillings deducted. Come and join the friendly society." If your Lordships think that is wise, I would only say "Pass a Bill of this kind with your eyes open." It is saying of friendly societies, who, I agree, deserve well of the country, "We will encourage you to this extent, that people shall have an inducement to invest in your funds and not in any other." That is a question that I should really wish answered. It requires an answer. The principle of the Poor Law is that it shall supply adequate relief of necessities, and the definition of "necessities" has, I am glad to think, been amplified as the country has become more and more humane. Necessities have got a much wider definition, and the deterrent effect of the Poor Law has been softened to a very great extent. There have been many reforms, but the one bedrock of the Poor Law is the adequate relief of necessities; and the moment it is laid down by an Act of Parliament that there is to be adequate relief of necessities, *plus* a payment of five shillings in certain cases, a blow will be struck at the whole system of the Poor Law. My noble and learned friend admits it.

LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD: What I admitted was that the Act of 1894 struck the blow to which my noble friend refers.

*VISCOUNT GOSCHEN: No, because you did not make it universal. You left it to the discretion of the Guardians according to the circumstances of individual cases. I frankly admit that I am opposed to the Act of 1894. This little innocent Bill of one clause, which has been, after all, very little discussed in the other House, in other words enacts that the principle of the Poor Law shall no longer be the adequate relief of necessity, but that something else shall

be added wherever a man has invested in a friendly society. I say that that entirely undermines the Poor Law system. My noble and learned friend alluded to the Bill with reference to the pensions of soldiers and sailors. That Bill is to come before us. Again I say that if we are to go forward we should do so with our eyes open. I think it would be far wiser to postpone a Bill of this kind, which is giving a monopoly of subsidised thrift to friendly societies, until the country has had an opportunity of really considering to what extent should be the relations between the product of thrift and Poor Law relief. I very much object, by a small Bill of this kind, to make an attack on what I believe to be one of the mainstays of our social structure.

*THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY: My Lords, I am one of those who certainly do not want to vote against the Second Reading of this Bill. But some of us will feel obliged to vote against the Bill if we are absolutely precluded from making further inquiries into the details of the subject. It seems to me that the speech of my noble friend Lord Northbrook was absolutely conclusive as to the need of our having before us the evidence of those who are qualified to speak from different standpoints with special authority on this subject. No man living is better able to speak on friendly societies, soundly managed, than Sir Wyndham Portal, and if he is opposed to this Bill, and prepared to give evidence, it seems to me almost essential that we should hear him. The Boards of Guardians, too, have an absolute right to be heard further on this subject. I learn that the great mass of English Boards of Guardians, as represented by their united gathering, have practically spoken by a very large majority against this Bill in its present form. It does not follow that no form that the Bill could take would be acceptable to them. I venture to think that it is quite essential, if we are to go forward at all, that we should go forward on fuller information than we possess at this moment. The high forensic ability with which the noble and learned Lord introduced this Bill to-day, fascinated the House; and yet I venture to doubt whether he really convinced your Lordships. He failed, as I think, to meet the objections which have been widely

expressed outside, and to which Lord Northbrook has given forcible expression. The noble Lord told us that we are crossing a stream. Is it not more true to say that we have advanced along a roadway, and have reached the stage at which it is exceedingly desirable that we should decide whether we intend to go further along the line we have been following, or whether we should now turn to the right or to the left? I venture to hope that we shall not be put into the difficult position of being obliged to vote against a Bill which comes to us with the high authority that this Bill already possesses. We have been told that the House of Commons has passed the Bill without difficulty, and almost without discussion. Quite so; but this is explained in part by the fact that it is a Bill which gives a unique privilege to those admirable bodies our great friendly societies, as contrasted with other modes of thrift or of insurance against sickness, and, with all respect to the House of Commons, we are obliged to remember that members of friendly societies undoubtedly form a very important portion of the constituents of this country, and I venture to believe that this House is the place, above all others, where we ought to be able to deal with a question of this kind without being biassed by the consideration as to whether our action would be popular or not. I therefore hope most strongly that we shall be allowed to read the Bill a second time on the clear understanding that the whole subject will then be considered by a Select Committee. I am not quite clear whether I rightly understood the noble Duke to say that it would be impossible, if we gave the Bill a Second Reading, to discuss in a Select Committee the question of this special privilege to friendly societies and to them alone. But I think it has often happened that after a Bill has been read a second time it has been referred to a Select Committee, where some leading principle in it has been, in the light of further information, more adequately considered. I hope the Bill will be read a second time to-night and referred to a Select Committee with the view of producing a really workable measure.

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: In rising to address the House on this occasion I do so with an unusual amount of diffidence, because I deeply feel the complicated and to some extent difficult nature of the task which is imposed upon me. No one will lightly set his authority on matters of Poor Law administration against that of the noble Earl who spoke first after the noble and learned Lord had moved the Second Reading of the Bill. Nor, I think, will anyone with a light heart set his authority against that of the noble Viscount on any economical questions, or on matters affecting the administration of the Poor Law in this country. Yet I venture to think, by the course which has been taken—taken in perfect good faith—by the noble Earl who suggests the reference to a Select Committee, we are on this occasion placed to an unusual extent in a tactical difficulty. The course which this House very often takes when it desires to affirm the principle of a Bill and then to refer it to a Select Committee, is to agree to the Second Reading of the Bill upon the distinct understanding that it will be referred to a Select Committee for full consideration in all its details. But I have never before been confronted with the situation when avowedly the House, or, at any rate, some members of the House, seem inclined to put off from the House as a whole the responsibility of coming to a decision upon that principle itself. This Bill is an unusually short Bill, and my position in regard to it and in regard to the question of procedure is this, that if you read this Bill a second time you read it for the purpose of affirming, not only the principle, but every detail, because, after all, there is only one clause in the Bill. If you read the Bill a second time you say you are prepared to take away from Poor Law Guardians a certain discretion; you say nothing more nor less. The speech of the noble Viscount was avowedly a speech against the whole policy of this Bill. If it was anything at all, it was a speech against the Second Reading, and it ought logically to be followed by a Motion to reject the Bill on Second Reading. I greatly doubt whether any evidence before a Select Committee would change the life-long

convictions of the noble Viscount in regard to this matter.

I think it would be inconvenient to read this Bill a second time and to refer it to a Select Committee. Personally, I think that if you want more information, the better thing would be to reject the Bill and to move for a Committee; but I do not advise that course, because personally, and speaking on behalf of my colleague the President of the Local Government Board, I am in favour of the Bill. I think it a good Bill, and I am going, before I sit down, to endeavour to make out a case for it as it is presented to the House. If it is desired to raise a question of principle, obviously the proper course is to move a Motion against the Second Reading, and if the promoters of the Bill have the issue before them of whether they will assent to a Select Committee or take their fate upon the Motion for the rejection of the Bill, that, I venture to say, is rather a question for them to decide than for me. I venture to put to the House that this is a good Bill, that it is the logical conclusion of what was done by Parliament in 1894, and that it is by no means so large a step as has been represented to the House for tactical purposes by those who have spoken before me. Large issues have been raised to the prejudice of this Bill. There is nothing in the Bill to exempt from the penalties of the Poor Law those who take Poor Law relief. The noble Viscount laid great stress upon the fact that it takes away a certain amount of discretion from Poor Law Guardians. The noble Earl who spoke first, and who wants the Bill to be referred to a Select Committee, quoted from the Report of the Royal Commission on the Aged Poor, and said that they had reported against taking away any discretion from Poor Law Guardians as to the manner in which such relief is to be given. Well, this Bill does nothing of the kind. All that the Bill does is to say that if the Poor Law Guardians resolve there is a case for outdoor relief, that in fixing the amount of outdoor relief they shall not take into account the pension from a friendly society; but there is nothing in this Bill, nor in the existing law, to dictate to the Guardians in any

way whether the particular case before them is or is not a proper case for outdoor relief.

I will address myself for a moment or two to the question whether this simple matter would really relax Poor Law administration. I speak with diffidence because I have no English experience in the administration of Poor Law relief. But I have been concerned in it for a very long period in Scotland. I shelter myself under the authority of the President of the Local Government Board, and also under the authority of his predecessor, drawn from the opposite Party. Speaking with all the responsibility which belongs to his office and with all the experience which he has of the administration of the Poor Law in England, Mr. Walter Long said in another place that this Bill had been carefully considered by his Department, that it had been carefully considered by men of large experience in the administration of the Poor Law, and that, having given it such consideration as I have described, the weight of his opinion was that the Bill ought to pass. In his opinion this Bill, if it becomes an Act, will strengthen rather than weaken the administration of the Poor Law. I say for myself that I am now, and have been all my life, for a strong administration of that law. I am for making those who are unthrifty, those who waste their substance in the prime of life, feel the penalty; but I venture to say that if the administration of the Poor Law is to be strong it must also be discriminating, and I cannot conceive anything which will make the Poor Law more unpopular, and which will make its administration more difficult, than to say that you are not to take into account the antecedents of the man who comes before you for relief and the efforts which he has made to save himself from having to apply for relief at all.

It is my opinion that this is a Bill which would encourage thrift. I believe it would encourage it because it would take away a certain proportion of the uncertainty which now surrounds the question whether a man who saves will get the benefit of his savings. I am told that it is unfair to do it in regard to this particular form of thrift only. The

noble Viscount behind me said that it gives an undue preference to this particular form of thrift. There is one great difference between this particular form of thrift and the others which were mentioned, a difference which was entirely passed over by the noble Viscount and the other speakers. The noble Viscount said that some men prefer to invest their savings in cottages, and some to lay up a store in the Post Office Savings Bank. But there is this great difference between them—that the balance in a Post Office Savings Bank may be withdrawn and spent, the cottages may be mortgaged or sold and the proceeds wasted, but this money, paid in the prime of life, perhaps with great difficulty and saving, when once paid into a friendly society cannot be withdrawn. It cannot be got back for drunkenness or for riotous living. It must be taken in the form of sick-pay or the benefit of it is lost altogether, and it is of importance that the working men of this country should be told that if they adopt this form of saving, which puts their savings beyond their own personal control, they will get a benefit which in the other form of thrift they will not get. Remember, this particular form of saving gives no addition to a man's income during the long years he is in the prime of life. Another man might draw out interest from the savings bank or get rent from his cottages and make his life easier thereby, but in this case he is saving against the possibility of difficulty and sickness. If a man does not fall sick he gets no benefit from his self-denial during the whole of his life; therefore I say there is a difference in favour of this form of thrift against the others which have been mentioned.

Now I ask this broad question of the House, Is it fair in the case of a man who has made an effort to be thrifty and to keep himself off the rates to tell him that he shall get no benefit and shall be treated in the same way as a man who has made no effort at all? I wish that some noble Lords who speak so glibly in this House would attempt to argue it with the man who has made this effort and finds his effort taken away from him. The point of discussion to-day is not really this very small question of whether this very diminutive amount

of discretion is to be taken away from the Guardians, but whether they would not like to go back on the policy of 1894. I venture to say that it is impossible to do that. It would be unwise to do it even if it were possible; and I think, as I have said, that it is only a very small addition to what was done in 1894—an addition which is amply warranted by the experience of the last seven or eight years. And beyond that I rest my case on the statement of the President of the Local Government Board. It is not easy for any one, however much he might be anxious to do it, to supply the sort of evidence which is asked for. There are Boards of Guardians all over the country, and they do not report the whole of their proceedings to the President of the Local Government Board, and he cannot tell, except in a general way, how the Act of 1894 is administered. He cannot tell the number of cases in which the discretion under that Act has been used and the number of cases in which it has been refused to be used. I do not think the noble Earl who commented on the answer given to Lord Lamington a few days ago meant to imply that the President of the Local Government Board was withholding information which he had. I felt the force of the request which the noble Lord made for information, and I personally pressed my colleague to see whether he could not endeavour to give some return which would satisfy the request. I was told distinctly that, these records being scattered all over the country, it is not possible to present the weighty case which they believe exists for this Bill in the form of evidence of that kind.

It seemed to be doubted by the noble Earl whether this Bill was really in the interest of the friendly societies. He quoted the views of the Registrar of Friendly Societies and of Sir Wyndham Portal. Those gentlemen are great authorities, but I think at this time we may allow the friendly societies to speak for themselves, and without doubt those societies believe that this Bill would be for their interests, and desire to see it passed.* I press the view that this is really not the large alteration with which the opponents of the Bill seek to frighten the House.

It is really an extremely small matter after the Act of 1894. Upon the point of whether the House will pass it with or without a Select Committee I can only say this, that for my part I believe it would be a totally unusual course to throw off upon a small Committee, however carefully selected, and with whatever weight of authority it might be appointed, the decision of a matter which, if not very large, is still a matter of principle, and ought to be decided by the House. I cannot, of course, advise the promoters of the Bill as to what course they should take. I have endeavoured to state the views of the Government in respect to the Bill. We think the Bill ought to pass. If there is a Motion for the rejection of the Bill I shall vote against it; if, on the other hand, it is passed, I shall be very pleased; and if after it is passed there is a Motion for reference to a Select Committee, then I think it is fair to tell the promoters of the Bill they must take their choice as to what course they will pursue, and whether they will run the risk of rejection of the measure at a subsequent stage. I sincerely hope the Bill will be read a second time.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The Earl of MORLEY): My Lords, as I took some part in the discussion of this measure two years ago, I am unwilling to give an entirely silent vote on the present occasion, especially when I find that, so far from the lapse of the two years having influenced me, as it has influenced the noble and learned Lord who moved the Second Reading in favour of the Bill, the events that have taken place since, and, still more, what I have heard during this debate, have made me stronger in my opinion that the Bill is an unsound one. I should like to say one word upon the position in which the House finds itself at this moment. I think I may say that it is one almost without parallel. It is proposed that the Bill should be read a second time and then referred to a Select Committee, but, unfortunately, the Bill has the peculiar characteristic of having only one clause, and I do not quite know whether it would be right for a Select Committee, however influential and carefully chosen, to cut the clause out of the Bill, the principle of which had been assented to by the House. But

there is an alternative which I would venture with all submission to suggest to the House, and it is this, that the Second Reading should be postponed, and that my noble friend should alter his Motion and refer the general question of the relation of the Poor Law to friendly societies to a Select Committee, and that when that Select Committee has reported, the Bill should be taken up again in its present stage. I make this suggestion because it seems to me that the House is rather in an *impasse*. I so entirely sympathise with what fell from the most reverend Prelate, that the Bill should not pass through this House, even though it has come to us twice from the House of Commons, without inquiry, that I for one should certainly vote "not content" unless we had some assurance that this Committee will be given.

I should like to make a few remarks upon the Bill itself. I say that my opinion is as strong now against the Bill as it was two years ago, and I have heard nothing from the noble and learned Lord who moved the Second Reading, or from my noble friend the Secretary for Scotland, to shake me in that opinion in the slightest degree. There are two points taken by those noble Lords, and the point they apparently lay the greatest stress upon is that this Bill is a necessary corollary of the Act of 1894. I totally and entirely deny that. My noble friend Lord Northbrook quoted what fell from Lord Salisbury on that occasion, but I should like to quote also some words which fell from a noble Earl, than whom no one had a greater experience of Poor Law work in this House—Lord Kimberley. When that Act was passed he said it could not be defended on principle, but only because it made legal a practice which had largely prevailed. He therefore recommended that discretion should be left in the hands of the Guardians, and that the practice should not be allowed to stand on the deliberate negligence of the Local Government Board. That is an entirely different thing from taking away the whole of the discretion of the Guardians in the matter of this five shillings sick pay. In spite of what my noble friend behind me said as to the exaggeration of the point, I do say that it is a very important and very dangerous innovation upon the principle on which our Poor Law rests. The principle of the Poor Law I take to be the necessary

relief of destitution. If we once get beyond that we know not where we are going. The noble and learned Lord, in his eloquent speech in moving the Second Reading of the Bill, said that we were in the middle of a stream and that we were being carried on. My Lords, I do not like drifting without having a course laid down and without having some one at the helm to steer us in the direction in which we wish to go.

It seems to me pretty clear, from what has been said to-night and from many indications in the past, that this is, though a very small point, a very important point in a large and important subject, and I think it is of the utmost importance that before we leave the principles on which the Poor Law has been worked, and worked successfully, for nearly seventy years, we should know what we are about. I have the greatest respect for the friendly societies. They have performed an immense amount of valuable work throughout the length and breadth of the land, and no one has a greater admiration for them than I have. But why are we to select the man who has subscribed to a friendly society in preference to the man who has invested his savings in other securities? My noble friend behind me said that there is a distinction to be drawn between the sick-pay of a man who belongs to a friendly society, and the receipts of a man who has invested his money in the Post Office Savings Bank, in building societies, or in other securities, as he can draw it out. But if he has it at the time he applies for Poor Law relief, why is it to make the slightest difference in the amount of relief he is to get from the guardians whether his income is obtained from one source or another? That argument seems to me to be entirely futile. I listened with admiration to the eloquent eulogy on thrift with which the noble and learned Lord charmed the House in his opening speech, but I confess I listened in vain for some argument that would convince me that this Bill would encourage that splendid and most desirable quality. I very greatly doubt if it would. I speak with all humility, for I would not be presumptuous enough to put my opinion against that of the great leaders of the friendly societies. But there is a certain amount of opinion in the country that a Bill of this kind will not do all

that the friendly societies hope it will do for them. The Report of the Royal Commission of 1874, of which Sir Stafford Northcote was a member, contained these words, and they are as true to-day as they were then—

“The tendency of holding out such favours to members of friendly societies, is to encourage men to insure for less than their real need with the friendly societies, and to count on Poor Law relief to make up the sum required for their support.”

Is there not some danger, if you select those who are enjoying the advantages of payments from friendly societies, to be preferential paupers, that you encourage them to insure for as small a sum as possible, and not to insure for an adequate amount? Is there not also the danger that you would encourage them to invest their savings in sick-pay rather than in the much more desirable form of old-age annuities? I have given what seem to me good reasons for opposing this Bill in its present form. I should be unwilling, after the manner in which it comes to the House, to give a bald vote against the Bill; but unless there is some clear understanding before the vote is taken that there will be some inquiry into the relations of the Poor Law with friendly societies, I shall certainly feel it my duty to give my vote against the Bill.

*EARL SPENCER: My Lords, I feel that I must say a few words on this highly important subject. First of all, let me say that I do not speak as representing one side of the House, for I conceive that this question is not a party question. We are not treating it as such on this side, and I do not myself agree with the views held with regard to it by some of those who sit behind me. With regard to what the noble Duke said, I understood that he indicated that this would still be left an open question on his side of the House.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: Hear, hear.

*EARL SPENCER: I am glad to hear that. Now I come to the suggestion which has just been made by the noble Earl the Chairman of Committees, and I for one most earnestly hope that your Lordships will listen to his suggestion

and postpone the Bill in order that a Committee may be appointed to inquire into the matter. I will give the reasons why I hold this view and feel strongly about it. I quite admit that there is a technical difficulty with regard to reading the Bill a second time and then referring it to a Select Committee, but the suggestion of the noble Earl avoids that. This subject is an exceedingly difficult one. I confess myself that I should feel very great hesitation in rejecting a Bill which had twice come up from another place, and against which on the last occasion there was not one single word said. But there are other considerations. In my belief, we want more information. I admit the difficulty that exists in leaving this discretion in the hands of Boards of Guardians, and having one decision by one Board and another decision by another; but I hardly think my noble and learned friend was just in the way in which he referred to the administration of the Poor Law. The noble Viscount opposite, who speaks with such great authority on the subject, has already referred to that, and I support his view, because I do not think it is fair to the administrators of the Poor Law to say that they would be actuated by such consideration as whether or not the applicant belonged to church or chapel. I have not lately had to do with the active work of Poor Law administration, but in former days I attended regularly for years Poor Law Boards, and I must protest against such a view being taken of the way in which they carry out their duties.

While reluctant to vote against the Bill, I fully admit that there are some very strong reasons why the Bill should not be passed. There is one at the very outset. As far as I know, nearly every skilled administrator of the Poor Law in the country is in favour of the view taken by my noble friend Lord Northbrook. I do not say every one, but my belief is that the wisest administrators of the Poor Law are against the alteration of the law as it now stands. They desire that this discretion should be left. On the other hand, we are told that the President of the Local Government Board is in favour of making the change. No doubt he has many advisers, but we see that one of

the most important of his advisers, in a paper which the President very generously laid before Parliament, is strongly against this change, and we do not know how far other persons connected with the Local Government Board may be of the same opinion. There is another consideration which weighs a great deal with me. This question of the Poor Law is one of the most important with which the country has to deal. I do not for a moment say we have any fear of falling back into that extraordinarily lax administration of the Poor Law which did such damage to the thrift of the country and the position of agricultural and other industries. At the same time, we ought to guard the wise administration of the Poor Law with the greatest possible care. I do not like the idea of nibbling at this question, of making one change, and leaving a great many other things almost identical to be dealt with by later legislation.

I agree with what my noble friend Lord Northbrook said, that this is a Bill which ought to be initiated by His Majesty's Government, because it is of such enormous importance. A good deal has been said about the different investments which a working man may make. I certainly cannot go the length of the noble Lord the Secretary for Scotland in drawing such a marked distinction between this investment and others. I think the noble Earl, Lord Morley, effectively answered that. As long as they have got this value, either in a house, in the Post Office Savings Bank, or in any other investment, they ought to be considered, if you are going to consider them at all, just as much as those who belong to friendly societies. We are certain that this is only a step in that direction. If the principle of this Bill is a right principle, and Parliament adopts it, Parliament will not rest there. I do not agree that this is a mere extension of the Act of 1894; it would be a natural extension if you included pensions and amounts received in respect of savings in the Post Office Savings Bank, and other investments. I venture to say that it is only right that when you see that such changes may be made, you ought not to nibble at little changes like this, but, if it is necessary, do it on a broad basis, and by a full and comprehensive Bill. I do not wish to delay your Lordships longer,

Earl Spencer.

but I do think that it would be of the utmost importance that we should inquire into these matters and see whether there has been any great inconvenience and hardship occasioned by this variety of administration in different unions. I should like also to ascertain exactly what the views of the friendly societies are on the subject. I would urge that the suggestion of the noble Earl the Chairman of Committees should be accepted. I think it would be for the advantage of the country, and enable your Lordships to have information which you do not now possess. I hope we shall hear that His Majesty's Government are willing to postpone the Second Reading in order that my noble friend may bring forward some effective proposal for submitting this great question to a Select Committee.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I do not know whether I may be permitted by the House 'o trespass for a few moments again, my former observation being more in the nature of a personal explanation than a speech in reference to the Bill. In regard to what the noble Earl has just said, I do not think it is for His Majesty's Government to advise the House as to the course which they should take. It is for the promoters of this Bill to say whether they are prepared to accept any of the suggestions which have been made to them. I think that in the course of this discussion some progress has been made in the direction of making the position a little more clear. It is perfectly open to any of your Lordships to hold that this is a change which ought not to be made without further inquiry by a Select Committee, or otherwise. If any of your Lordships hold that opinion, I submit that the proper course for them to take is to reject this Bill, and to move for such an inquiry as they think ought to be held. On the other hand, my right hon. friend at the head of the Local Government Board and his colleagues are of opinion that a sufficient case has already been made out for the adoption of this measure, and if my noble and learned friend Lord James is not willing to postpone this Bill until the indefinite time when some inquiry

may have taken place, we shall certainly take the course of supporting him in the Second Reading of the Bill. But the course which I think is absolutely out of the question, and which I trust your Lordships will not be induced to take, would be to give a Second Reading to the Bill, thereby establishing its principle, and then commit it to a Select Committee to determine upon its future course. It is, I think, for the noble Lord in charge of the Bill to say whether he is willing to postpone it until a Parliamentary inquiry shall take place. If he is, of course we shall all assent to that course being taken; but if he thinks it better to invite the House to pronounce a definite opinion at once on the principles of the Bill, we shall support him in that course.

LORD METHUEN: My Lords, as I gave evidence before the Royal Commission on the Aged Poor, and, as I have for a great many years past been vice-president of my friendly society in Wiltshire and a constant attendant at the Board of Guardians, I trust that your Lordships will permit me to say a few words on this Bill. I quite accept the fact that the bulk of the members of friendly societies are in favour of the Bill, but I maintain that all thinking men are not in favour of it. Our ambition is to induce friendly society members to practise thrift and avoid coming upon the rates, and we think that this Bill does in an indirect manner, induce members of friendly societies to seek the aid which we wish them to avoid. I must say I feel very indignant at the terms in which the noble and learned Lord who introduced this Bill has thought it right to speak of Boards of Guardians. No friendly society member ever comes before us without our first asking him distinctly whether he has adopted any means for thrift or not, and if a man tells us that he has not done so, he has the workhouse offered to him; but I never yet have known a single case of a man who has proved to us that he has adopted some means of thrift, whom we have not always more than met half way. It is unjust to take out of the hands of the guardians the power of judging every case upon its

merits, and to stultify their actions in the way this Bill proposes. I will instance one case to show what I mean. A man comes to us who, when he is at work, earns thirteen shillings a week. He has five shillings from a friendly society, but has a wife and four children. If we are not to take into account the five shillings he receives from his friendly society, we must give what we consider sufficient out-door relief—namely, nine shillings. That sum, with the five shillings he is already receiving, would make fourteen shillings, and therefore that man, by your order, would get one shilling more than he would if he were in active employment. If we had that case before us and the law remained as at present, we should give him seven shillings a week, which would make his income a shilling less than he would receive if he were in active employment. This Bill will not benefit friendly societies, and will do harm to Boards of Guardians by placing members of friendly societies in an invidious position.

*LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD: My Lords, I have not the slightest wish to reply upon the general discussion. I would, however, say, in regard to what has been stated by the noble and gallant Lord, that it was not my intention at all of suggesting that there was any miscarriage in the administration of the Poor Law by the guardians, and if my words are referred to it will be seen that I made no such intention. I merely stated what could possibly be done with regard to procedure; I am sorry I cannot take the course suggested by the noble Earl the Chairman of Committees. That suggestion comes very late, and if it were followed the Bill would be lost for this session. The chances of the ballot in the other House enabled the promoters to pass the Bill into your Lordships' House in time for consideration this session. If I adopt Lord Morley's suggestion it may be years before the promoters would be lucky enough to secure a similar chance in the ballot. The wish of the promoters is to take the decision of your Lordships upon the Bill. With regard to the other course, may I ask Lord Northbrook what it is he is going to leave to the Select Committee? Is he going to allow seven Members, four voting one way and three

the other, to bring up a Majority Report to this House recommending that the Bill ought not to be read a third time? If we acted upon such a Report, would we not be giving up our responsibility, and if we did not, what is the use of a Committee? I regret not to be able to accept the suggestions that have been made, but

I fear there is no alternative but to fight this out to a finish, and I, therefore, ask your Lordships to say "content" or "not content."

On Question, their Lordships divided:—Contents, 50; Not-Contents, 57.

CONTENTS.

Halsbury, E. (*L. Chancellor.*)
Devonshire, D. (*L. President.*)

Fife, D.
Portland, D.
Rutland, D.

Clarendon, E. (*L. Chamberlain.*)
Amherst, E.
Bathurst, E.
Carrington, E.
Craven, E.
Denbigh, E.
Howe, E.
Lathom, E.
Malmesbury, E.
Mansfield, E.
Portsmouth, E.

Radnor, E.
Saint Germans, E.
Vane, E. (*M. Londonderry.*)
Waldegrave, E.
Westmeath, E.

Churchill, V.
Powerscourt, V.
Aberdare, L.
Allerton, L.
Ashbourne, L.
Balfour, L.
Battersea, L.
Brodrick, L. (*V. Middleton.*)
Burton, L.
Clifford of Chudleigh, L.
Congleton, L.
Denman, L.

Hawkesbury, L.
Heneage, L.
James, L. [*Teller.*]
Kenry, L. (*E. Dunraven and Mount-Earl.*) [*Teller.*]
Kenyon, L.
Knollys, L.
Lawrence, L.
Leigh, L.
Ludlow, L.
Monkswell, L.
St. Levan, L.
St. Oswald, L.
Suffield, L.
Wandsworth, L.
Welby, L.
Westbury, L.
Wolverton, L.

NOT-CONTENTS.

Canterbury, L. Abp.

Wellington, D.

Abercorn, M. (*D. Abercorn.*)

Ancaster, E.
Camperdown, E.
Carnwath, E.
Cowper, E.
Crewe, E.
Dartrey, E.
Harrowby, E.
Jersey, E.
Morley, E.
Northbrook, E.
Powis, E.
Romney, E.
Spencer, E.
Stamford, E.
Stanhope, E.

Cross, V.

Goschen, V.
Hutchinson, V. (*E. Donoughmore*)
Sidmouth, V.

Abinger, L.
Aldenham, L.
Barnard, L.
Belhaven and Stenton, L.
Blythwood, L.
Boyle, L. (*E. Corkand Orrery.*)
Calthorpe, L.
Carysfort, L. (*E. Carysfort.*)
Chelmsford, L.

Clanwilliam, L. (*E. Clanwilliam.*)
Colchester, L.
Cottesloe, L.
Crawshaw, L.
De Mauley, L.
Dunboyne, L.
Glenesk, L.

Hatherton, L.
Herries, L.
Hylton, L.
Kelvin, L.
Leamington, L. [*Teller.*]
Lyveden, L.
Methuen, L.
Monteagle of Brandon, L.
Muskerry, L.
Napier, L.
Newton, L. [*Teller.*]
Penrhyn, L.
Robertson, L.
Sandhurst, L.
Ventry, L.
Wemyss, L. (*E. Wemyss.*)
Windsor, L.
Wrottesley, L.
Zouche of Haryngworth, L.

THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: My Lords, I beg to give notice that after Whitsuntide I shall move that a Select Committee be appointed to consider the relations of friendly societies and other forms of thrift to Poor Law relief, and to report their opinion as to the desirability or otherwise of making any alterations in the present law. My intention was to have moved this as an Amendment to the Bill, but there were technical difficulties. I feel that this House

should not dispose of the question without having the inquiry which I was anxious should take place.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE BILL [H.L.]

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (The Earl of HALSBURY): My Lords, the object of the first clause of this Bill is to

Lord James of Hereford.

provide that a person, if otherwise qualified, may be appointed a justice of the peace for any county, notwithstanding that he does not reside in the county, if he resides within seven miles thereof. The present arrangement whereby it is impossible to appoint a person as a justice of the peace unless he resides in the county has given rise to considerable inconvenience, which it is found desirable should be removed. The Bill also gives the Lord Chancellor power to exclude from the exercise of his functions as justice of the peace any person who holds that position by virtue of holding another office. This is to provide for the removal of persons found to be unfit for the exercise of judicial duties. Two very serious scandals recently took place, and it was found absolutely necessary that there should be the same power of removal in the case of *ex officio* justices as exists in the case of justices appointed to the Commission of the Peace in the ordinary way. Those are the only two provisions of the Bill, and I ask your Lordship to give it a Second Reading.

Moved that the Bill be now read 2^a.—
(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

*EARL SPENCER: My Lords, I am not aware of the difficulties that have arisen with regard to justices who sit by virtue of holding or having held another office; but, with regard to the first clause, I heartily support the proposal contained in the Bill. I have had a great many cases brought before me where great difficulty has been experienced in getting magistrates under the present arrangements, and the proposed amendment of the law will be a great advantage.

On Question, Bill read 2^a (according to Order) and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Tuesday next.

STATUTE LAW REVISION (SCOTLAND) BILL [H.L.].

SECOND READING.]

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: My Lord, this is one of those Bills which your Lordships are asked from time to

time to pass. Its object is to clear the Statute-book of enactments which have ceased to be in force otherwise than by express specific repeal by Parliament, or have, by lapse of time or otherwise, become unnecessary. I beg to move that it be read a second time.

Bill read 2^a (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Tuesday next.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL EXPENDITURE.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: My Lords, I rise to ask my noble friend Lord Welby, with his full concurrence, the Question standing in my name on the Paper—namely, whether he will state the sum total spent up to the present time by the London County Council in promoting and opposing Bills in Parliament. I wish in explanation to say that I ask for this information not in the least with the object of questioning the wisdom of the action of the London County Council, but there is a Bill coming forward which I think the answer to this Question will more or less affect. At present the London County Council is the only council which has the power of spending money without some check on the part of the ratepayers. The Bill which Mr. Long proposes to send up after the recess takes away that restriction, and will put all County Councils with regard to expenditure on the same footing as the London County Council. On the same day that that Bill will come before your Lordships, another measure of a similar character will be sent up entitled the Borough Funds Bill. Your Lordships will therefore see that the Question I have ventured to put on the Paper has a very material bearing on proposed legislation.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: My Lords, before the noble Lord replies to the question I would like to suggest that the information should be given in a little more detail, and that the noble Earl should amend his question so that it would read—

“To ask for a return showing, with regard to the London County Council, the names of the Bills promoted in Parliament in each year, with the sums of money spent annually in such promotion, and also whether each such

Bill did or did not pass into law ; secondly, the sum of money spent annually in opposing Bills in Parliament."

My reason for asking for the names of Bills is this. A good many Bills have been brought up several times in succeeding years, or after an interval of one or two years, and I think it is desirable that we should know how many times these Bills have been promoted, and also the sum which has been spent in each year in promoting Bills. The second part of the question asks for the amount spent in opposing Bills each year. If my noble friend could give those figures it would add to our information and be extremely useful.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: I quite agree with the proposed Amendment of my Question, which merely gives the information more in detail.

*LORD WELBY: I am not quite sure whether my noble friend is entirely in order in putting a question to a private Member of this House. But I am in the hands of your Lordships, and if the House has no objection to such a practice——

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: My noble friend is hardly a private Member.

*LORD WELBY: Certainly I am. But if the House is willing that this Question should be put, I have no objection to giving the information asked for. I will put it in this way. During the time the London County Council has been in existence the average expenditure has been between £18,000 and £19,000 a year. There would be no difficulty in giving a return such as is asked for by my noble friend Lord Camperdown, but it would be well first to see the terms in which it is desired. It is only within the last year or two that His Majesty's Government have given considerable powers of spending money to the Metropolitan boroughs. Therefore the policy which is now being followed by the London County Council is in accordance with the policy advocated by His Majesty's Government.

*EARL SPENCER: I have some doubt as to the propriety of putting such

The Earl of Camperdown.

interrogations, and I question if they are in order. Though my noble friend Lord Welby is chairman of the Finance Committee of the London County Council he sits in this House in a perfectly private capacity. I think it would be exceedingly awkward to have Returns made from the County Council to this House. If this practice is allowed we might have Questions of all sorts asked of private Members.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: The noble Lord was good enough to refer to me, and I said that you may ask anything you please here if the noble Lord to whom the question is put, chooses to answer it. But I am bound to mention to your Lordships that the question has been raised on a point of order in the other House, where they are a little more strict in these matters, and it has been distinctly ruled by the Speaker that such questions cannot be allowed.

THE EARL OF MORLEY: Surely it would be a very inconvenient practice if Returns were given to the House merely on the initiative of a private Member. I think that would be wholly out of order. If the noble Lord chooses to answer the question put to him the House, I take it, would be very happy to hear him ; but I think it is certainly out of order and irregular to ask a private Member for a Return.

*LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: There is no objection to giving the information, but the regular course would have been to ask the representative of the Local Government Board in this House whether he could get the information from the London County Council. The Return would then be given by the consent of the Government after communication with the London County Council. It seems to me that that would have been the reasonable course to pursue.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: I quite agree with what the Secretary for Scotland and the Leader of the Opposition have said, and will put down a Motion asking for the Return which I mentioned.

POLLING ARRANGEMENTS (PARLIAMENTARY BOROUGH) BILL [H.L.]

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

LORD RIBBLESDALE: My Lords, the object of this Bill is to make the County Councils all over England the sole authority for settling the polling districts in Parliamentary electoral divisions, just as they are for County Council electoral divisions. An anomaly has crept in under the present Acts which divides the authority. In some places the authority is the justices in Petty Session, and in others the County Council. If this Bill becomes law it will remove that anomaly and make the County Councils throughout England the authorities to settle the polling arrangements. I believe there is no objection to the Bill.

Moved, That the Bill be now read 2^a—(*Lord Ribblesdale*.)

LORD KENYON: So far as the Local Government Board are concerned they have no objection to the Bill.

On Question; Bill read 2^a (according to Order) and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY COUNCILS) BILL [H.L.]

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

LORD RIBBLESDALE: The object of this Bill is to allow a little more flexibility in the polling arrangements when they have been made. It appears that when the County Councils have made their polling arrangements, Sir Edward Clarke and Sir Robert Finlay both hold that those arrangements, when once made, are, like the laws of the Medes and Persians, incapable of being altered. It is obvious that circumstances may arise which may make it desirable that the polling arrangements should be changed, and this Bill will enable County Councils to change them.

Bill read 2^a (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

UNION OF BENEFICES ACT, 1860, AMENDMENT BILL [H.L.]

House in Committee (according to Order): Bill reported without Amendment; and re-committed to the Standing Committee.

ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSIONERS BILL [H.L.]

House in Committee (according to Order): Bill reported without Amendment: Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3^a on Monday next.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes past Seven o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 22nd May, 1903.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL
BUSINESS.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz.—

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 16) Bill. Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time upon Monday next.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (NO STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz.—

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 14) Bill. Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time upon Monday next.

Stoke Newington Borough Council Bill, Lords' Amendments considered and agreed to.

Metropolitan District Railway (Various Powers) Bill (King's Consent signified), read the third time and passed.

Stroud and District Tramways Bill, read the third time and passed. (New Title.)

Midland Great Western Railway of Ireland Bill, as amended, considered; a clause added; Amendments made. Bill to be read the third time.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 12) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13) Bill; Local Government Provisional Order (No. 15) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (Poor Law) Bill. Read a second time and committed.

Military Lands Provisional Orders, Bill, To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Secretary of State under The Military Lands Act, 1892, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Secretary Brodrick and Lord Stanley.

Military Lands Provisional Orders Bill, "to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Secretary of State under The Military Lands Act, 1892," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. (Bill 209.)

Blackheath and Greenwich District Electric Light Bill, reported with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table.

Wolverhampton and Cannock Chase Railway (Extension of Time) Bill; London County Council (Money) Bill; Lanarkshire and Dumbartonshire Railway Bill, Reported with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table and to be printed.

India Rubber, Gutta Percha, and Telegraph Works Company Bill [Lords], reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table.

North's Navigation Collieries Bill [Lords], reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table. Bill to be read the third time.

Lima Railways Bill [Lords], reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Faversham Gas Bill [Lords], reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. Bill to be read the third time.

Life Association of Scotland Bill [Lords], reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table. Bill to be read the third time.

Exeter Railway Bill [Lords], reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Romford and District Tramways Bill, reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Neath, Pontardawe, and Brynmanan Railway Bill, reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to

Maidstone Gas Bill, without Amendment; East Ardsley Gas Bill, with Amendments.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the Scunthorpe Urban District Council to construct waterworks in lieu of the waterworks authorised by the Scunthorpe Urban District Gas and Water Act, 1899; and for other purposes." (Scunthorpe Urban District Water Bill [Lords]).

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the British Electric Traction Company, Limited, to construct new tramways between Worthing and Shoreham, to work such new tramways, and to adapt the existing tramways between Shoreham and Hove for working by electrical or other mechanical power; and for other purposes." (Hove, Worthing and District Tramways Bill [Lords]).

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for incorporating and conferring powers on the Somerset and District Electric Power Company." (Somerset and District Electric Power Bill [Lords]).

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act forempowering the Dudley, Stourbridge, and District Electric Traction Company, Limited, to work their tramways by mechanical or electrical power; and for other purposes." (Dudley, Stourbridge, and District Tramways Bill [Lords]).

Scunthorpe Urban District Water Bill [Lords]; Hove, Worthing, and District Tramways Bill [Lords]; Somerset and District Electric Power Bill [Lords]; Dudley, Stourbridge, and District Tramways Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill. Reported, with Amendments (Provisional Orders confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table. Bill, as amended, to be considered upon Monday next.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill. Reported, without Amendment (Provisional Orders confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table. Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill. Reported, without Amendment (Provisional Orders confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table. Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill. Reported, without Amendment (Provisional Orders confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table. Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next.

Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas) Bill. Reported, without Amendment (Provisional Orders confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table. Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next.

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (Housing of Working Classes) Bill. Reported, without Amendment (Provisional Orders confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table. Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next.

Dover Corporation Bill. Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PETITIONS.

BURGH POLICE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Dunfermline, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

COAL MINES REGULATION BILL.

Petition from Ebbw Vale, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

DETENTION OF POOR PERSONS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Dumfries, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

GROCERS' LICENCES (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Kirkcaldy, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

INNKEEPERS' LIABILITY BILL.

Petition from Dumfries, for extension to Scotland; to lie upon the Table.

LICENCES RENEWAL AND TRANSFER BILL.

Petitions against: from Kettering; and Penarth; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Petition from Dingwall, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Petitions in favour: from Kirkcaldy; and Ballieston; to lie upon the Table.

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL.

Petitions in favour: from Frampton Cotterell; Burntisland; Gorebridge; Denaby Main; Trowbridge; Boston; Torquay; Blackpool; Luddenden Foot; Littleborough; Walsall; Wrexham; Boldon; and Firgrove; to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC HOUSES (HOURS OF CLOSING) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Kirkcaldy, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Petitions for alteration of Law: from Rochester; and Sunderland; to lie upon the Table.

SHEEP SCAB BILL.

Petition from Dumfries, in favour ; to lie upon the Table.

*RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.*LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD
(IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Annual Report of the Local Government Board for Ireland, for the year ended 31st March, 1902 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PATENTS, DESIGNS, AND TRADE
MARKS.

Copy presented, of Twentieth Report of the Comptroller-General of Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks, with Appendices for the year 1902 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 177.)

NATIONAL SCHOOL TEACHERS'
(IRELAND) PENSION FUND.

Annual Accounts presented, of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31st December, 1902 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, No. 2983 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

MERCANTILE MARINE (COMMITTEE).

Copy presented, of Report of the Committee appointed by the Board of Trade to inquire into certain questions affecting the Mercantile Marine, with Minutes of Evidence, Appendices, and Index [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Revenue and Expenditure of Somaliland.

Mr. CHARLES HOBHOUSE (Bristol, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for India if he will state what was the surplus of revenue for Somaliland up to the time of its transfer to the Foreign Office; and whether he can give the income and expenditure for each of the years from 1888 to 1898.

(Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.) The total surplus of revenue

over expenditure was Rx.15,963. The figures are as follows—1887-8, Revenue Rx.19,086, Expenditure Rx.20,315; 1888-9, Revenue Rx.20,989, Expenditure Rx.17,666; 1889-90, Revenue Rx.15,565, Expenditure Rx.23,384; 1890-91, Revenue Rx.21,568, Expenditure Rx.22,529; 1891-2, Revenue Rx.18,461, Expenditure Rx.26,730; 1892-3, Revenue Rx.21,978, Expenditure, Rx.29,121; 1893-4, Revenue Rx.23,150, Expenditure Rx.22,208; 1894-5, Revenue Rx.28,016, Expenditure Rx. 20,751; 1895-6, Revenue Rx.33,084, Expenditure Rx.22,027; 1896-7, Revenue Rx.31,894, Expenditure Rx.23,486; 1897-8, Revenue Rx.31,230, Expenditure Rx.20,841; Total Revenue Rx.265,021; Total Expenditure Rx.249,058.

Dublin Metropolitan Police—Compensation for Injuries received on duty—Case of Thomas Hackett.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Thomas Hackett, a discharged constable of the Dublin Metropolitan Police, sustained injuries in the execution of his duty as a constable, which brought on ill-health, necessitating his discharge from the force; and whether, in view of this man's circumstances, his case will be taken into consideration, with a view to compensation being awarded to him.

(Answered by Mr. Wyndham.) There is no power to award ex-Constable Hackett any payment in addition to the statutory gratuity allowed to him on his discharge from the force.

Printing Contract for the Boyle Union.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that, at the taking of tenders for the printing contract of Boyle Union on 14th March, 1903, a tender was received to do all the printing and advertising for a year for the sum of £5, and that, notwithstanding this tender, the guardians accepted a tender at £37; and, if so, in view of the Local Government Amendment Act of last Session, will he direct the attention of the auditor to this action of the guardians.

(Answered by Mr. Wyndham.) It appears from the minutes of the proceedings of the guardians on the date mentioned, that the accepted tender for this work, amounting to £37 10s., was the lowest tender received.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) asked what the business would be next week. He understood that it had not yet been announced.

SIR A. ACLAND-HOOD (Somersetshire, Wellington) said the First Lord of the Treasury on the previous day had stated that he would make a definite announcement this day as to whether the Finance Bill would be taken before the Whitsuntide recess. The right hon. Gentleman had intended to make that statement at half-past five, but he did not think he would be able to be present at that hour, and he had, therefore, authorised him (Sir A. Acland-Hood) to inform the House that it was not proposed to take the Second Reading of the Finance Bill before the holidays.

MR. LOUGH: What business will be taken?

SIR A. ACLAND-HOOD: The London Education Bill will be taken from day to day.

AGED PENSIONERS BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order for Second Reading read.

MR. REMNANT (Finsbury, Holborn) said the Bill which stood in his name, and which he had the honour of submitting to the House that day, advanced no new principle, and could not be regarded as in any sense an instrument of political controversy; the principle contained in it had been agreed to by politicians on both sides of the House, who had never hesitated to advocate some such provision as was made in it, when they had been speaking up and down the country. It was only due to Ministers to say that, in the first instance, they brought this matter before the electors in a definite shape, and therefore they could not

shirk their responsibility in regard to it, and he did not believe that, if they could do so, they had any such intention. They had in the past appointed various Royal Commissions, upon the Report of one of which—namely, that of 1899, this Bill was mainly founded. The question, as he had said, could not be regarded as a political one; it was rather a national question, and it was a national question which was becoming day by day more pressing. The Report of 1893 was one that first of all startled the country by showing that three out of every seven of our industrial population over the age of sixty-five years, in England and Wales, were in receipt of parish relief. What was still more startling was the fact that of that number no fewer than five-sixths had not been in receipt of poor relief up to the age of sixty. He asked the House what clearer proof it could have that the greater portion of our old age pauperism was due solely to the failure of physical strength. Such a state of things, he ventured to submit, could not be much longer neglected. This Bill had been drafted by his hon. friend the Member for East Wiltshire in the same way as it was drafted by him last year, when introduced by the hon. Member for West Cambridgeshire. It differed from the measure of last year to a certain extent because an endeavour had been made to meet various objections which were raised in the course of the debates on the former Bill. The main principle of the Bill must be apparent to everybody who had taken the trouble to read it—it was to provide for some better form of relief in old age for our deserving poor. It had been agreed to by gentlemen on both sides of the House, and he did not think it would be questioned on this occasion, that the object of the Bill was to promote thrift as opposed to making destitution a necessity before any application for relief could be successfully made. Mainly the Bill was founded on two tests—poverty and merit.

Without wearying the House, he thought he might take it for granted that universal pensions, although advocated by a good many people, were, at the present moment, admitted to be beyond the range of practical politics, chiefly on the ground that they would

cost too much. There was another point which ought not to be lost sight of, and which might be taken as pretty generally agreed, viz., that it was not necessary that there should be a direct or compulsory contribution towards these pensions. Surely there was no reason why they should confine their action entirely to those who had themselves directly contributed to these pensions, because everybody knew there were indirect methods and tests of thrift and providence which were just as good as direct contributions. The promoters of the Bill, however, admitted that in order that any scheme for pensions, such as was provided for by that Bill, could be successful, they must encourage thrift and independence, or else they would do more harm than good. Their scheme, consequently, made it a condition that the recipient of a pension should have kept himself clear of the rates, and should have made some contribution to save himself from trouble and pauperism in the time of sickness. They held that by inserting such a provision, they not only stimulated the pensioner as an individual, but they also did an immense amount towards making the great friendly societies more useful than, if possible, they had been in the past. They considered it was very essential to any scheme that the work of the friendly societies should not go without proper recognition, and they hoped that the provisions of the Bill would ensure the favourable co-operation of those great friendly societies. He ventured to submit to the House that if the Bill were permitted to become law, the friendly societies would be found to be on their side, determined to help them by all the means in their power. The Bill also proposed to do what again he knew the House would agree to, namely, to relieve the present electoral disabilities under which our poor industrial population at the present moment laboured when compelled to apply for help under the Poor Law. Provision was also made for the payment of these pensions through the Post Office, and also against any attempt to in any way alienate the pensions. It was sought to put it out of the power of those in receipt of pensions to mortgage them or in any way to get rid of them. As

far as could be, they further attempted to provide against fraud. That was a very difficult matter indeed, but he did not think it would be beyond the power of the House to so tie up the pension as to guard against any reasonable chance of fraud.

As to the machinery by which they hoped to carry out the provisions of the Bill, the House would see that a special Pensions Committee was provided and was to be formed partly of the guardians, who were to have power to elect from outside one-third of the Committee. That provision had been inserted in the Bill in consequence of the objections which were raised last year to the pensions being allocated by a Committee composed solely of Poor Law guardians. They considered it would be a source of great strength to the Committee to be able to elect one-third of their number from outside, and he hoped that the House would consider, under the circumstances, that that provision was a good one. It must be remembered that what they aimed at was economy in administration; they also sought to get the very best possible local information, and it could not but be admitted that the guardians at the present moment were the persons best suited to provide such information. The work of the guardians throughout the country had been admirably well done, and if they were able—as the promoters hoped under the Bill to be—to make use of the guardians' experience and information for the purposes of the Act, it would be a great step towards what they were at the present moment trying to induce the House to pass. In connection with the Bill, it should not be forgotten that it would be creating an entirely new Department. They had to run the risk of great expense in connection with that; they ran the risk also of having a Department which had not got the necessary experience so important for the successful carrying out of a Bill of that nature. They, however, hoped that this special Pensions Committee might fairly be said to be independent of the guardians themselves. Another alteration was contained in Clause 8, by which it was possible, subject to the sanction of the Local Government Board, to combine

two or more Unions, where, in the view of the Local Government Board, such a combination would be of public or local advantage. In Clause 6 they had also introduced the question of married couples in possession of qualifications entitling them to pensions

If he might be permitted to detain the House for a few minutes, he would like to say one or two words upon what, to his mind, was the most difficult part of this very difficult and complex question. He meant the subject of finance. Whenever that subject was referred to, the Bill had invariably been put off on the ground that the country was not able to afford the necessary outlay. Last year, when the measure was under debate, remarkable progress was made with it, and it was allowed to pass its Second Reading without a division. On that occasion it was—he would not say promised—but it was stated that of all the times that could have been chosen that particular period was the most unfortunate to bring in a Bill involving anything like the outlay which the provision of pensions such as were provided for in this measure, would entail. If one referred to Ministerial statements in years gone by, it would be found that Ministers said that they would be only too delighted to support such a measure, and that they fully sympathised with the idea of being able to carry some pension scheme, or some scheme by which better relief than was given at the present moment might be afforded to the aged and deserving poor. If Ministers on either side of the House really meant what they then said, was it not possible on this occasion for them to take one step forward and to provide something towards carrying out this experiment. He would not put it any higher than that. It was an experiment which they were all anxious to make, and it would enable them to ascertain whether or not the idea was feasible. Estimates had been put forward in various quarters in regard to the cost of a scheme, and naturally one preferred that of Sir Edward Hamilton, who had stated that the pensionable persons numbered 469,000, and had estimated that the cost of providing pensions for these would amount to £10,000,000 a year to start with. Anybody who had

gone deeply into the question would feel that, at anyrate, this estimate did not err on the side of being too low, and he thought it might be fairly taken to be, if anything, rather too high an estimate. According to Sir Edward Hamilton's report, there were 469,000 pensionable persons. Taking the number at 500,000, the amount required under the scheme of the Bill would be £6,500,000, of which £3,000,000 would come from the Imperial Exchequer, and £3,500,000 from local rates. But even putting the amount required at £10,000,000, he maintained that this wealthy country could well afford the money to remedy a state of affairs which was publicly deplored by responsible Ministers and by politicians of all shades of opinion.

Objection was taken to this burden being thrown on the local rates. For his part he could not see why the rates should be exempt from a fair contribution, as they would derive considerable benefit, both directly and indirectly, from the operation of the scheme. Thousands of the industrial population, who now in times of sickness went on the rates, would be relieved from that necessity, because as under the Bill men had to keep off the rates for a certain number of years they would make other provision for sickness. It was no answer to say that the amount required was too large from the Government point of view. If they were satisfied that the object was a deserving one, and made up their minds that the money ought to be found, the history of the country showed that, whatever the amount, the money would be forthcoming. The need of this relief was so urgent that he earnestly hoped the House would allow the Bill to go one step forward so that its details could be considered in Committee. If Members were pressing in this matter, Ministers themselves were responsible; they had encouraged the country, and it the country now demanded something further than mere words, he hoped the Government would rise to the occasion and seize the present opportunity. The amount paid in poor relief represented only 1 per cent. of the nation's income, whereas fifty years ago the proportion was 2 per cent. But if it was thought this proposal was too costly,

the amount required would be reduced by one-half if the age limit were raised to seventy, and by a further one-fourth by fixing it at seventy-five. He hoped, however, that the Government would agree to the limit of sixty-five.

There were, doubtless, many objections to the Bill. Some people objected to the proposed age limit, others contended that the amount of the pension was not sufficient. The promoters would have liked to make the amount larger, but it was no good spoiling their case by asking too much, so they had based their main proposals upon the Report of the Commission of 1899. It was impossible to provide absolutely against fraud; all that could be done was to insert the most businesslike and effective safeguards possible. The promoters of the Bill, being very anxious to attain the end they had in view, would welcome any friendly criticism. The Colonial Secretary, speaking on this subject a few years ago, said—

“I believe that to deal with it step by step is the only practical way of dealing with this question, and provided we are certain that the class we are trying to benefit is a deserving class, we may leave to another time the consideration of whether there are not other deserving classes which will ultimately have to be dealt with.

That was an excellent piece of advice which the supporters of the Bill would be glad to follow. They would be satisfied if they could take one material step forward to-day towards relieving this admitted distress. They were fortunate in having at the head of the Local Government Board a Minister who took a great interest in all matters affecting his Department, and if the right hon. Gentleman would, he could help them. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to do something to satisfy the nation's cry that the poor, who had done so much to build up the British Empire, should not, when they had spent their strength, be put on one side and subjected to the indignity of having to go into the workhouse. The taint of pauperism was much more dreaded by the industrial poor than by the more fortunate subjects of His Majesty, and if the House could by any possibility remove that dread, they would never regret doing it, and the country would appreciate the deed. The promoters of

the Bill had been animated by a desire to tackle this question in a reasonable way which would meet with the approval of the House, and it was in that spirit he asked the House to agree to the Second Reading. If there was one thing more than another that the British people appreciated it was their home, and for the poor in their old age, through no fault of their own, to be turned out of their homes was a hardship which he was convinced the House would be only too glad to remove. He begged to move.

Motion made, and Question proposed,
“That the Bill be now read a second time.”—(*Mr. Remnant.*)

*MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.) congratulated the hon. Member for Holborn on his honest and earnest championship of the cause he had taken in hand, and on the direct challenge he had given to the Government to deal seriously with the matter, were they to have another futile rehearsal of bygone pledges or a practical step in a great social reform? He commended to the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Local Government Board the excellent spirit in which the hon. Member had approached the question, and hoped that the moderation of his proposals would point the way to some more positive action on the part of the Government than the *non possumus* with which they were met last year. While he should vote in favour of the Bill if a division were taken, he thought it his duty without repeating in detail his arguments of last year, to state again what were the real objections to the machinery and scope of the Bill. The Bill was a half-way house. It went some way towards treating a pension as a right instead of an act of compassion. But the limits and conditions, while they mitigated suffering, rather multiplied the types of mischief and the evils of the Poor Law. Why was a Bill required at all? Their objection to the Poor Law administration was not that it failed to diminish the number of paupers, but that it had wholly failed to cure pauperism. The destitution test had been pronounced to be cruel, but it was far more debasing than it was cruel. It lowered

Mr. Remnant.

self-respect and it killed self-help. What they said was that pauperism could not be killed by terror but might be killed by hope. The main defect of the Bill was that it relied on the principle of discrimination. The machinery at the disposal of the guardians in large centres of population for discriminating between the deserving and undeserving poor was wholly inadequate. The machinery provided by this Bill really tended to add to these difficulties. How much greater was the difficulty and trouble and cost of determining whether a man's income was 9s. 11d. or 10s. 10d., or whether he had handed over his income to friends, or made a collusive arrangement with his employer as to wages, or of ransacking a man's life and judicially pronouncing whether he had made the effort required in this Bill, to honestly make provision for the future. Unless they enforced the tests imposed by the Bill with ruthless severity and precision, which would involve an enormous expense, it would be far better to frankly and honestly recognise that these tests were impracticable, and to have a system of universal pensions without these tests. It would be infinitely less wasteful to devote the money such a system would cost directly to the happiness of the aged poor. They wanted a system compatible with the conditions of human nature, which would act as a direct tonic to human motives. What he urged was that the income test was demoralising as well as unworkable, and that the merit test was cruel as well as unworkable. They would remember how Mr. Lecky in his separate report argued that providence and thrift and the saving of money were to some extent almost a crime in the families of some of these poor people. Fourteen family budgets, where wages were below 26s. a week, given in Mr. Rowntree's *Poverty in York*, showed that the diet was 23 per cent. below the standard of physical requirement for a working man's family. Mr. Rowntree's visitors gave many touching cases where the wives frankly admitted that the best food had to go to the wage-earner, and it was the mother and children who suffered in order to keep up the physical efficiency of the wage-earner. These budgets were from families of temperate habits. As

Mr. Rowntree pointed out, how serious must be the mal-nutrition of families where the scanty earnings were wasted in drink. In families where the income was under 26s., there was no margin for drink, and no margin for thrift either. Money saved meant food foregone. The physical condition of the race to come was an element which they must consider when they were employing direct compulsion to the working classes to make considerable savings out of entirely inadequate means.

They had a three years record of the New Zealand Old Age Pensions Act, and the result was set forth very clearly, forcibly, and impartially by the Agent-General for New Zealand, Mr. Reeves, in his recent book. The evils predicted of reckless living, drunkenness and debauchery had not been fulfilled. But the weak point in the working of the New Zealand Act was the income test. In 1900 and in 1901 there were long discussions in the New Zealand Parliament upon the working of the original measure of 1898, and the whole gist of those discussions turned upon the income test and the frauds to which it led. In that debate there was one case mentioned of a widow with a large family, including several well-to-do sons, who conveyed the whole of her property to them in order to qualify for a pension. One of her sons admitted that they could find her money to live upon, but he said they were glad to find she was independent and drawing a pension regularly from the Government. Mr. Seddon himself instanced two cases where pensioners had died and were found to have £600 and £500. Would the application of such a test be easier in England, with our complicated and concentrated population, with vast multitudes in extreme poverty and many grades of the deepest moral and physical degradation, than in the simple homogeneous people of New Zealand? He could not help feeling that there was a real danger in attempting to work upon any income test. It would rather feed the evil motives out of which springs the pauper temperament. The conclusion to his mind was irresistible that there were no real alternatives. In this country they ought to do one of two things; we ought either to improve the Poor Law administration as it was

on modes and lines in a narrow-hearted manner so as to remove the worst evils—a comparatively easy problem—or else they ought to adopt an automatic system, inexpensive in its machinery, providing a small and certain endowment for all in old age, so that the money would go to help the poor, instead of being largely employed in this vast and complicated machinery of tests. They would thus remove the poor-law taint, all would have a right, as all would contribute; they would banish the debasing and fraudulent motives; they would cover the whole area instead of leaving two-thirds or three-fourths out. A small pension thus given would rather stimulate thrift and increase the worth of friendly societies in tiding men over, and would strengthen the motives for keeping aged people in their own homes under the care of their own children. What could be a happier state of things in their villages than to have this little pension of five shillings a week as an inducement to aged people to avoid sinking into the depths of pauperism, and, as a motive to have a bright and happy home, where the old people might be surrounded by their grandchildren, instead of only having the workhouse to look forward to. The interesting figures given by the late Colonel Milward in the appendix to the Hamilton Committee Report showed how many children were already thus helping their parents, and this was what they should encourage.

The whole thing, of course, depended on the question of cost. The hon. Gentleman had rightly said that if the country made up its mind that a measure of this kind was necessary, and that it was not a mere electioneering expedient, it would face the prospect which would be involved. He himself would not be afraid to challenge the country to find the money for such a scheme. He was not in favour of a universal scheme which would go far beyond the scheme of his hon. friend. If they deducted one-third of the Poor Law expenditure, which it was supposed would be saved, the scheme would represent an outlay of over £20,000,000 sterling per annum. That was a large sum, but it was less than half the £46,000,000 a year by which the present Government had increased expenditure in seven

years, which gave an ample margin for vast economies. Even if the cost amounted to a sevenpenny or eightpenny rate, as the right hon. Gentleman argued last year, and if it also involved the equivalent of sixpence on the Income Tax, the scheme ought to be adopted. He himself would not levy it in the form of Income Tax. He would sooner have recourse to the death duties and other expedients of taxation, such as the taxation of mining royalties, but he did say that if they were right in thinking that this scheme would tend to improve the character of the people and elevate their notions of the standard of life, the country ought to frankly face even so bold an act of State socialism, which he frankly admitted it was, as was proposed in the scheme of Mr. Charles Booth. He hoped this debate might lead to some practical conclusion. It seemed to him that they made a mistake in treating this question of old age pensions as if it were a question by itself. It was of comparatively small value by itself. They must associate it with the whole group of social reforms, such as land reform, and housing and temperance reform. If they left out the other reforms which ought to be included in the group it seemed to him that they might by beginning a scheme such as he had suggested, do even more harm than good. If they did associate it with all the other reforms which made for a better, stronger, and nobler future for the country, then he thought there was much to be said for so great and bold a scheme as he now ventured to support.

*Mr. SAMUEL ROBERTS (Sheffield, Ecclesall) said he had very great pleasure in supporting the Second Reading of the Bill. He proposed to state what had led up to the present position of our Poor Law. The Poor Law dated from the days of Queen Elizabeth. The principal Act of that time—namely, 43 Elizabeth, was still actually in force, and that laid down for the first time the principle of compulsory assessment for the relief of the old, impotent, poor, and blind. That Act had been administered in a very varying way for the last 300 years; sometimes the administration had been very lax, and sometimes it had been strict; but from the period

from about 1750 to 1834, especially during the time of the French war, a very lax system had grown up, which was gradually pauperising the country. That system was to make allowances in aid of wages to able-bodied persons and in reckless granting of outdoor relief. It was gradually pauperising the country, and our working people looked to the parish first, and to their own exertions afterwards. The new Poor Law of 1834 was passed to put an end to that disastrous state of things. By that Act guardians obtained power to refuse out relief altogether, and to compel the applicant to go into the workhouse. It was rightly felt that this system was too severe, and a system of outdoor relief had gradually grown up, until at the present time our outdoor paupers outnumbered our indoor by more than two to one, the numbers for the February return of this year for England and Wales being outdoor 509,048; indoor 229,857. One-third of these were over sixty five years of age, most of them were receiving outdoor relief from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. a week. The pauperism of these old people was brought about simply by old age and decreasing power to earn a wage. In Mr. Ritchie's return of 1892, between the ages of sixty to sixty-five there were only fifty-three per thousand of the population at the age period that were paupers, but between the ages of sixty-five and seventy there were 109 per thousand, or putting it in Mr. Booth's way five-sixths of the paupers at sixty-five were not paupers at sixty. While all this had been proceeding, the condition of the working classes had been advancing enormously, and pauperism had decreased from 53·0 per 1,000, in 1863 to 22·4 in 1903. The progress of thrift and self-reliance had increased by leaps and bounds. During the last twenty years alone the advance of our large friendly societies had been most remarkable. The membership of friendly societies in England, Scotland, and Ireland had tripled, the income had quadrupled, and the benefit money paid had tripled also. Turning to the Post Office Savings Bank he found that the depositors and deposits had quadrupled during the last twenty years. It was no wonder in view of these facts that all the reports presented to Parliament

dwelt upon the marked increase in the habits of thrift, and the great importance of taking no step which would in any way tend to stem the tide which was existing at the present moment.

Were they doing all that they were morally bound to do for these poor people? Destitution was the test at the present moment. Were not those who were keeping off destitution even more entitled to recognition than those who had gone under in their misfortune? These people had been maintaining themselves in respectability for the whole of their lives, and during all that time they had been increasing the wealth of the country. Had they not some claim on the State in their old age for some little assistance? Might they not say "We are your servants, and we have been doing your work for all these years?" He would give one little instance. Sometimes an instance brought home to the mind more than anything, the exact position of a case. A poor man the other day sent him a letter from his city. He did not know the man before, but he made inquiries afterwards and found that his story was quite correct. That man said—

"I am sixty-eight years old. I have been a householder and a ratepayer in Sheffield over thirty years. I have never been under the lash of the law. I have never applied for Poor Law relief, although this last three and a half years I could have done with it, for I have seen more dinner-times than dinners. I am glad to tell you when I was twenty-two years old I joined a friendly society, and I still belong to them. My poor daughter pays the contribution and I am also dependent on her for shelter and food. Her husband only gets 20s. a week when he works full time, and there are five little ones under fourteen years of age. I have applied for situations during the last three and a half years, but the answer is, 'too old.' I am in good health, and have no ailment. My eyesight is good. I wrote this without any glasses, but grey beard and head."

It was that class who, he thought, ought to receive consideration. There was a man who, at sixty-eight, through no fault of his own, found himself face to face with destitution. Was not that a man who had some claim upon them? Was it practicable to do it without injuring the position of our friendly societies, and without checking the tendency of the working classes to do something for themselves? He thought it was, because this Bill laid down conditions which were quite sufficient, in his opinion, to guard

against any abuses. The claimant must be sixty-five years of age; he must have a good character; and for twenty years previous to his attaining the age of sixty-five years he must have kept himself free from Poor Law relief. Further, he must have endeavoured to make provision for himself and those dependent on him. Now, the Rothschild Committee stumbled over that point, and the hon. Member for Northampton, who had just spoken, also mentioned the impossibility of distinguishing between the deserving and the undeserving. The Rothschild Committee thought that the only test of desert was the possession of some income. But that would exclude the great majority of those they wished to provide for. There were the people who had not been able to save through adverse circumstances, or who had been unfortunate and lost their savings. Sir H. Longley, the chief Charity Commissioner, in his evidence before the Chaplin Committee, said that during the long period—he thought thirty years—over which their schemes had been launched, involving an expenditure of £1,000,000 a year, they had found no difficulty in discriminating what was poverty, what was reasonable providence, and what was good character. They might take that precedent, which was at the present moment doing good work, as a safe guide, but they were going a little bit further.

He now came to the crux of the whole matter—the question of ways and means. The right hon. Gentleman the President of the Local Government Board, in his excellent speech last year, told them that that was the great question which any Government would have to face. The hon. Member for Holborn had given the House some figures as to what this scheme would cost; but he was afraid that if these figures were correct—those given by the Committee appointed by the right hon. Member for Sleaford—viz. £10,000,000 in 1901; £12,000,000 in 1911; £15,000,000 in 1921, it would make the scheme impracticable. Mr. Booth's estimate was £24,500,000. Though he wished with all his heart that they could do something, he wanted to do it in a practical fashion. He was afraid that the only way in which the House could do it was by limiting the State

contribution; that they should give £2,000,000, or at most £3,000,000, a year from the National Exchequer, the rest to be made up by local rates. If that were done he thought it would work well, because it would meet the case where there would be a risk of the local pension authority putting pensioners on the list so as to relieve the local rates if the full amount was allocated by them. The local pension authority would know the total amount they were to receive from the State and the length of their own purse, and there would be no chance of the National Exchequer being in any way imposed upon by the local authority. His hon. friend the Member for Holborn had quoted from the speeches of the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for the Colonies. He would give one or two extracts from the speeches of the right hon. Gentleman. [Cries of "Which one?"] The Secretary of State for the Colonies said in the House in 1899—

"We must proceed step by step, because it is only in that way that we shall arrive at a satisfactory result. Not only must we proceed step by step, but we must regard anything we do to a large extent as of an experimental character. We must be prepared to go back if we find that we are on the wrong track, or go forward if experience justifies what we are doing."

And then, in his evidence before the Royal Commission, the right hon. Gentleman said—

"I contemplate as a possibility the allotment of a sum which might, at the outside, amount to £2,000,000 a year. I do not think that any practical statesman would be able to contemplate a larger expenditure."

They were pleading that day for those who could not from their position plead for themselves—the old and deserving poor, who through a long life had toiled and contributed to the nation's wealth, but who found themselves at the end of their life's journey face to face with poverty and destitution. They were bearing their trials in silence. Might we not ask this great and wealthy nation to make some sacrifice on behalf of our stricken industrial soldiers, who, though worsted in the battle of life, might be numbered amongst the State's most loyal and true citizens.

Mr. Samuel Roberts.

MR. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton) said he had listened with great interest to the moving, pathetic, and powerful speech of the hon. Member for Ecclesall, but he was amazed at the lame and impotent conclusion to which the hon. Gentleman came in the middle of his speech, although he wound up with a peroration of eloquence and pathos. The hon. Gentleman said this Bill was utterly impractical because they could not find the money. That was the crux of the whole situation. He really asked the House to cease playing with this matter. Too long it had been made the sport of politicians, but now they had got a measure which pledged the country to an expenditure of £10,000,000, rising to £15,000,000 a year, and yet there was only the Secretary of the Local Government Board to represent the Government that day. He understood, however, that the President of the Local Government Board was coming soon, but in a matter of this kind what the House really wanted was the presence not only of the representatives of that Department but also of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Indeed, he would like to see the Chancellor of the Exchequer flanked by the Colonial Secretary, who was the first to bring this great question into the prominence it had assumed. [Some murmurs of dissent.] Well, his own impression was that the right hon. Gentleman had brought the question to the front, and had made promises during an election which had never been fulfilled, although it was time for the fulfilment or the recantation of those promises. The hon. Gentleman who moved the rejection of the Bill talked about the danger of pensioners mortgaging their pensions. What a height of hypocrisy it was to speak in that fashion when there was no provision for paying these pensions. Unless the Government came to the rescue of the Bill it would be impossible for any pension to be paid. It was plain, therefore, that the time had arrived for the Government to take up the question. Were the Government going to sanction the Second Reading of this Bill as they did the Bill of last year, while at the same time they were going to say they had not got the money to carry the scheme into effect? He had been hoping

that the Colonial Secretary, having come back from the solitude of the illimitable veldt, would have brought some new old-age pension scheme with him—that he would have discovered a gold mine to be named the old-age pension mine. The right hon. Gentleman, however, was occupied in far loftier pursuits. If the Government had been in earnest in this matter, they would not have raised the expenditure of the country to the enormous extent they had done, without giving something to the aged poor of this country.

The Government came into office with a surplus of £6,000,000, not a single penny of which had they devoted towards the reduction of taxation. The Government had increased the expenditure by £35,000,000, which would have been more than three times sufficient to carry out the provisions of this Bill. And yet they were told that the Government could not afford the expenditure to carry this Bill into effect. A few days ago the Government had proposed the provision of old-age pensions, not for the aged poor of this country, but for the Irish landlords. If hon. Gentlemen opposite were earnestly sincere and really practical, they should protest against any reduction of taxation. If they came to the House and voted for maintaining the Income Tax at its present level of 15d. per £1, he would be very glad to vote with them. But to come down and ask the House to pass a measure of this kind, and not provide the means for carrying it into effect, was to ask the House of Commons to utter a dishonest cheque. What would be thought of any man who paid a debt with a cheque which was returned marked “no effects?” And that was what the Government were asking the House of Commons to do that afternoon. He held that it was unworthy of this, the greatest legislative assembly in the world, to offer a dishonest cheque well knowing that they had not the slightest intention of finding the funds to cash that cheque. He would not go into rhapsodies over the veterans of labour. The time was past for that kind of thing. This was a practical question of money. Where was the money to come from? He hoped the Government would not repeat the farce of last year when the House was told that they were quite in sympathy

with the principles of the Bill but could not find the money. He appealed to the Government for information as to their intentions. Was this to be a practical proposal or a mere sham? Was it to be only an electioneering device? Would the Government provide the money, and really tackle this great social problem? He hoped, for the credit of the House of Commons and the comfort of the aged poor of the country, that the answer would be in the affirmative.

*SIR JOHN ROLLESTON (Leicester) said that as almost all parties and almost all people were agreed that some provision should be made by the State in old age for those who needed it, he was sure the Bill would be welcomed both by the House and the country. But great as was the agreement on principle, there were differences of opinion as to details. He agreed most thoroughly, in the first place, with the provision in the Bill that a standard of means or a standard of poverty should be necessary to qualify any applicant for a pension. To provide pensions for all, whether needed or not, would in his opinion, constitute a liability which the State ought not, under any circumstances, to incur, having regard to the great difficulties in the way of financing a measure of that kind. Such a scheme would by its own ambition tend to defeat its own accomplishment. The great blot on the Bill was the provision that the Treasury would only be called on for part and not for the whole of the cost, the balance being left on the local ratepayers. Local rates were levied on a limited class of property; and many of the local ratepayers were themselves in a condition of indigence. The class of property singled out to pay rates was bearing an almost intolerable burden; and no further burden ought to be placed on the local ratepayers until at least such time as all property, and not only some property, should be brought to share the general expenses of the community. Pensions were a national need, and should be contributed to by everyone. That proposition was both socialistic and scientific. The Report of the Royal Commission on the subject made no recommendations as to finance; and he agreed thoroughly that until it could be shown how the money would be provided there could be no pensions. Taxation would

have to be considerably widened to provide funds for a measure of this kind, and they had recently seen great difficulties in the way of doing this. In his opinion the great annual cost of a scheme of this kind would have to be met very largely by indirect taxation, aided perhaps by a differentiated or graduated Income Tax—not an Income Tax levied in the clumsy and unscientific manner the Income Tax was at present.

Again, the principle of the taxation of luxuries might have to be very largely developed. He did not propose to make suggestions in detail now, although he would be quite prepared to do so when the occasion arose. No one could be serious in his advocacy of a scheme of pensions for old people unless he was prepared at the same time to make suggestions as to how the money should be provided. Another blot in the Bill was the fact that it embraced, though rather vaguely, the pernicious doctrine of evidence of thrift. Pensions, if provided at all, should be provided for those who had nothing as well as for those who might have been able to insure or put money into the savings bank. It was not the members of friendly societies or the prosperous working classes who had the greatest need of pensions. Those who had the greatest need were those who had been neglected from birth by drunken and dissolute parents, and were gutter-bred and street-reared. Surely the same should not be expected from them as from children reared under greater advantages. If these in after-life formed a class feeble in body and mind, with a dull moral sense, incapable of great mental or physical effort, a class living in slums or doss-houses, that class, in his opinion, was entitled to pensions in old age if they ever reached it. Then there were the quiet workers, broken by disease or misfortune, widows and spinsters who worked in garrets. What evidence of thrift would their more prosperous countrymen demand from them before they could qualify for a pittance from the State? If proof of thrift were required, then let it be evidence of it that for sixty-five years they had kept the immortal soul just in touch with their poor wretched bodies, and that, under every disability from birth, they had kept themselves as living members of the human family, and, as such,

were entitled to the sympathy and regard of the State when it was making provision for the poorest of its subjects. It was the members of this class who were more in need of a pension than the members of friendly societies or prosperous artisans, and he earnestly hoped that no Bill would be persevered with which embodied in any shape the sanctimonious doctrine of evidence of thrift. He discarded altogether the argument, which he believed to be absolutely false and unsound, that the prospect of 5s. a week in old age would tend to make the people prodigal and unthrifty. On the contrary, he believed that the knowledge that a small pension in old age was a privilege of citizenship, the right of all who needed it, would tend to act, not as a deterrent, but as a stimulant to endeavour, and to make the people more hopeful and consequently more enterprising and industrious.

Many hon. Members in their election campaigns had expressed themselves—and he hoped sincerely—in favour of a scheme of old-age pensions. There were few Members who would care to go to their constituents and express themselves as opposed to a reasonable measure of that kind. If their Members who made the laws were in agreement, what was there to prevent the necessary Act being passed? It had been mentioned that some prominent members of the Government, although not pledged, had yet expressed themselves as favourably disposed to a measure of this kind. He could only hope that that favourable disposition would bear fruit. The inception of the scheme was theirs. In that celebrated and all-embracing catalogue, the Newcastle programme, any mention of it was conspicuously absent. With the great resources of this country, many of them still untapped, financial considerations ought not to stand in the way, if all classes were prepared to make some small sacrifice. Only the other day a loan, not for the service of this country, but for another country, was over-subscribed by a 3 per cent. deposit alone. Could there be any doubt that the people as a whole would submit to being taxed to provide funds for a scheme designed to assist the poorest of the poor of their own country? He did not suppose

anybody in the House thought anything further could be done for the Bill. They had met that afternoon for their usual Friday afternoon exercise, viz., to express their approval or disapproval of a principle. He hoped the approval which the principle of the Bill would meet with would be unanimous; and that when the next session came round the Government programme would include the announcement of a similar measure, which he was sure would be welcomed by both Parliament and the people as evidence of our advancing civilisation, and as a landmark in the march of progress in this country.

MR. FENWICK (Northumberland, Wansbeck) said he agreed with the hon. Member who had just sat down that the submerged tenth were highly deserving of pensions, but he could not agree that they were more deserving than those who had joined the friendly societies, though they might be in greater need. He, however, could assure the House that there were members of the friendly societies who were very greatly in need, in more senses than one, when they reached the age of sixty-five. He joined in the hope that a Bill would appear in the programme of the Government next session, although he had looked in vain for it during the last nine years. It was quite true that this measure, supported as it was by hon. and right hon. Gentlemen on both sides of the House, could not be said to be a Party measure, but he could not agree that hon. and right hon. Gentlemen sitting on the Treasury Bench had placed the question before the country in a definite shape. The question was in the same position as it was nine years ago. It was in a most nebulous condition. Vague generalities had been indulged in by one hon. Member and another, but none of the Members on the Treasury Bench had ever ventured to place the question in a definite shape before the electors. Credit had been claimed by some, for the fact, that the Government had been the pioneers in this matter, but that was not so. It was the late Dr Hunter who first introduced this question to public notice. He had a clearer insight into the problems affected by this question than any hon.

Gentleman he (Mr. Fenwick) had ever heard discuss it, either inside or outside the House. The only attempt to give definite shape to this question by the Government was in 1898, when both the present Prime Minister and the Colonial Secretary were absent from the debate, and the Member for South Tyrone, then the Secretary to the Local Government Board, was instructed on behalf of the Government to oppose the Second Reading on the ground that an inquiry was at the moment proceeding. In 1894 a Liberal Government took up a similar attitude, they themselves having appointed a Royal Commission, but on that occasion the Colonial Secretary, although the Committee had not made its Report, stepped into the arena of debate, and supported the Bill, and refused to be governed by the fact that the Royal Commission had not reported, although he was a member of the Commission. He then stated that he considered the matter was ripe for further legislation. If that were so, how could he have remained a member of a Government with a large majority for nine years, and made no attempt to give particular and definite shape to this matter by passing legislation. So convinced were certain members of the Government that the matter was ripe for further legislation, that they urged the mover of the Second Reading on that occasion not to withdraw the measure, but to proceed to a division, because the Government had promised to give further opportunity for debate when the report of the Royal Commission was issued, and in the division that followed they voted in favour of the Second Reading. The hon. Member in charge of the Bill had done well to remind the Government of the pledges they had given in regard to this matter. Such reminders were much needed. These pledges of the Government seemed to him to be somewhat inconvenient to them; it struck him they would gladly be free from the responsibility and obligation which rested on them in consequence of the pledges they had given.

In 1895, in a speech which the late Chancellor of the Exchequer delivered at Newport, he stated the Government intended to reform the Poor Laws with the co-operation of the

friendly societies, and in some way aid poor men in their old age, but last year at Bristol the same right hon. Gentleman delivered a speech to his constituents drawing attention to the extraordinary way in which the expenditure of the country was increasing, and said among those who were urging the Government to increased expenditure were the great trades unions of this country who desired old-age pensions. A few days previous to that speech being delivered, the Trades Union Congress had passed a resolution in favour of an old age pension of 5s., but those who were responsible for the passing of that resolution were those who had encouraged the expectations of working-men, and excited hopes in their minds, which they never took the slightest step to realise. Whatever might be said of the strength of the case for old-age pensions in 1895, the case to-day was infinitely stronger in consequence of legislation, of which he approved, having passed both Houses since that year. He alluded to the Workmen's Compensation Act. He therefore ventured to endorse the hope given utterance to by both the mover and seconder, and also by others who had taken part in the debate, that the Government would no longer tinker with this question, that they would no longer put them off, as they did last year, with a sympathetic reply from the President of the Local Government Board, but that they would admit that the time was now ripe for serious action, and for giving some practical effect to the views which had been advanced from time to time. There was no question which excited a greater interest in the minds of the working classes of this country than this question of old-age pensions. If they could give working men a sense of security, and a firm conviction that, in the event of a fatal accident happening to them while in the active pursuit of their employment, their widows and children would be looked after, and that when they themselves were well advanced in life they would not have to go to the workhouse, they would have taken a step calculated to produce such social peace and tranquillity as had probably never before reigned in this country. It was because he had long been a firm

believer in this proposal for old age pensions, and desired to see some practical progress made with it, that he ventured to reiterate the hope that they would have this year something more than a sympathetic reply from the representative of the Government, and that the House itself would demand that immediate action should be taken to fulfil the legitimate expectations which had been created in the minds of the industrial classes.

*MR. GROVES (Salford, S.) said the fact that this question had been the subject of several Royal Commissions, and had formed the basis of discussions in that House on many previous occasions, proved that it claimed the national attention, and possessed a real interest for the representatives of agricultural and working-class constituencies. The hon. Member for the Wansbeck division had attacked the Government for neglect of opportunity. He did not appear as the apologist of the Government; he would leave them to answer for themselves; but he was waiting as anxiously as hon. Members opposite for their reply to that direct charge, in which he thought there was a certain amount of truth, and he hoped now that the opportunity had again come round they would give utterance to their views on this important question. Although the Bill made an attempt to indicate methods by which this pressing difficulty could be met, it did no more than suggest a line which might reasonably carry with it the majority of the House, and the support of the friendly societies and those who had to administer the Poor Law. At the bottom of the whole matter was really the necessity for an entire revision of our Poor Law administration, and, since that question could not be dealt with from a governmental point of view except on a broad basis, that possibly was an excuse, if any were needed, for the Government not having mentioned the subject as an item in the King's Speech. As to the objection that the submerged tenth, or the derelicts of society, would not benefit by the operation of this Bill, he felt it was necessary to differentiate between that class, for whom the workhouse would still be available, and those who by their habits of thrift had

endeavoured to make some provision against old age and decrepitude. In a work-a-day nation such as ours there would always be that derelict class, and it was not too much to ask that those who endeavoured to help themselves should receive first consideration, and not be compelled to associate with the derelicts before referred to in the workhouse. Whether or not a division was taken, he hoped the Government would take an early opportunity of giving effect to the pledges which most Members on that side of the House had given in this matter.

As to the administrative clauses of the Bill, in the absence of any better suggestion he thought the proposed council would form a very satisfactory body for its purpose. But the promoters were not bound to any hard and fast line, and all these questions of detail could be properly discussed in Committee. If the amount of the monetary provision was insufficient to meet the needs of the recipient there was always the option under the existing Poor Law administration by taking an order for the house. As a Poor Law guardian he had often felt that some extended form of outdoor relief would be more advisable than an order for the workhouse, but there was always the difficulty presented by the element of fraud among the applicants for relief. The Bill proposed to take all reasonable precautions against such fraud, but each case would have to be considered on its merits. There was a curious correspondence between the main proposals of the Bill and an important charity in Salford. That charity provided for the administration of relief to the aged and deserving poor; the recipients had either to be Salford born and bred or to have resided in the immediate district for twenty years, to have led sober, thrifty, and industrious lives, and to have kept off the rates up to the age of at least sixty-five years. That was practically the scheme of the Bill, and in operation it had been remarkably successful. As to the practicability of this scheme, he was content to follow the lead of the Colonial Secretary, who had first brought the question within the range of practical politics, and who, he hoped, before the debate closed, would assure the House that his opinions had not changed.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick) was of opinion that little time ought to be spent in discussing the details of the Bill, which dealt with a question on which the Irish people were even more interested than the English. The House should decide on the main principle, and leave the details to be threshed out in Committee in a practical manner. The whole of the Unionist Party were really pledged to the idea of old-age pensions, that having been the main cry at the two last General Elections. But little had been heard of it since, and the matter was now being discussed on a private Members' Bill for which the Government would accept no responsibility. It was time the President of the Local Government Board made a full and frank statement of the intentions of the Government, so that the House might know just how they stood. In his experience of Poor Law administration he was convinced that in no other country in the world could there be found so foolish and expensive a system of relief as that practised in the three kingdoms. They had a most expensive system of administration. The officers were the most highly paid in the community according to their merits. In Ireland they had too many workhouses, and they were not half full. One of the most pressing questions in Ireland was what to do with the idle workhouses. If they had a system of outdoor relief for the aged poor they would get rid of a number of those people who were now in workhouses. One of the things which troubled the poor people most was the thought that they had no provision for old age, and they looked upon the workhouse as the natural place for them in their old age. If they had a reformation of the Poor Law system, and made every able-bodied pauper work as they did in America, they would do much to solve this question. He stood up to voice the working men and the vast majority of the population in Ireland that this Aged Pensions Bill was required in Ireland more than in England. The philanthropic men and women of Ireland were in favour of this Bill, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would make a frank avowal of the views of the Government upon this subject.

*MR. GOULDING (Wiltshire, Devizes) said that few questions aroused keener interest among the industrious poor than that of old-age pensions. Reference had been made to the opinions of the Colonial Secretary, and he was bound to say that to no man were they under more obligation upon this subject than to the Colonial Secretary. He was the first politician who, by calling attention to the subject, aroused the attention of the nation to it. He did this at times when his hands were less full than they were to-day, and if the time of the right hon. Gentleman was not engrossed with those greater questions of Empire, the question of old-age pensions would not be in the unfortunate position in which it stood to-day. He hoped the Colonial Secretary might soon have time to assist his colleagues in regard to this matter. Last year he called attention to the statements made by the President of the Local Government Board, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Leader of the House, and all those Ministers made speeches leading the people to believe that they were prepared to deal with old-age pensions, and thus remove what undoubtedly was a disgrace to this country to-day. It had been stated that two-thirds of the whole adult population of this country were drawn from the agricultural labourers, the unskilled labourers, and the women wage earners. It had been stated that two out of three of those classes in their old age had nothing to look forward to but the workhouse. The amount of their wage and the uncertainty of their employment made it impossible for those three classes of people to make any provision for old age. Would any hon. Member contend that two out of every three of those people when they reached old age were non-deserving, and ought to have no alternative but the workhouse? He believed in canvassing at elections, because it brought under the eyes of would be representatives the conditions under which some of the poor live. He had contested elections both in London and in the country, and he had come across innumerable cases where the poor had all their work cut out to keep a roof over their heads, with the certainty that if illness befalls

them, or in the increasing pace of modern industry, the old people were often turned out for the young, nothing await them but a paupers domicile. He had visited workhouses, and he never did so without coming away more convinced than ever, when he saw the inexpressible sadness depicted upon some of the faces of the aged poor, of the necessity for old-age pensions. How could it be otherwise? No matter how industrious they might have been they were doomed to end their days in the workhouse from misfortune and destitution, having committed no crime. They might be associated with men just out of gaol, with drunkards, and prostitutes, and with people with whom they would never have associated in their better days. What effect would such treatment have upon the working classes outside? Under the present system the same treatment was given to the industrious and the thrifty as was held out to the most reckless people in the State. Many of their friendly societies, which had done such great work, had the clouds of insolvency over them. Over and over again the managers of friendly societies had given sick pay rather than see their members forced into the workhouse.

He believed this question could be dealt with without a very vast expenditure of money. The Poor Law must be made the instrument for giving effect to the system of old-age pensions. They were spending £12,000,000 per annum upon the Poor Law. In 1901 the Local Government Board distinguished between the expenditure on indoor and outdoor relief. The expenditure upon indoor paupers in London amounted to £35 11s. per head per annum, and for England and Wales the amount was £24. Consequently they were paying a sum of 13s. 9d. per week each for indoor paupers, and between 3s., 4s., and 5s. per week for outdoor paupers. He found the expenditure exclusively relating to indoor relief in England and Wales amounted to nearly £6,000,000 a year. Of that sum no less than £1,346,000 went in the payment of officials. When they came to outdoor relief the whole expenditure amounted to £3,250,000, and the

amount spent on officials was only £500,000 per annum, the lesser sum relieved twice as many people while allowing them to live in their own homes. He defied anyone to read that statement and say they were satisfied with those Returns. Were they prepared to give the ne'er-do-well and the drunkard provision in the workhouses when they grudged the deserving and industrious poor such a contribution as 5s. or 7s. a week which would enable them to live in their own homes. This Bill had been drafted upon the recommendations of Committees, upon which both sides of the House were represented. They maintained the machinery of the Poor Law because they were not anxious to spend more money in the creation of a further staff of officials. There were no more humane public servants than those associated with the administration of the Poor Law, whose care in dealing with the poor was well known. With regard to the 10s. limit complaint had been made as to the hardships inflicted in the case of those just under this limit, say 9s. a week, securing with the pension say 14s. a week, as against those with 10s. a week and no pension. He saw no reason why the combined income of savings and pension should be settled not to exceed 10s. a week. The pensioner with 7s. saving should receive an amount in pension to bring his income up to 10s. a week. As an encouragement to friendly societies incomes derived from this source might not be included.

With regard to the objection raised last year by the President of the Local Government Board he might say that power was given under this Bill for the Local Government Board under the representation of the authorities to combine one union with other unions so that the charges might be fairly distributed. No one wished to see the poor localities saddled with more than their share of the expense. Complaint was made against the inquiry required under this Bill. So that they could distinguish between the deserving and the non-deserving class they must have a Committee of Inquiry. They did not repeat under this Bill what existed in the Poor Law system, namely, that of treating the ne'er-do-well and the thrifty on the same basis. They must have

some inquiry as regarded the character and antecedents of the applicant. Would the working classes object to such an inquiry? He had asked prominent members of Boards of Guardians if they thought the working classes would object to these proceedings, and they said they would not because such an inquiry would be carried on in a humane manner. A man would not consider it was an indignity to be asked as to his credentials when he came up for a pension, in the same way as if he was seeking a situation, and as the authority was local the antecedents of the applicant would be known in the great majority of cases. His hon. and learned friend the Member for Stretford said he would like to see an Order of the House to the effect that those responsible for bringing in these Bills should be called upon to show how the money was to be raised. He had no objection to that. The Government had a supply of money at the present time, for they had a tax bringing in £2,500,000 a year, which pressed upon no one and which came from the people as a whole. Let the Government reconsider that question and appropriate the money for old-age pensions. If there was not enough from the Corn Tax, he was prepared to give his vote for a proposal that the next 1d. above sixpence on the Income Tax should be ear-marked to meet the demand for old-age pensions. His estimate of the cost was that the State would have to find between £2,700,000 and £3,000,000, while it would cost the various localities about £3,500,000. He had not worked out those figures upon hazy estimates, but he had taken, as far as he could obtain them, the number of pensioners in other districts.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs): Are those figures for the whole of the United Kingdom?

*MR. GOULDING: Yes. In Denmark there was an old-age pension system which had been in operation for some time. That scheme only granted pensions to people of sixty years of age and over. The Bill before the House would only apply to those of sixty-five years of age and over. He had taken his figures upon the basis that there

would be a greater charge for England, although he thought the actual result would be the other way. In Great Britain he took the population at about 40,000,000, and in Denmark the population was 2,500,000. Working upon that estimate, he calculated that about 145,000 men and nearly 300,000 women would require pensions. That 450,000 multiplied by six gave the sum he had named. A well-known inspector from the Local Government Board was sent across to Denmark to see how the old-age pension system worked there, and the result of his inquiries had been to show that owing to the establishment of old-age pensions the cost of Poor Law in that country had been reduced by no less than one-seventh. If the House would recollect, the figures he gave were that they were spending £27 12s. per head on indoor paupers at the present time in England and Wales including London. They would at once see that by the establishment of old-age pensions they would effect a considerable saving in that direction in this country. He had calculated that in this way there would be a saving of £1,000,000 upon indoor relief, which he did not think was too much. The result of all this would be that the bare charge would amount to something like £3,500,000. Supposing those figures were correct, and the charge was only £6,000,000 or £7,000,000 a year, was that any excuse for not taking action? He believed that had it not been for the war in South Africa an Old Age Pensions Bill would have been passed. He voted the money for the war, and he was not going to complain that the war had stopped a solution to this question. The war was now ended and the Government had got a free hand, and he wished to know what they were going to do.

The public were getting tired of delay upon this subject, and he did not think there was anything to prevent the Government dealing with the subject next year. As a supporter of the Government he should not be satisfied with such a speech as the President of the Local Government Board made upon the last occasion. It was now said that if they were to have social questions effectively

Mr. Goulding.

dealt with, that they must have more working class representatives. He should welcome a larger return of the representatives of the working class, but he was as certain as any man could be that if the House only got the lead from the Government, every hon. Member of the House would be found as much animated with the desire for old-age pensions as any working class representative, and they were just as ready to give their votes earnestly and sincerely for a solution of this question. He would like an earnest of the Government's intention. They could let this Bill go to a Second Reading, and then send it up to the Grand Committee on Trade, and then perhaps this Bill would be of some advantage to the Government in framing a larger Bill next year. If there were hon. Members opposed to old-age pensions why had they not the pluck to say so? If they were against the principle of this Bill, which would involve the expenditure of a sum of not less than £7,000,000, let them divide against it, and let it be known who were the friends of old-age pensions and who were not. He himself was acting under no pressure, but from earnest conviction, and he would do what he could towards the solution of this great question. He was not willing to allow year after year to go by without anything being done. The influence of a private Member was little, but he for one was not prepared to allow it to be said, as it was said to-day, that we, the richest nation in the world, allowed the deserving poor to have their old age clouded with the fear of the workhouse, and that it should continue to be said of the industrious poor that their lot could be described as a blessed prospect—to slave while they had strength, in age the workhouse.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said the hon. Member for the Devizes Division had made a very eloquent speech which had impressed the House very considerably, and in his concluding words he claimed that he and his friends were sincere in their desire to see some advance made on this question. He did not for a moment question it. He heard the speech of the hon. Gentleman who moved the Second Reading of the Bill,

and he was impressed with his earnestness, as he was also by the speeches of two or three others. It would be for the Government to show whether they were equally earnest in redeeming the promises they had made to the deserving poor of the country. There was one statement made by an hon. Member which was worth making a note of, and that was that old-age pensions had been postponed largely owing to our South African enterprises. He did not doubt it for a moment, and he hoped that workmen outside would also take note of this. It was all very well for the hon. Member to turn round and say what he anticipated the Government would do now, when they had a free hand. The hon. Member knew very well that it was very little use having a free hand unless they had a full purse. He thought this would be a very good lesson to the workmen of the country. It would help them to realise that they could not have their cake and eat it. They could not have wild enterprises abroad, the squandering of £250,000,000, great armies and swaggering glory, and at the same time have those great domestic reforms which cost money. He would refer to the question of the sincerity of those who supported this proposal by and by, but first of all he would like to say one or two words on the Bill. He was one of those who had the honour of sitting on the Committee that framed the Report on which the Bill was based, and he was one of those who signed the Majority Report. He very much regretted that all his colleagues were not here to support it. He saw the hon. and learned Member for Stretford present, and he would say for him that he had the honesty and sincerity then to protest against it, so that he had nothing to repent of. The hon. and learned Member was here with a clean record, and that accounted for the fact that he was here; but there were other gentlemen who were not present.

The hon. Member for the Devizes Division had, he thought, underestimated the cost of the scheme; he himself did not think there was anything to be gained by shirking that question. On the contrary, he thought if they did so it would do a lot of harm. It was much

better frankly to face the prospect of the expenditure which would be involved. The Treasury disliked this sort of thing. It was the business of the Treasury to frighten the Government in regard to a thing of this sort. He did not think that the Treasury had erred on the side of underestimating the cost. The officials of that Department were men of experience and integrity and the House must rely on the estimate they had put before them. According to the estimate of the Treasury officials, the cost would be, not £6,000,000 or £7,000,000, but £10,000,000 of money. That was the estimate made in 1899. Since then the Government were too frightened. They said "£10,000,000 for the deserving poor! Not at all! The country would not stand it." Since then the Government had added £30,000,000 to the taxation of the country; but not for the deserving poor in the way of providing old-age pensions. They could not find one third of that amount for the deserving poor. He did not think the workmen of this country would object to a tax, even if they had to bear a considerable share of it, if it were known that it was for this purpose. He really protested against mere attempts for electioneering purposes—because there was too much of electioneering about this from beginning to end—simply to claim that some other class should bear the burden—either the Income Tax payers or land values. He thought it would be a good thing for the workmen themselves if they were to contribute by means of a tax towards old-age pensions. By way of illustration, and just to show how it could be done, although he was not making the proposal, a mere penny on sugar would cover the whole £10,000,000 to begin with. He was not suggesting that as a means, but he mentioned it as one of the methods that could be devised. That showed that it was not in itself actually impossible. The people would pay if they knew that it was for a kind of insurance fund. As to the age limit, somebody had said something about seventy. That had been tried in Germany, and what happened was this. The rural population had benefited to some extent, but in the towns the seventy limit was perfectly useless. It was a very sad and tragic fact that the seventy limit there

Mr. Lloyd-George.

did not benefit anybody. If we were going to face the question, it must be a sixty-five years limit. He thought they were all agreed that it was a great scandal that the old should have nothing to look forward to in their declining years, when they had exhausted their savings, but the workhouse. Of course he meant sober and industrious men. However much a man could save he could not keep on until he was sixty or sixty-five or seventy years of age. The Local Government Board practically forced the poor into the workhouse. He was not complaining of the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Local Government Board, but of the general policy of the Board. There had been a great deal done about this matter in Wales. There the policy had always been a policy of outdoor relief. If an old worker had a little cottage and garden and received 1s. or 2s. from relatives, and came to the guardians and said, "Give me another 3s. or 4s. so that I may be able to keep myself and my wife too," under the regulations of the Local Government Board it would be necessary to separate that couple, send them to the workhouse, break up the home, and break their hearts. In Wales the guardians had ignored the Local Government Board. An official came down and lectured them, but luckily he lectured them in a language which they did not understand.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (MR. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.): I would ask whether the hon. Member is not rather exaggerating the action of the Department? The regulations of the Department say that outdoor relief shall not be given to able-bodied men, but in the case of the old and decrepit class exemptions are allowed, and they do not come within the range of the Local Government Board regulations. And, so far as I know, our inspectors' lectures are not intended to prevent that class from obtaining outdoor relief, but to prevent the indiscriminate granting of outdoor relief.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said he knew very well what the practice was. A man might be able to earn occasionally 2s. or 3s. a week, and the Local Government

Board said that he was an able-bodied man. The guardians were not likely to give outdoor relief in cases where they were not obliged to do it, because they were farmers, and had to bear the brunt of local taxation. The Welsh language had been a sort of bulwark in that respect, because all the great lectures on economy were lost upon the guardians. Somebody in the course of the debate had said something about the danger of the 10s. limit. He thought they must have some limit, as they could not start with a huge proposal of £26,000,000 a year. He did not think it was a desirable thing from the point of view of old-age pensions, for the simple reason that the taxpayers would be frightened off. He believed that Mr. Charles Booth's scheme might be found ultimately to be the only workable one, but they could only bring the ratepayers up gradually. As to suggestions of fraud, of course the scheme lent itself to fraud, but so did every scheme. Every law they could devise must lend itself to those who had fraudulent intent, and they would set themselves to it, however good the law might be. Reference had been made to the case of persons who said they received no help from relations. There were cases of pensioners in exalted positions, who were neither old, nor poor, nor deserving, and who also had relations who might keep them, but somehow or other they managed to get outside these things, and to get pensions. If these things were possible in high places, why should not a poor person follow the example now and again, without bringing a charge of fraud against the whole community?

After all, was this a serious debate? If they were here as a House of Commons considering what was to be done for the old and deserving poor, they were practically agreed, and if they were serious they could put it through. Would any one looking at the present condition of the House say that it was a serious debate? Ten years ago old-age pensions was a great electioneering question, and when it came up the House was crowded. How many had they here now? He remembered the debate in which the Colonial Secretary took part, when hon. Gentlemen sitting on the Government side of the House were

sitting on this side, where he hoped to see them again soon. It was a Wednesday afternoon debate, and in the course of it there were five at least who took part who were Members of the present Unionist Government. Now, here was a Bill nine years afterwards, and how many members of the Unionist Government were here? Where were the five? They had got their old-age pensions and they had retired. [AN HON. MEMBER: Where are the hon. Gentleman's own leaders?] His leaders would not prescribe until they got the fees. They were not resident doctors. What happened on that occasion? There was one right hon. Gentleman who used to take a great interest in old-age pensions. What had become of him? He had looked up what the right hon. Gentleman had said on that occasion, and it was most interesting. He was a member of the Royal Commission which was then sitting, but he would not wait for their Report; he was so impatient. It reported in the course of a few months. The Government said—"We are waiting until this Royal Commission reports." It was the first that had sat on the question. The right hon. Gentleman said "No, it is ripe for the sickle; let us have the harvest in now." Well, he had had the harvest in, but it was not in the barns of the poor. The golden grain had got into somebody else's threshing machine. The right hon. Gentleman on that occasion said some remarkable things. He said the poor of the country could not wait. An hon. Gentleman opposite said that the right hon. Gentleman could not attend to this thing now. He was too busy taxing the bread of the poor to have any thought of old-age pensions for them. He was formulating great schemes for taxing the raw material of the industrial classes and had no time for such things as old-age pensions. (At this point Mr. J. Chamberlain entered the House and took his seat beside Mr. Long, President of the Local Government Board.) He was very glad to see the Colonial Secretary present. In the debate of which he was speaking, the right hon. Gentleman said, "What about the Bill now." That was the Bill of the hon. Member for the Ilkeston Division. He said the scheme which was brought in

had served an electioneering purpose, and was dropped when the hon. Member got office. It was monstrous that anybody should bring in an old-age pension scheme, talk about it, and when he got into office drop it. The right hon. Gentleman's conscience revolted against the mere idea. Well, the right hon. Gentleman himself had had an old-age pension scheme. In fact, he was a man of many schemes, and this was one of them. He was like a man who was fond of quack medicines. He was full of one of them for a time, and then dropped it for a fresh one. Some years ago the right hon. Gentleman was full of old-age pensions. He went through the country recommending it—travelling for it—and a very good trade he made out of it, but the profits were not distributed among the deserving poor. He went down to the constituencies denouncing Liberal candidates, and saying, "They have got impossible schemes to benefit the poor. I am the right man, and I have got the right thing." He gave them his programme, and old-age pensions was one of the practical reforms included in it. He said it was a practical reform, ripe for settlement, and that it might be secured by the assistance of the then Unionist Government. He said it would be settled if the Government received the hearty support of the working classes. The working men took the right hon. Gentleman at his word, believing him to be a man of honour, and performed their part of the bargain. But where was the right hon. Gentleman's part of the bargain? The right hon. Gentleman pocketed the votes of the working classes, and forgot all about old-age pensions. He was not going to use strong language about that transaction. The statement of the facts was itself sufficient. Since the right hon. Gentleman had made that speech, a great many things had happened. The right hon. Gentleman had seen the beauties of the illimitable veldt, and he had forgotten all about temperance, finance, education, and old-age pensions. Those insignificant things were not to be put into the same category as the illimitable veldt.

Mr. Lloyd-George

The Colonial Secretary and the President of the Local Government Board, who sat beside him, were a very appropriate couple. He was very glad they were in the dock together. By some process of natural selection they ranged themselves side by side. In the debate to which he had referred, the President of the Local Government Board was full of old-age pensions. He, too, could not wait for the Report of the Royal Commission, but said that something must be done in the course of that Parliament. The right hon. Gentleman, however, though he was in the office which dealt with this particular business, had also been too busy. He had been so busy finding excuses for the blunders of his colleagues that he had had no time to attend to little matters of this sort in his own Department. The right hon. Gentleman told the House that there was no doubt the question of old-age pensions had been brought to its present condition by the labours of the Member for West Birmingham. He paid the right hon. Gentleman a compliment and gave him a testimonial. It was the labours also of the right hon. Gentleman which, by causing an expenditure of £250,000,000 for the war in South Africa, had brought the question of old-age pensions to its present low estate. He had rounded the circle on this as he had on other topics. If the right hon. Gentleman had made the subject popular his responsibility was all the greater. The right hon. Gentleman had no right to make a thing popular, to reap the benefits of that popularity, and then to throw the thing overboard. In 1894, the right hon. Gentleman said that the deserving poor were impatient for this reform. Had the poor become less impatient? Or was it that they were less poor or less deserving? Why had the right hon. Gentleman altered his opinion on the question? "What!" says the right hon. Gentleman, "deserving poor, are you clamouring for your pensions still? Turn your thoughts from these worldly, insignificant affairs, and contemplate the illimitable veldt." But that was no answer to the cry of the deserving poor. The right hon. Gentleman had forced this question to the front, and, having got electioneering advantages

from it, was it right that he should cast it aside? He could quote passage after passage from the speeches of the right hon. Gentleman—delivered, not in his Radical days, but in the present days of his maturity—appealing for popular support on the ground that he was going to do something practical for the deserving poor. But the deserving poor and their pensions had been made but the sport of politics. It was monstrous. He did not care what the present occupation of the right hon. Gentleman might be. The right hon. Gentleman might have given his engagements to the millionaires of Johannesburg; but the right hon. Gentleman had given earlier engagements to the deserving poor of the United Kingdom, and by those engagements he was bound. It was a cruel thing to fill the poor with false hopes, and, having reaped political advantages from them, dash the hopes that had been raised to the ground.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): I thought my opinions were so well-known on this subject that it would not be necessary for me to intervene on the present occasion in reference to a question on which I have spoken frequently both in the country and in the House. I came in accidentally because I have other serious work to do; but I consider myself fortunate, in that I was in time to hear the extremely humorous speech of the hon. Gentleman who has just sat down. I am not myself certain whether the subject properly lends itself to that kind of treatment. I, at any rate, have always regarded it as a matter of the very gravest importance, and I confess I can point to that past with which the hon. Gentleman taunts me, as showing that when I first introduced the subject to public notice I pressed for its non-Party treatment. The history of this question has been before now stated to the House of Commons, although the hon. Member, of course, conveniently forgets all that has been said in answer to the charges which he has repeated in a farcical spirit. The facts, however, are these. In the first instance the matter was considered by a private Committee, not an official Committee, of the House of Commons, which

members of every Party were invited to join. There was no idea whatever on the part of the promoters of that Committee of making this a party question, from which either Party could derive the slightest electioneering advantage. There was absolutely at that time no idea of deriving party advantage from it, and, as I say, the invitation to join this Committee was sent out to all Members of the House in all parts of the House. If hon. Members belonging to the other side did not join the Committee, that was not any fault of the promoters; as a matter of fact one gentleman, an old friend of mine, who was then an active Radical, Dr. Hunter, did join the Committee, and did give very useful and valuable advice on the subject. The result of the deliberations of the Committee was that a scheme which the hon. Gentleman with his usual inaccuracy described as my scheme, was presented to the public; and it is to that scheme chiefly that all his allusions refer.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I did not say so.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: On that occasion I carefully distinguished between what are known as old-age pensions, meaning by that any kind of system of universal application, and the proposal which this Committee made to assist the working classes to make provision for their own old age. What we proposed was not a provision of old-age pensions, but a stimulus to thrift which would, as we thought, tempt the working classes to make a much more general provision than they had hitherto done. That was the scheme. How was that scheme met by those Members of the Opposition who had not been present, or had not taken part in the deliberations of the Committee? They ridiculed it as altogether incomplete; and, of course, it was incomplete if it be considered side by side with the universal scheme recently adumbrated as possible. But, not satisfied with saying that the scheme was incomplete, they went about the country at this election, with a scheme promoted, I think by the Member for Ilkeston, and supported by the Member for Leicester, whom I do not see in his place, and other

members of that Party, in which the promise was distinctly made of a universal provision of old-age pensions at the expense of the State. That was, in my opinion, deceiving the poor. It was promising to the poor what, in the first place, I believe it is an absolute impossibility to give to them, and what, in the second place, I believe, and have always said, it would be undesirable to give them in that form, because the promise of universal pensions to everyone, without reference to previous character, would be the greatest blow ever struck at thrift in this country. And so far from seeking to benefit myself by these wild doctrines, as I regarded them, which were put forward by the other side, it is perfectly in my recollection, and even in the knowledge of the hon. Gentleman who has just sat down, that in the height of that election, speaking in the Potteries, when everything was in the balance, I warned my audience then, and through them everybody who cared to read what I had to say, that I could give no support whatever to these extreme and extravagant proposals, although I did think something might be done to make better provision for old age.

Again—I am saying what is within the knowledge of the hon. Gentleman, although all these things were omitted from his speech—I have stated on more than one occasion since, that the proposal of the Committee to which I have referred—not my proposal, although I shared in it—after having been fully discussed in public, was practically rejected by public opinion; and I felt that it was perfectly useless to proceed with that scheme. I will not go elaborately into what is really a dead question. [Cries of “Oh,” and laughter.] Hon. Gentlemen who have not studied this subject as much as I have are very likely to be premature, and I think they had better wait till I have finished my observations. When I say a dead question I mean this particular scheme which was known as the Parliamentary scheme. That is a dead question, and without going into all the reasons which might be said to have killed it, I will take one—which was that, under that scheme, no present benefit could have accrued to any one, because it was based on the assumption that if a man would put down a certain sum the Government

would put an addition to what he had contributed, and that then, forty years hence, he would, if he survived, have an old-age pension. I still think that scheme had some good qualities. It no doubt was a temptation to the existing youth of the working classes to make this provision; but inasmuch as it would not help anyone older than twenty-five, and would not help a man at twenty-five until forty years later, when he had reached the age of sixty-five, it was not to be wondered at that it had no popular support; and therefore, as a practical statesman, I recognised the unfavourable character of the criticisms to which it was subjected, and neither then nor at any subsequent time have I returned to that scheme. That having failed, I then turned my attention to the question how far progress could be made in the same direction with the help of the friendly societies, and I have referred to that again even in recent times. I think the last speech I made was to the Odd-fellows at Birmingham, when I again urged, in a very different spirit from that of the hon. Gentleman who has just sat down, the enormous importance of this question, which is never absent from my mind, the difficulty of dealing with it as a purely Party question, to be the sport of Parties, and the desirability of its being taken up, if possible, by the friendly societies who are outside all political agitation and interest, and of their contributing, as the result of their experience, some scheme which this Government, or any other Government which might succeed it, would be able to take up. Now, that really is, in brief, the history of my connection with this matter.

An hon. Gentleman opposite laughed just now when I spoke of a dead question, thinking, I presume, that I regarded the question of better provision for old age as a dead question. That is not at all my view. No doubt as one continues to devote attention to a matter which is exceedingly complicated and difficult, the obstacles in the way are rather multiplied than lessened; but the chief obstacles are not, to my mind, insuperable. After all, if we were to accept, for instance, as I should do, the scheme which was proposed by the Committee which was presided over by my right hon. friend the Member

for Sleaford—if we were to accept that scheme, we should have made an enormous practical advance towards old-age pensions; and, although there would have to be great elaboration of detail, there is nothing in the principle adopted by that Committee and recommended by that Committee to which I or my colleagues in the Government take any exception. The difficulty in regard to that recommendation has been a financial difficulty. When that Committee made their Report it was submitted to another Committee, not a Parliamentary Committee, in order that they might give us some indication of what the cost would be of a scheme based upon those lines. Speaking, as I have said, without any preparation, my memory may not be perfectly accurate in regard to the details, but my impression is that that Committee —[Mr. CRIPPS: Sir Edward Hamilton's Committee.]—Well, Sir Edward Hamilton's Committee, reported that the cost of such a scheme would be something like £10,000,000 a year. Let me say in passing that in making an estimate of this kind the figures of even the greatest experts must not be considered as being absolutely beyond criticism. It is quite possible that in some respects they take too liberal a view of the possibilities, and I myself was not entirely convinced that they had arrived at a correct conclusion. But one thing is certain, and was certain, that at that time, and now, the adoption of the scheme of my right hon. friend would involve the Treasury of this country in a very large charge of many millions. Well, before any Government can consider a scheme of that kind it must know where it is going to get the funds. I do not think that old-age pensions is a dead question; and I think it may not be impossible to find the funds, but that, no doubt, will involve a review of that fiscal system which I have indicated as necessary and desirable at an early date.

*SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston) said that the right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary, in reply to his hon. friend below the Gangway, stated that he had been guilty of a lapse of memory. He thought that the right hon. Gentleman himself was guilty of a lapse of memory, for he more than anyone else had made this an electioneering cry. The right hon. Gentleman had referred to the Bill which he

introduced into the House in 1890 or 1891, and he described that Bill, not for the first time, as an electioneering device. For his own part he repudiated that description, and denied that it was introduced with any such purpose. The Bill was introduced as the result of certain efforts to promote Poor Law reform which were before the House in 1888, and which were proposed by the Member for East Glamorganshire. In that Bill it was proposed that the Poor Laws should be so altered that the pauper should receive assistance as a pensioner without connection with the workhouse. Taking that idea he founded on it the Bill which the right hon. Gentleman had wrongly described as a Bill to provide universal old age pensions. It was nothing of the sort. The right hon. Gentleman himself in the debate in 1894 ridiculed that Bill because it was full of anomalies and restrictions, one of which he specially referred to, viz., that it would prevent persons who had been convicted for drunkenness from receiving benefit under it. The Colonial Secretary ought to have known that it was not a scheme of universal pensions. The fact was that the Bill was full of restrictions with regard to those who would receive pensions. The right hon. Gentleman was not the person to charge the hon. Member for Carnarvon Boroughs with lapse of memory when he himself was so inaccurate in reference to details. The right hon. Gentleman moreover had put before the working classes at Birmingham, in the midst of an election at Aston, old age pensions as one of the three great objects of his labour programme, but the right hon. Gentleman had done very little at present to justify that labour programme or to promote legislation in regard to old-age pensions. For his own part, when he occupied the position of Secretary of the Local Government Board, he could not push his Bill in the House. It was a Bill which only the Government could undertake, but he got the Government to appoint a Royal Commission, on which the right hon. Gentleman himself sat, and that was the first step towards realising some solution of the problem of old-age pensions. He thought these recriminations in the House were unworthy of a great subject,

and when the right hon. Gentleman had done as much, he might then come forward and hurl his taunts with a better justification than he had at present.

The Bill before the House had certain virtues, and it was becoming more and more necessary that a Bill of some kind should be passed. One of the reasons which induced many of them to regard this Bill as acceptable, was the increasing growth of the custom of discharging middle-aged workmen. That had gone on more than ever since the Workmen's Compensation Act was passed. What made him very interested in this subject in the beginning was that numbers of men capable of work, about fifty years of age, or a little over, who were no longer so alert as they used to be in their occupations, were unable to obtain places. They wanted a Bill passed in order that these industrious citizens, who were deserving of consideration, might not be forced to pass their last years in the dismal surroundings of the workhouse. He had no great objection to many of the provisions of the Bill. In fact the proposals as to the ten shillings limit, and certain restrictions as to character, were all taken from his own Bill, and they had more or less his support still. But the Bill had certain other defects. The first was that it did not work automatically. Any scheme of old-age pensions should not be placed in the hands of any minor local authority with power to discriminate between individuals, because it was very likely to lead to abuse and to favouritism, which ought not to exist, in the distribution of public money. If they would have old-age pensions above suspicion and controversy, the scheme should work automatically by the fulfilment of certain qualifications, which could be seen into by a clerk without the intervention of any local committee. This objection was put very specially before the select Committee by the hon. Member for Stretford, who had converted him to the view that any scheme to be effective must be automatic; and it was a defect of this Bill that it did not introduce the automatic system. The scheme, moreover, should be absolutely free from any taint, or suspicion of a taint, of Poor Law relief, and they could not have

that while it was administered by a Committee composed of a majority of Guardians. It would have been better if the Poor Law Guardians representation had only been one-third of the Committee, and even that would have been too large, and he knew that that view was very widely held by the working classes.

He did not wish to criticise the principle of the Bill, which he thought improved in detail upon the Bill of last year, because it included within its scope the scheme of the Cottage Home Committee's Bill, which would enable poor people to live in cottage homes without any stigma of pauperism. But he did not believe that any scheme would be satisfactory until it was made much broader. In the meantime, some attempt might be made to meet the difficulty, and this Bill offered the Government an opportunity of proposing a scheme less expensive. He thought the cost under this scheme was exaggerated if it was put as high as £10,000,000. But even if it were £10,000,000, he did not think that that cost ought to be prohibitive. Out of every £9,000,000 that went in actual relief of pauperism, £5,000,000 went in relief of the aged poor, and consequently they would save more than £1,000,000 a year as regarded the present administration of Poor Relief to aged persons. But it rested with the Government to devise some scheme for meeting the cost, which he did not think was beyond financial possibilities. Since the Government had been in power, they had added something like £45,000,000 a year to the normal expenditure of the country, and they had added over £150,000,000 to the National Debt. He thought the same financial ingenuity which had enabled them to do that, would enable them to find £10,000,000 for a most deserving class of people. The last Liberal Government gave their successors, on coming into office, a surplus of several millions, raised from the Death Duties by the financial genius of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouthshire, and that provided the very machinery necessary to bring about and realise a scheme of old-age pensions. But the last Government, of which this Government was the direct successor, used that

not for the benefit of the poor, but to help their friends with agricultural and various other kinds of doles. In the future he hoped that some money like that obtained from the death duties—money which came from the accumulated wealth of the country—he certainly would not agree to the suggestion that the Corn Tax should be retained for this purpose—should be earmarked for initiating some scheme of old-age pensions. And if they began with £5,000,000 a year, which would be 2s 6d. a week for every man and woman over sixty-five years of age, it would be a first step towards what would in the end be one of the most beneficent pieces of legislation which any Government could pass.

The debate might have been useful in recalling to hon. and right hon. Gentlemen opposite the promises made, not only by them, but also by his hon. friends, that the subject was one necessary to be dealt with by legislation. He believed that if a vote could be taken by ballot, irrespective of party politics, a majority of the House would vote for some immediate action being taken. The subject had become so popular, so engrained in the public mind, partly through the efforts of the Colonial Secretary, and partly through the work of the Member for North Islington which had been going on since 1871 with reference to the extension of the Poor Law in the direction of old age pensions, and especially by the writings of Mr. Charles Booth, that he believed if a vote were taken by ballot there would be an enormous majority in favour of immediate action being taken to satisfy the legitimate demands of the poor. He wanted some first step to be taken in the matter. The debate would be futile if they did not obtain some statement as to the intentions of the Government. If the right hon. Gentleman would tell the House that the Government intended to place this matter on their legislative programme for next session, and if he would accept the Second Reading of the Bill as an indication of the determination of the Government to bring this question into practical politics, by making it a Government measure next session, a great result would be obtained from the debate. But if the House was only to

receive a benevolent expression of the right hon. Gentleman's goodwill, without any definite promise or pledge, then the afternoon would be wasted, as many afternoons had been wasted, in discussing this great and urgent question. He would press on the right hon. Gentleman the necessity of taking some definite line in regard to this question. He hoped the Bill would be given a Second Reading, and referred to a Select Committee in order that it might form the basis for legislation next session. He hoped, at all events, the right hon. Gentleman would express himself as determined, in his official capacity, to do what he could to persuade his colleagues to make the question a subject of Parliamentary action next year.

MR. CHAPLIN (Lincolnshire, Sleaford) said he was sorry he was not in the House at the commencement of the debate, but that was rendered impossible by his being detained by the duties of a Royal Commission. He was fortunate, however, in having arrived in time to hear the speech of the Colonial Secretary, with which he cordially agreed, and in which he gave a true, temperate, and accurate statement as to what had been the course of events in regard to this question in the past. He heard the speech of the hon. Gentleman who had just spoken with a great deal of surprise. The hon. Gentleman said that the present Bill afforded, at all events, an opportunity for an immediate declaration—if not for immediate action—on the part of the Government. He never had been able to follow the course of the hon. Gentleman with regard to the question of old-age pensions. This Bill was practically founded on the Report of a Select Committee of which he himself had the privilege of being Chairman; and he had, as one of his associates on the Committee, the hon. Gentleman.

*SIR WALTER FOSTER said he voted against the Report of the Committee.

MR. CHAPLIN said that was why he had such difficulty in following the hon. Gentleman's course, because, when he circulated the Report to his colleagues on the Committee, he received a most

cordial and friendly letter from the hon. Gentleman in which he said—

“Your Report, in my opinion, is so admirable, and I approve of it so entirely, that I hope you will give me the amplest notice in order that I may be present at its discussion.”

In the course of the discussions on the Report, various alterations were made, all in favour of propositions which the hon. Gentleman supported; and, of course, he considered he had in the hon. Gentleman one of his warmest supporters. But to his intense surprise, when it came to the question, “that this be the Report of the Committee,” the hon. Gentleman at the last moment wheeled round and voted against the Report upon which the Bill he now so cordially supported was based.

*SIR WALTER FOSTER said he stated his ground for voting against the Report, viz., that it was incomplete inasmuch as it had not grappled at all with the financial question.

*MR. CHAPLIN said he was about to mention that. The hon. Gentleman said he did not know what it was going to cost. But the hon. Gentleman knew now, as he had had the advantage of studying a most carefully elaborated Report on this question. When the Report of the Select Committee was concluded, it became his duty, in accordance with the promise he had given to the Committee, to institute an inquiry by a body of experts as to what the cost would be. Doubt had been thrown on the accuracy of the estimate which was arrived at. What he did was this. Under the guidance of one of the most experienced civil servants in the country, Sir Edward Hamilton, the experts he appointed took an informal census of sixty or seventy districts throughout the kingdom for the purpose of ascertaining how many people in those districts would come within the provisions of the Report, and be able to fulfil the conditions which would entitle them to old age pensions. On that they made their estimate, and their estimate to the whole kingdom; it came out in this way—it would cost £10,000,000 a year immediately, and £15,000,000 a year very soon afterwards. He was under the impression that the hon.

Mr. Chaplin.

Gentleman was afraid of the excessive cost, and that that was why he hesitated to vote for the Report of the Committee; but now that he knew that in a few years a sum of £15,000,000 a year would have to be provided for this purpose, the hon. Gentleman saw in that an excellent reason for immediate action on the part of the Government. With great respect, he thought that was a very serious consideration indeed. What did it amount to? He did not say it was a reason for putting aside the question of old-age pensions, which he should be glad to see dealt with, if that were possible, on reasonable grounds. But what the House was asked to-day to do, was, in order to provide old age pensions for something like 600,000 persons out of a population of 40,000,000, to incur a debt to the extent of £15,000,000 a year. Regarded from that point of view, this was a Bill which no Parliament would be justified in dealing with except after the most deliberate and careful consideration, even if it were justified in dealing with it on those terms at all. When, therefore, the hon. Gentleman called on the Government for immediate action in connection with a question of such gravity and importance, it was one of the most unreasonable demands he had ever heard made by any hon. Member holding a responsible position in this House. If the matter could be dealt with on anything like reasonable grounds, he should be the last person to depart from any opinion he had expressed on the question; but he did not hesitate to say, speaking with a full sense of the responsibility which rested on him, that he would earnestly counsel not only the Government, but the House of Commons and Parliament, to be exceedingly careful before they adopted the proposition now before the House.

MR. BLACK (Banffshire) said that the House had had that afternoon a momentous declaration of policy from the Colonial Secretary. The right hon. Gentleman said to the working men of this country “If you vote for me and return me to power again and support the scheme of Protection which I have framed, you shall have old-age pensions.” They had heard that before. They heard

it during the General Election of 1895, and again and again since. He would style it the "carrot" policy—dangling in front of the working man the carrot of an old-age pension. He hoped before the debate closed the House would have from the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Local Government Board a clear and decisive statement on this question. There were no "ifs" three years ago when this matter was dealt with by the Colonial Secretary. On April 24th, 1899, when this matter was discussed in this House, there was no word about the necessity of recasting our fiscal system. The Colonial Secretary then said—

"It was said again and again, and I am prepared to say it now, that we do hope and intend to deal with this matter before we leave office. That is perfectly true."

And again—

"I express my confident hope that before the Government goes out of office we shall have done something which, at all events, will furnish a practical scheme."

There was not a word then about recasting our fiscal system. On that occasion the First Lord of the Treasury said—

"If we are not able to find some method of either solving or making a practical step towards the solution of this problem, neither Committee nor Commission will protect us from the consequences of that public misfortune."

He would like to know how far they might expect the usual consistency from right hon. Gentlemen opposite in dealing with this matter. The President of the Local Government Board said on another occasion, and he hoped he would not repeat the statement—

"We have done our best to find a solution of this question but we have failed. We cannot hold out the smallest hope to those responsible for this Bill that they can look to us for that financial assistance, without which this Bill cannot possibly be carried into effect"

He would wish the right hon. Gentleman

to reconcile that dictum with the anxiety which was expressed by his colleagues to give effect to a scheme of old-age pensions. Now it appeared the working classes would have to wait for old-age pensions until our fiscal system was recast; they would have to wait for Protection. If that were the position of the Government, it meant postponing the question until the Greek Kalends.

The Colonial Secretary recognised that the establishment of old-age pensions was not taxation but compulsory insurance; and that was what it was, and nothing else. Then why wait until our fiscal system was recast? With the present wealth of the country even the most extravagant scheme would be small as compared with the ordinary expense of the Poor Law fifty years ago. In 1854, after Protection had been abolished, and without any recasting of the fiscal system, the country paid £7,000,000 out of £400,000,000, or about 2 per cent. of its total income, for the Poor Law. The present income of the nation was about £1,500,000,000, and 2 per cent. on that would be £30,000,000, which greatly exceeded any estimate which had yet been put forward for old-age pensions, even after deducting the present Poor Law contribution amounting to about £12,000,000. Further, there had been a very remarkable advance in the taxable capacity of the country. That was shown by the readiness with which the taxation for the late war was paid all over the country. He would also call attention to the fact that old-age pensions would not be money spent out of the country. It would mean that the spending capacity of a large number of persons would be increased; that they would take home manufactures

and agricultural produce; and in that way the country as a whole would benefit. There was a theory which explained volcanic action. It was that in the course of time moisture sunk down and settled in caves where, through heat, it was converted into steam. It required a vent, with the result that great masses of rock were blown into thin air. They found caves forming in the opposite side of the House. There was the Army Reform Cave, the Economy Cave, the Education Cave, and now the Government were threatened with an Old-age Pensions Cave. He ventured to predict that the tears of disappointed hope would sink into these caves, and be converted into steam by the heat of unfulfilled pledges; by-and-by there would be volcanic action, and the Government would be blown into thin air, a fate they would richly deserve.

MR. MACONCHIE (Aberdeenshire, E.) said that the subject of old-age pensions was one in which he had been greatly interested for the last eighteen years. He had had a great deal to do with the working classes, and had come constantly in contact with them; and he knew the fear they had of the workhouse in their old age. Taking into consideration the conditions which prevailed in the industrial world at the present time, the strenuous work that had to be done to compete with other nations, the working classes grew older much more quickly than in the past. He believed it was absolutely necessary, following the legislation of the past ten years, that they should provide for the working classes in such a way as not to pauperise them, and make them feel, in their old age, that they had been reduced to the position of paupers. As far as

Mr. Black.

the present Bill was concerned, it might not be a perfect Bill; indeed no one would suggest that it was a perfect Bill, but it could be made a good Bill or at least a lever for legislation that would be of use to the working classes of the country. He was perfectly sure in his own mind, and every honest-minded man who considered the question would admit, that the poor people of the country were looking forward keenly and anxiously to some legislation that would help them in their old age. Every hon. Member who had spoken referred to the great advantage which benefit societies had been to the working classes, and with the assistance of those societies they might be able to do much good to the working classes without pauperising them. He trusted that the Government would understand from the speeches made by hon. Members on both sides that they really meant what they said, and that they meant to press this matter and take no refusal. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman, for the sake of all concerned, would not be content with blessing the Bill in the ordinary way; but would help forward a question which would have to be dealt with thoroughly and in a very short time.

MR. WALTER LONG said he really would not have found it necessary to intervene were it not for the appeals which had been made to him, as his right hon. friend the Colonial Secretary had stated the case for the Government quite clearly and quite sufficiently. Hon. Gentlemen appealed to him to say what were the intentions of the Government; and also what were the views of the Government regarding the present Bill. He did not agree with the hon. Gentleman opposite that the time of the House had been wasted, even if this Bill was not placed

on the Statute-book as a result of that afternoon's proceedings. On the contrary he thought the debate had been extremely valuable. He had taken part in more than one debate on this subject in past years, and he doubted whether there had ever been one more practical and useful than this. The hon. Member opposite joined with other hon. Members in demanding that the Government should not content themselves with giving a benevolent support to the Bill, but should see it carried into effect ; but it was enough to make one pause when the hon. Gentleman himself proceeded in the course of his speech to pass a most trenchant criticism on the Bill. The measure was undoubtedly a great improvement on previous Bills ; and he especially recognised the Amendment made by the provision which enabled two or more unions to unite for the purpose of an old-age pension scheme, a provision which certainly disposed of one most serious difficulty in connection with administration in a matter of this kind. But the hon. Gentleman opposite found much more serious fault with the Bill than was concerned with details. He said that he objected to this kind of old-age pension legislation altogether, and his view was that any system to be satisfactory must be automatic. He would call attention to the criticism in order to show how considerable and even acute were the differences of opinion on this matter. He was not going to discuss the details of the Bill ; but he would ask the House to realise, in the light of the debate which had taken place, how great were the difficulties and complexities of this question.

His hon. friend who moved the Second Reading of the Bill in a really admirable speech, temperate and moder-

ate, but to the point, referred to the question as one of great difficulty and great complexity. His hon. friend, who showed in his speech that he was a student of this question, as indeed he had been for many years, said that although he was prepared to take this Bill as a step, a very small step, forward, it fell very far short in his opinion of what a proper old-age pension scheme ought to be. He did not blame hon. Gentlemen opposite. After all, party politics were party politics, and would so remain to the end of the chapter ; and when one Party got a chance of having a slap at the other, they were bound to take advantage of it. He did not blame hon. Members opposite for their attacks upon himself or upon the Colonial Secretary, who was very well able to take care of himself. What he personally thought in 1894 he thought now ; and he did not think hon. Members opposite had advanced their case by suggesting that the Government were wanting in good faith or honesty of intention if they failed to produce a scheme which they could commend to the country.

He had been charged with want of attention to this question since he had been at the Local Government Board, and it was said that the Colonial Secretary had turned his attention to other things, but he could assure the House that, both in the late Government and in the present, this question had been anxiously and carefully considered, and that he and his colleagues had been most desirous of arriving at a solution of the problem. One of the objects they were desirous of arriving at was a settlement of the question of old-age pensions. They had a Bill before them to-day as they had had

last year. How far was that in advance of the measures of three or four years ago? They had arrived at a stage when they had a definite proposal before them. All those who had spoken on the measure had admitted and had realised that the real difficulty underlying this question was not the precise principle or the precise way in which it was to be arrived at, or the proper class of people who were to be made pensioners, but the underlying foundation without which no Bill of this kind could stand. Hon. Members on both sides of the House had said that the taxpayers would be willing to find the money. More would be heard of that when they had the financial proposals of the Government under discussion, but he remembered only the other day, before the Budget of the Chancellor of Exchequer was brought in, that the demand was not that they should keep up taxation for this or that purpose, but that they should take taxation off. The Government had recently created, not a new rate, but they had so distributed the old rate as to practically create a new charge on the rate, and everybody knew how much that had been objected to by the ratepayers. Did anybody believe that a proposal to saddle the Exchequer with £3,000,000 or £4,000,000, and the rates with an equal amount, making a charge of 5d., 6d., or perhaps 1s. in the £, would at the present moment be acceptable to the country. He believed that until a scheme far more perfect and complete than this was brought forward any addition to the Imperial and local expenditure would be regarded with the greatest apprehension.

The hon. Member for Carnarvon Boroughs had told the House that it
Mr. Walter Long.

was a mistake on the part of those who believed in old-age pensions to suppose the expenditure would not grow. The Colonial Secretary had said it was conceivable that the estimate that had been got out by the expert of the Treasury was an exaggerated one. He did not believe that it was possible for anybody, with the figures at present available, to make any estimate which was really of a reliable character. And this criticism of his told both ways, because on the one hand, he believed with the hon. Member for Carnarvon Boroughs that the burden of old-age pensions, when the system was once started, would be more likely to increase than to decrease; and, on the other hand, it was conceivable that there would be a reduction, as the consequence of the transfer of people now borne on the rates as paupers to the ranks of old-age pensioners. There would, indeed, be a temptation to put on the list of pensioners some of those who would otherwise be provided for under the Poor Law, because the burden would then be divided between the Exchequer and the rates. But he did not wish to criticise details. He believed everybody desired to look at the subject from a broad and, if possible, comprehensive point of view, and that was the point of view from which he ventured to approach it. His hon. friend had said, with absolute truth, that the Government had no desire to shirk the responsibility which rested upon them to deal with so great a question as this; and he, as the Minister for the time being responsible for the Department connected with Poor Law administration, felt as strongly as anybody in that House could, how great was the demand made, not only upon their sympathy, but upon their Christianity, by the condition of many people in the

country. He did not know any sadder sight than that presented in many of our country villages, where men and women who had laboured to the utmost of their capacity for perhaps forty or fifty years, and had been sober, thrifty, and industrious, found themselves compelled at last to take refuge in the Poor Law.

No one could appreciate more than he the importance of this question and the necessity for its satisfactory treatment, but having said that, it did not follow that he was to advise his colleagues in the Government to commit themselves and himself to a proposal which he could not regard as complete in itself, and which he firmly believed must lead to a much larger expenditure than even the estimates which they had heard to-day. His hon. friend had said "If you cannot give me what I ask for, give me something towards it—an instalment. Let us take a step forward." He might tell his hon. friend that by this Bill, for which he had secured a place to-day, they had taken a step forward. This debate constituted a step forward on this subject. The two sides of the House had come nearer together. They had approached the question with a desire to find a solution of it, and there had been a frank recognition of the practical difficulties attending it. The hon. Member for Carnarvon had said also that if they thought to make their scheme too big or did not impose conditions as to expenditure, they would frighten the ratepayers and the taxpayers, and make this question more impossible of solution than it was at the present time. This debate had not been a waste of time. It was a valuable contribution to the solution of a difficult question. When he was asked to give

his sanction to the progress of the measure, then he said we must have a more precise knowledge of the way in which the money was to be spent. He hoped the Bill would be read a second time, because it affirmed a principle in which all believed, although there might be practical difficulties which made it impossible to see the complete solution of the problem in the immediate present.

MR. CROOKS (Woolwich) said he did not see how, if the debate merely elicited further promises and expressions of sympathy, the question was brought any nearer to a solution. He reminded the House that he had been associated with the Poor Law from his childhood, had been an inmate of the workhouse, and had been elected six times to represent on local bodies the people who took charge of him as a boy. He assured them that the difficulties of administering an old-age pension scheme would be no greater than those of administering the present complicated Poor Law system. Those who now told them that it was impossible to find the money had also often admitted that when the nation made up its mind to anything it would find the money. If anyone had brought forward a proposal that there should be no retiring allowance for a member of the Government the Treasury Bench would have been full. It would then be said to deny an hon. Member, who had served his country to the best of his ability for years, a pension, in order to keep up his position, would be a scandal. Then what were they going to say about the men by the efforts of whom the country was in the prosperous condition in which it was. Much had been done to make the workhouse more comfortable for the veteran of industry, who had been foolish enough to get old but not artful enough to get rich. But was

he always to be sent to these barracks? The hon. Member in charge of the Bill, and those who supported him, ought to insist upon the Government making some provision* for those veterans who had done so much to uphold the commercial supremacy of the country.

Bill read a second time and committed to a Select Committee.

TOWN TENANTS (IRELAND) BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order for Second Reading read.

MR. KENDAL O'BRIEN (Tipperaray, Mid) formally moved the Second Reading of this Bill.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY (Camberwell, Peckham) said the hon. Member who had moved the Second Reading of this important Bill had given no explanation whatever of any of its provisions.

MR. KENDAL O'BRIEN: There was not time,

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY said that that was an extremely good reason for not moving the Second Reading at all, and he was surprised that a Bill of such importance should be brought forward at such an hour. The object of this Bill was to apply the Land Act of 1881, which dealt with the country and the towns of Ireland. There was a pretty general conclusion of opinion that the Land Act of 1881 should be repealed, therefore it was rather extraordinary that a Bill of this description should be brought forward now. He supposed it was to give an opportunity for another Bill to be brought in reversing this, and

Mr. Crooks.

thus enabling Ireland to make a charge upon the English taxpayer. As an English taxpayer he objected. The first clause was a most extraordinary one, and provided that a tenant, on quitting his holding, might claim compensation in respect of any improvement made on his holding by himself or his predecessor in title. In the first place, let them take the word holding, as he understood holding meant agricultural holding, and not a town tenancy. The town tenant was the tenant of a house. If he was wrong in that contention, it was not his fault, but the fault of the hon. Member who moved the Second Reading not explaining the measure.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) Hear, hear! Who says we do not want Home Rule in Ireland?

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY: The hon. Gentleman says I do not want Home Rule for Ireland.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: No; I did not. I say you ought to have been made a Peer.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY said there were many clauses in the Bill which he could discuss, but there was one particular clause which treated the amount of rent under certain circumstances.

And, it being half-past Five of the Clock, the debate stood adjourned. Debate to be resumed upon Friday, 19th June.

Adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Six o'clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 25th May, 1903.

POULETT PEERAGE.

Petition of Rosa Countess Poulett, formerly the wife and now the widow of William Henry sixth Earl Poulett, as testamentary guardian of her infant son William John Lydston, claiming to be Viscount Hinton of Hinton Saint George, in the county of Somerset, and seventh Earl Poulett, both in the Peerage of England, praying His Majesty to declare that the said William John Lydston Poulett is by right entitled to the said dignities, titles, and honours of Viscount Hinton of Hinton Saint George aforesaid, and Earl Poulett, or to recognise his right thereto by ordering his name to be entered in the Parliament Rolls as a Minor Peer, together with His Majesty's reference thereof to this House, and the report of the Attorney-General thereon: Presented [by Command], and referred to the Committee for Privileges to consider and report.

EDGAR LORD BISHOP OF
SAINT ALBANS

Was (in the usual manner) introduced.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that no further Standing Orders are applicable to the following Bill:

Kip's Patents [H.L.]. The same was ordered to lie on the Table.

Market Drayton Gas Bill; Scarborough Gas Bill; Committee to meet to-morrow.

Mid Yorkshire Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Birmingham District Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Gosport, Fareham, and Cosham Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Manchester Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London) Bill [H.L.]; Brighton Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Bury and District Joint Water Board Bill [H.L.]. Report from the Committee of Selection, that the following

Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills; (viz.)—

E. Lytton,
V. Hutchinson (*E. Donoughmore*),
L. Belhaven and Stenton,
L. Hatherton (chairman),
L. Crawshaw;

agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly: The Committee to meet on Monday the 15th of June next, at Eleven o'clock; and all Petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills.

Taff Vale Railway Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Lochnell Estate Bill [H.L.]. Read 2^a.

Hyde Corporation Bill; Nelson Corporation Bill. Read 2^a, and committed.

Dewsbury, Batley, and Birstal Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Chard Corporation Gas and Electricity Bill [H.L.]; South-Eastern and London, Chatham and Dover Railways Bill [H.L.]; Hastings Tramways (Extensions) Bill [H.L.]; Bournemouth Corporation Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Jewish Colonisation Association Bill [H.L.]; South Lancashire Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Pontypridd Urban District Council Bill [H.L.]. Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Stroud and District Tramways Bill; brought from the Commons. Read 1^a, and referred to the Examiners.

Stoke Newington Borough Council Bill. Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

Willesden Urban District Council Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]; Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [H.L.]; Gas and Water Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.]. Read 2^a (according to Order).

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill; Local

Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill ; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill. Read 2^a (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

Local Government Provisional Order (Housing of the Working Classes) Bill ; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill ; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill ; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill. Read 2^a (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House to-morrow.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill. Read 2^a (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

Electric Lighting (London) Bill [H.L.]. House in Committee (according to Order) : The Amendments proposed by the Chairman of Committees made ; Standing Committee negatived ; The Report of Amendments to be received to-morrow ; and Standing Order No. XXXIX, to be considered in order to its being dispensed with.

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (East Ham, &c.) Bill [H.L.] ; Pier and Harbour Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [H.L.] ; Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill ; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill ; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill. House in Committee (according to Order) ; Bills reported without Amendment ; Standing Committee negatived ; and Bills to be read 3^a to-morrow.

PETITIONS.

THAMES CONSERVANCY.

Petition for formation of a Non-Tidal Authority from Cricklade to Teddington of County Council of Buckinghamshire. Read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS—I. ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 2984. Denmark (Faroe Islands).

No. 2985. China (Canton).

No. 2986. Brazil (Pernambuco and Ceara).

II. MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

No. 591. Germany (German Technical High Schools).

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (INTELLIGENCE DIVISION).

Annual Report of proceedings under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, 1875–1899 ; the Merchandise Marks Acts, 1887–1894 ; the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1893 ; and the Board of Agriculture Act, 1889 (Section 2, Sub-section 3) ; for the year 1902.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP.

Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops for the year 1902. Part I. Reports :

Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table.

NATIONAL DEBT ACT, 1883 (TERMINABLE ANNUITIES).

Treasury Warrants, dated 18th May, 1903, for the adjustment of the terminable annuities created under the Finance Act, 1899, and held by the National Debt Commissioners on account of the Trustees and Post Office Savings Banks.

COLONIAL PROBATES ACT, 1892.

Order in Council of the 20th May, 1903, applying “ The Colonial Probates Act, 1892,” to the Colony of Newfoundland.

FOREIGN JURISDICTION ACT, 1890.

Order in Council of the 20th May, 1903, amending the Order in Council of the 19th November, 1902, respecting the currency of the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria.

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894.

Orders in Council of the 20th May, 1903.

1. Providing that the powers and duties of a British Consular Officer under the Act shall, in the New Hebrides, be exercised by the Resident Deputy Commissioner ;

2. Approving byelaws made by the Cardiff Pilotage Board ; and

3. Fixing the Engineering Establishment of the Corporation of Trinity House.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

THE SITTINGS OF PARLIAMENT.

*LORD NEWTON, who had the following Motion on the Paper—viz. “to resolve that in the opinion of this House Parliament ought to rise at the beginning of July, and that the time required for the due transaction of public business should be provided by Parliament sitting during a longer period in the winter than is customary at present,” said: My Lords, the Motion I am about to submit is one which, as far as this assembly is concerned, possesses the doubtful merit of novelty, but I lay absolutely no claim to originality because it is word for word the identical resolution which has been moved on several occasions in another place and which upon the last occasion was defeated by only two votes. The superficial observer might, perhaps, be inclined to think that as time occasionally does not appear to be of much value in this assembly, it is not a matter which concerns us at all, but one which solely concerns the House of Commons. I hope to convince your lordships, or some of you, at all events, before I have done, that this is an erroneous impression. I start with the assumption that no reasonable person wants Parliament to sit longer than is necessary, and I fix a period of seven months as a maximum which I do not think in any case ought to be exceeded. The question is how those seven months are best to be apportioned.

I will, however, briefly recapitulate what happens under the present system. Under the present system Parliament habitually meets about the middle or end of January. The proceedings open with a Speech from the Throne containing a long and imposing list of measures which it is hoped will become law before the end of the session. This speech is debated in this House for an hour, or, perhaps, a couple of hours. We then adjourn for ten days or a fortnight, and from that period until Easter we find absolutely nothing to do except to discuss such proposals as are brought forward by irresponsible persons. We depend, in short, upon the spasmodic activity of these irresponsible persons. In the House of Commons, on the other hand, the Address is debated at considerable length, the big measures of the session are introduced, some progress is made with Supply, and private Members have their fling, with the result, not infre-

quently that they are counted out. Then comes the Easter recess, which is the end of the first portion of the session. When the Easter recess is concluded and this House re-assembles, our sittings are rather more frequent, and the Private Bill Committees get to work, but at the same time very little public business is effected. In the House of Commons, on the other hand, public business begins to show signs of congestion, and private Members' privileges begin to be withdrawn. Then comes the Whitsuntide recess, which forms the second period of the Parliamentary session, and upon re-assembly after Whitsuntide it is invariably quite clear that the elaborate programme shadowed forth in the Speech from the Throne cannot be carried out. Thereupon the operation which is commonly described as the “massacre of the innocents” takes place. The Government takes the whole of the time of the House. The various measures are passed somehow or other, and, finally, Supply is carried with a rush. Then, and not till then—that is to say towards the middle of July—the Bills which have been passed in the House of Commons come up here. They are, so to speak, flung at our heads. We are ordered to pass them in the shortest possible time, and without making any material alteration in them, so that Parliament may be adjourned at a reasonable period in August. This year it is possible that that period may be later than usual, because, as your Lordships know, we met at a later period than is customary.

Here, I think I may say that this House has a genuine grievance—a grievance upon which, however, personally I do not wish to dwell too long. But I should like to quote the opinion of a man who exercised great influence in his day, the late Lord Russell, who, when examined by the Joint Committee on the Despatch of Business in Parliament in 1869, expressed himself as follows—

“The conduct of public business, and more especially the legislative business of Parliament, suffers from the late period of the session at which Bills reach the House of Lords. While there are two Houses of Parliament, it is desirable that each should have the power of considering the principle and examining the details of every measure before it becomes an Act of Parliament, but if measures are sent to the House of Lords in the middle of July, when Members of both Houses are hastening out of London, it is impossible that due deliberation can take place. The Lords are therefore placed in the dilemma of refusing to consider

Bills which may be of great public utility, or of not performing the functions which the Constitution has entrusted to them."

I will only quote two flagrant instances. One was the Bill relating to factories and workshops which came up here two years ago; the other was the Vaccination Bill of 1898, and I should like to remind your Lordships that that greatest legislative disgrace of modern times—the conscientious objector—obtained his existence owing to noble Lords not being willing to attend here at the time and vote him out of existence. I think I may say that this House is not treated in a very dignified manner. So far as I am concerned, I do not object to being treated in an undignified manner if it is not inconvenient to me, but, when indignity and inconvenience are combined, then I think the meekest-spirited individual may be justified in raising a protest.

I do not think any one could have sat long in this assembly without noticing the extraordinary waste of time which prevails at the beginning of the year. I said just now that no public business is done before Easter, and it is perfectly true, because nowadays no important business is introduced in this House. Not only is no public business done, but no Private Bill business is got through. Take the present session. We met this year on 17th February. The earliest possible date for a Private Bill Committee to sit was 12th March. The result was that only one Committee upon Private Bills sat before Easter. What is the natural consequence? I do not know what the natural consequence will be this year, but the almost invariable result in previous sessions has been that private business, like public business in this House, is congested towards the middle or end of July, and towards the end of July you may see the unedifying spectacle of leaders of the Parliamentary Bar, earning Heaven knows how many thousands a year, rushing breathlessly from one Committee to another, vainly endeavouring to do justice to their clients, and effecting the complete bewilderment of the Chairman under whose supervision private business is conducted. One argument, I understand, against my proposal is that it will be impossible to get Private Bills finished by the beginning

of July. It is said that to advance the date of the deposition of Parliamentary Bills will be inconvenient to promoters. I should think that very likely it would, but, after all, why should our convenience be sacrificed for the convenience of promoters of Private Bills? It is with great deference that I make any suggestion with regard to such a difficult subject as Private Bill legislation, but I do venture to suggest to the noble Earl the Chairman of Committees, that the date of the deposition of Private Bills should be advanced, that the various formalities which are now obligatory before a Bill can be discussed should be shortened and abridged, and, if the noble Earl is unable to obtain the requisite number of Peers to serve, either that he should reduce the number of Peers who serve on Committee from five to four, or else exercise the powers conferred upon him by the Rules and Standing Orders of drawing on the large reserve of Peers who never serve on Private Bill Committees at all. I know, from information supplied to me by the Chairman of Committees, that the whole of the work upon Private Bills Committees is discharged by between eighty and ninety people, very much on the same principle as we conduct the naval and military defence of this country.

It will be observed that my Motion offers, with what I venture to term some generosity, two alternatives to the Government. The first alternative, and for my part this would appear to be the ideal arrangement, is that Parliament might meet, say, in November; it might sit for a month or six weeks and do a great deal of work in that time; it might then adjourn for five or six weeks for the purpose of the Christmas vacation, and it might then resume work and conclude by the beginning of July. That is one alternative, but I recognise that there are technical difficulties to be faced. The other alternative is that the House should meet early in January, not later than January 15; that, as I have suggested, the private Bill procedure should be shortened; that the Whitsuntide recess should be cut down to the shortest possible limits, and that we should adjourn at the beginning of July, reassembling in November to finish off such work as still remained over. These are the two alternatives which are suggested by my Motion.

I do not think it is in the least necessary for me to enter upon elaborate arguments in favour of spending the fine and warm months of the summer in the country in preference to London. I think it will be sufficient for me to point out that we are the only people, I will not say in the civilised world, but in the whole world, who deliberately spend the best months of the year in town—a practice which, to my mind, is about as sensible as turning day into night, which is only done by lunatics as a rule. I do not think it would be possible to quote a single people, who, when the hot weather arrives, do not do their best to fly from the town and resort to the country. We alone, who pride ourselves on being common-sense people, reverse the process. We reserve our highest political energies for July, and our chief social functions for the same month. In the latter part of June, in July, and even in the beginning of August, we gasp and suffocate, not only in the Committee rooms upstairs but in theatres and ballrooms; we sit down in artificially-lighted rooms, as if we were in Monte Carlo, to ponderous banquets, and we even go so far as to listen to ponderous speeches on ponderous subjects, and this we do in the middle of the dog days and in deference to a hoary superstition which I hope to destroy before I have concluded my remarks. I said I would not indulge in any arguments in favour of spending the summer in the country in preference to London, and I think, therefore, it would be better to confine myself to what I imagine will be the arguments of my opponents, if there are any. When this proposal was brought forward in 1859, Lord Palmerston succeeded in getting it rejected on the ground that if Parliament met in November or December so many Members would have colds or coughs that they would make such a noise that nobody would be able to hear anybody else speak, and I think he added that it was extremely dangerous, because a number of Members would come down, would get their feet wet, and would go home and die, and the Government would be placed in a minority. That is a sample of the arguments with which this proposal was met

many years ago, and it was considered good enough for the House of Commons of those days. I think that something more substantial is needed at present in order to refute my proposal.

I will deal first with what I will assume to be the Ministerial argument. The Ministerial argument, I imagine, will take this form, that I shall be told that if my Motion is carried there will be no time for the preparation of Estimates and Bills. I entirely fail to see the force of this argument myself, because I do not propose to increase the length of the session, and therefore there will be just as many months available for the framing of Estimates and Bills. Although I have the highest respect for the ability and industry of Ministers, yet when they ask me to believe that they spend the whole of the recess in preparing Estimates and Bills, that is making rather a large draft on my credulity, because, as we all know, there are such persons as permanent officials, and I do not think that it is altogether uncharitable to assume that a large part of the preparation of this work devolves on the permanent officials, and the work which devolves upon the Ministers, I expect, in many instances, consists in elaborating those rhetorical periods with which they recommend those measures to the House, and which are to secure their imperishable fame. I would like to point out with regard to this argument that Cabinets do meet in the autumn, and the legal and judicial business is transacted here at that time, and therefore a certain number of persons in both Houses would have to be here in any case. Then there is what I may term the subordinate official argument. I have been assured by the Whips that it would be impossible to secure the attendance of Peers or Members of Parliament in the winter months. A friend has furnished me with some statistics on the subject, and I find that in the month of July last year—July being our busy month—the House sat for eighteen days, and there were 1,475 attendances of Peers, giving an average attendance of eighty-two per day. In December of last year, however, when the House only sat for thirteen days, there were 1,283 attendances, giving an average attendance of no less than ninety-eight persons per day.

I will pass from what I term the official objections to the unofficial objections, and the natural objections that will arise to everybody's mind are the so-called sporting objections. I have been told that if my Motion is carried in some mysterious way the prospects of first-class cricket will be seriously injured. Well, if any action of mine could make what is now essentially a dull amusement a little more lively I should consider myself a public benefactor. Personally, I almost think I would as soon sit here and listen, say, to a debate in Committee on a Scottish Bill than be forced to sit out a season of first-class cricket matches played under the present circumstances. I confess I entirely fail to follow this argument. I pass from cricket to another sporting objection—the shooting objection. I have been indignantly accosted by various Members of both Houses since this Motion was placed on the Paper, and they have inquired of me, "What do you mean by endeavouring to stop my shooting in the autumn?" I have replied, meekly but firmly, that I had not the slightest intention of doing anything of the kind. If the House adjourned on the 1st of July it would still be open for anybody who wanted to, to shoot very nearly as much as he does now. He could begin, I believe, on 1st August; he could begin shooting ducks, and he could shoot all August and September, all October, the greater portion of November, the greater portion of December, and the greater portion of January, not to mention week-ends. I confess that I think the shooting argument is very much overdone. There is a sort of superstition which still exists, that the English country gentleman, including the Peer, still consists of a kind of modified Squire Western, and that he cannot be happy unless he is killing something. This is, of course, a delusion.

I pass from the shooting objection to the hunting objection, and whenever I have suggested my proposal to any thoughtless person who had not considered the subject, or to any person who is not interested in the subject at all, he has invariably said to me, "You are only wasting your time; you are embarking on a perfectly hopeless task, because the hunting men will never

allow anything of the sort." For generations the proceedings in Parliament, social life, and everything else have been governed by the theory that Parliament, and more especially the House of Commons, is composed of hunting men. Well, this is the hoary superstition to which I recently alluded. There may have been justification for this theory under which we have groaned, or, perhaps, it would be more correct to say, under which we have peeped, for generations, but there is certainly very little ground for it now. I can illustrate that by one simple fact. During the present session an endeavour was made to organise a point-to-point race for Members of the House of Commons. How many entries do you suppose were received? Just five. I have taken the trouble to examine into the hunting theory, and I cannot find that there are fifty men in the House of Commons, not who are hunting men, but who go out hunting; and I must confess, although it seems a hard thing to say, that I believe there is much less cruelty involved in preventing a middle-aged gentleman from going out hunting than is generally supposed. But the best argument I have against the hunting people is that my noble friend opposite, Lord Ribblesdale, who is a well-known figure in the hunting world, is one of my warmest supporters, and I might add that I have obtained promises of support from masters of hounds sitting on this side of the House.

So much for the sporting arguments. I now come to what I may term the social arguments. It is said that if the Motion is carried I shall spoil the London season. Well, my Lords, I must admit frankly that my ambition is not limited solely to improving our procedure here, but to effecting an improvement in the London season. Lord Beaconsfield once wrote—

"If we could only so contrive our lives as to go into the country for the first note of the nightingale, and to return to town for the first note of the muffin-bell, existence might be more enjoyable."

I am not going to the length advocated by Lord Beaconsfield. I do not wish to drive anybody into the country when the first note of the nightingale is heard. If I am not mistaken, the nightingale

will have finished his song before I propose that the House should adjourn. But under the present arrangements the early months of the year are not only wasted politically but they are wasted socially, and social congestion sets in concurrently with political congestion in the month of July. I contend that the natural months for social enjoyment are March, April, May, and perhaps June. I have already pointed out that our practice is the reverse of every civilised nation, and I contend, if my proposal were adopted, that existence, in the language of Lord Beaconsfield, would be more enjoyable than it is at present. There is to my mind only one objection which need seriously be considered, and that is the question of whether, supposing this Motion is carried, the session would be prolonged or not. I began by assuming that nobody wanted Parliament to sit longer than is absolutely necessary, and I am sure nobody wishes that it should sit longer than it does at the present moment. Shortly stated, one session is very much like another. Every year we see the samething. The Government endeavours to pass as many Bills as possible, and the Opposition endeavours to prevent as many Bills as possible from being passed. In former days, this contest resolved itself solely into one of endurance. The House of Commons used occasionally to sit far into September, and when it had arrived towards the end of September a bargain had to be struck with the Opposition in order to obtain Supply. Those conditions have been much improved latterly under the new rules.

Under the new rules there is now practically a fixed day—approximately the 12th or 15th of August. What, in effect, I propose, is that we should substitute what would practically be a fixed day six weeks earlier; and, although there are certain authorities upon Parliamentary procedure who believe that this is impracticable, I cannot help thinking that if an autumn session were practically a certainty, the motive for obstruction would be less than it is as long as the prospect is uncertain. As a matter of fact, whatever Government may say, I am convinced that autumn sessions will be the rule in the future instead of the exception, and it always

will be so as long as Governments persist in overloading their ship. But when I consider the objections which are raised on this score, I cannot help calling to mind the prophecies of evil which I have heard indulged in whenever any suggested change was made in Parliamentary arrangements in the House of Commons, and therefore the objections which, no doubt, will be put forward on this ground, are less terrifying to me than they would be if I had had no Parliamentary experience. I think I have more or less exhausted my arguments, and I trust that, at the same time, I have not exhausted your patience. I should like to conclude by assuring you that what I propose to do is nothing startling or rash, and that this Motion is not the offspring of a disordered imagination. This proposal is to be supported by many Members of this House who have considerable acquaintance with Parliamentary procedure. It is warmly supported by the only noble Lord who sits in this House who in former days was a Speaker of the House of Commons. I know that many Members of this House are in sympathy with my object, and I know that many Members of the other House are in sympathy with it. I know also that it would be hailed with gratitude by everybody connected with this House, not only by the officials and everybody else, but also by the unhappy individuals whose fate it is to record our utterances. In asking you to give it your sanction I would merely suggest to anybody who has not finally made up his mind on the subject, that he should be actuated, not by his feelings at the present moment, but by what his feelings are likely to be if he is called upon to come here in the middle of August to wrestle with the intricacies of an Irish Land Bill or an Education Bill.

Moved to resolve. "That, in the opinion of this House, Parliament ought to rise at the beginning of July, and that the time required for the due transaction of Public Business should be provided by Parliament sitting during a longer period of the winter than is customary at present."—(*Lord Newton.*)

LORD CLIFFORD OF CHUDLEIGH : My Lords, in rising to say a few words in support of my noble friend's Motion

I will endeavour not to traverse any of the ground which he has covered. He has mentioned to your Lordships that we are about the only people whose Legislature sit during the hot months of July and August, and I should like to remind the House that even this practice is one which has only grown up during the last fifty or sixty years. If you search back through the records of Parliament you will find that, with the exception of some exceptional occasions, on which some urgent public business caused it to be done, it was very rare for Parliament ever to sit after the end of June. The argument that I feel will tell most against this Motion is that, after all, the decision of it lies in a great measure with the House of Commons, and one would have felt that this was rather a serious objection if it had not been that the House of Commons themselves, when recently they set to work to rearrange the order of their business, opened a hope to us in establishing the sanctity of the week-end, and we trust that the grace they have accorded to the golfer, the motorist, and the other week-enders may be extended some day to establishing the principle, which is so venerated in the legal profession, of a long vacation. My noble friend has mentioned that the average attendance in this House from day to day is somewhere about eighty, and it is curious to observe that in the reign of Henry VIII., when the Members of this House numbered not more than one third of what they do at present, the average attendance was almost precisely the same. I know that this is explained in the words of the poet—

“Somemen to business, some to pleasure take.”

But I am sure that it would be a libel on the Members of your Lordships' House to suppose that they are less capable of business and more addicted to pleasure than they were in those days. I wish to urge this Motion for your acceptance as much as anything on the plea of the business of our own House. You have already been reminded of the way in which we come down to this House to transact, in the course of five months, what we could perfectly easily do in the course of five weeks, and that into one week is compressed the business of two or three weeks. As evidence of how the business of this House might be profitably re-arranged, I would like to remind

your Lordships of an incident that occurred in 1893-4, when the session ran on late into February. The House of Commons adjourned on the 12th January and assembled again on the 12th of February. During that interval your Lordships' House met from day to day. The attendances were above the average, and the business transacted was a model to any business assembly. If by any means we could curtail the business of this House into a more limited period, it would be far easier for your Lordships to arrange to be present in greater numbers, and it would enable you to transact business in a way which would be beneficial to the country and dignified to yourselves, instead of in the long drawn out agony in which it is at present done. After the speech of my noble friend, who has pointed out to you many of the advantages and the flimsy nature of the difficulties which stand in the way, I hope this subject may be taken into serious consideration. I cannot say that I entertain for a moment very great hopes that we shall at once come to any satisfactory conclusion, but I hope that in the course of time we may see an effort made in this House, as well as in the House of Commons, to transact our business on more business principles.

*LORD TWEEDMOUTH : I am sure we are very glad that my noble friend Lord Newton has exercised what he called the activity of an irresponsible person and has brought this subject before your Lordships to-night in so fresh and able a speech. With much that the noble Lord said I think we must all agree. I think most of us will agree that it is a deplorable thing that this House should have such small opportunities of exercising its talents and of transacting business. We should all agree, too, that we should like to be able to spend our Julys and Augusts in the country, and to be tied to London in the fine summer weather is extremely unpleasant ; but I must confess that my noble friend had at any rate some nerve in raising this discussion in your Lordships' House, because really it is a question that little affects your Lordships. Your Lordships' sittings are brief in the extreme, the number of noble Lords who attend those sittings is not very great, and I think that everybody will agree that should any noble Lord desire to be away from town for sport, pleasure, or

Lord Clifford of Chudleigh.

business, either in the summer or in the winter, he is very well able to do so, and make his arrangements so that he is able to be in your Lordships' House whenever any important business has to be transacted. This subject is one that must be dealt with from the point of view of the other House of Parliament and not from the point of view of this House. A great deal has been said in this debate, and has on former occasions been said, with regard to the inconvenience caused to Members of Parliament and to Peers, as to the arrangements which should be made to make things easy for them. I do not think that the question of inconvenience or convenience is of much moment. At any rate it is not on the grounds of the personal convenience or inconvenience of Peers or Members of Parliament that this question should be settled. There are in the two Houses of Parliament I think but 1295 men altogether, and we have been chosen, or the Members of the House of Commons have been chosen, and we are ourselves placed here, for the purpose of doing the business of the country, and we must look at this question from the point of view of whether the business of the country is best to be transacted under the conditions that at present prevail, or whether it is desirable that those conditions should be altered.

When you take my noble friend's proposal and come to its root principle, it will be found to be nothing else but that Parliament is every year to have an autumn session. My noble friend was perfectly frank and admitted it to be so. He said you may either have your autumn session as an appendage to the regular session or as a preface, but an autumn session you should have. I think the question of the time that Parliament should sit must be a question for the executive Government of the day. It must rest with the executive as one of its most important functions to decide at what time of year it is necessary that Parliament should sit, and for how many months of the year Parliament should be called together. Having put aside the question of convenience or inconvenience and considerations of sport, which I look upon as being very subsidiary, and, indeed, matters to which little attention should be given, I would ask you to look at the question

from this point of view. Would this change to a regular autumn session be of advantage to the transaction of public business, and would it also be to the advantage of the House of Commons in the way of encouraging men to come into that House who are best suited to transact the business of the House of Commons? Let us look at, it in the first place, from the point of view of the transaction of the business of Parliament. My noble friend has justly described the present procedure. Parliament meets at or about the 1st of February, or a few days earlier or a few days later. It sits on normally till the early days of August, with two breaks at Easter and Whitsuntide. Now, what is Parliament called together for? It is called together for the ventilation of grievances, for the discussion of Supply, and for passing legislation; and what we have to secure is that while abundant time is given to the first of those purposes the necessary business of the country should be transacted fairly rapidly and completely. I maintain that in order to secure this you must sit pretty continuously; that if you break up your session into small portions coming arbitrarily to an end you will take away many of those motives and weapons which enable a Government to get their business through.

If you introduce a regular normal autumn session, and if that is the regular condition of things, I want to know what security you have, if you meet at the end of January or at the beginning of February, that the business of the House of Commons will be brought to a close by the early days of July, and if you do forcibly bring it to a close in the early days of July, that the business will be completed in the six or eight weeks that you are going to sit before Christmas? We had an experience of that in the year 1893. We met in January of that year and sat on steadily with but a few breaks till, I think, the 3rd or 4th of March, 1894. We met again then, after about ten days used for the reconstruction of the Government, and sat on till August. That shows what is possible. It does seem to me that if you start with assuming that an autumn session is necessary you will put a great weapon in the hands of those who wish

to obstruct public business, or, on the other hand, that you will put a great weapon in the hands of Governments who are anxious to get more work done than perhaps they reasonably have the power behind them to carry through. What pressure can be brought on Members of the House of Commons now to get business through? It is perfectly well known that one of the most effective forms of pressure is the threat that holidays will be curtailed, and the statement that by certain days certain business must be got through or else the House will be kept sitting longer. That is done twice or thrice every year, and I maintain that the power held back by the Government, the power they always hold up their sleeve, so to speak, of calling Members to assemble for an autumn session, does have very great effect indeed in bringing business to a close at a fairly reasonable period in the middle of the summer. Further, so long as you have not an autumn session as part of Parliamentary procedure, you have the autumn session to fall back upon in cases of emergency. Then there is another point—the effect that an autumn session will have on the men who come forward as candidates for Parliament. I think we will all agree that the men we want to see in the House of Commons are those who are engaged in every sort of business throughout the length and breadth of the land. We want men as far as possible to belong to the places which they represent. We do not want to see too many men elected who make their business in London, and who, because they live in London, can conveniently give their time to the House of Commons. If you adopt this system of an annual autumn session, you will make your period for the sittings of Parliament synchronise almost exactly with the legal sittings, and you will more and more make it convenient for the lawyer, who has to be in London during the time the Courts are sitting, to sit in the House of Commons, and I do not think that, distinguished as are many of the lawyers who sit in the House of Commons, their number should be largely increased. I have often had to discuss the matter with gentlemen who are desirous of becoming Members of Parliament, and I have often been told—

Lord Tweedmouth.

“I cannot afford to come up to London and leave my business alone. I must have certain time to give to my business down in the country.” It does make it to some extent possible for gentlemen who have businesses in various parts of the country to serve Parliament and attend to their businesses also if the Parliamentary session is taken very much *en bloc* and the holidays very much *en bloc*. A man is free then for four or five months of the year continuously, and he can give those months either to his business or pleasure or travel. For these reasons, then, I should be sorry to see the Motion of my noble friend adopted. I do not quite know how, if it were adopted, effect could be given to it. I do not know whether he would propose to introduce a Bill to say that Parliament should sit on a certain day until a certain day, and reassemble on a certain day. It seems to me that that question is one that must be left to the executive, but I am sure that if this plan were adopted, the business of Parliament would not be furthered, and I am sure, also, that it would tend to lower the quality of gentlemen who would come forward as candidates for the House of Commons.

THE EARL OF ROSEBURY: My Lords, I do not think that I ever listened to, or entered upon a more innocent discussion than the one on which we are engaged, and I think we shall always remember it chiefly for the very entertaining and delightful speech by which the subject was introduced to our notice by my noble friend Lord Newton. I am afraid it was innocent, because I confess that there is no getting over the general argument that this matter will have to be threshed out in the House of Commons unless the House of Lords is prepared to make a stand of which I have never observed symptoms during my long connection with this House. He has pointed out that this Motion has very often very nearly been carried in the House of Commons; and I do not know that there is anything in the House of Commons as at present constituted which should debar it from taking a less favourable view than on former occasions. Let me say at once that whatever view I take of this Motion

I am wholly unable to enter into the reasons on which my noble friend behind me opposed it. He has said that if this Motion is carried we shall introduce too many lawyers and keep out a desirable class of Members from the discussions in the House of Commons. I think that if the lawyers mean to get into the House of Commons nothing will prevent them except the sternly expressed will of the constituencies. I think if we have no more formidable argument to meet in regard to altering the time of year than the great objection of having lawyers in the House of Commons we may regard this Motion as being almost on the verge of being carried.

My noble friend went on to point out the objects for which Parliament meets, and these he stated very clearly; but I do not understand the argument which he drew to point out why these objects could not be carried out as well under the proposal of my noble friend, as they are under the present arrangement. He said that Parliament met for three objects. One was Supply. I am happy to say that he laid no stress on the question of Supply, because from want of experience of the House of Commons I should be absolutely unable to grapple with any argument founded on the custom of Supply. He said next that Parliament met for legislation. I know that is the theory. I do not know how far it is carried into effect; but I really am not aware that there is anything in the proposal which would prevent Parliament carrying out legislation as effectively or as ineffectively as under the present system. The third branch of the speech was this—that Parliament meets for the ventilation of grievances. If Parliament meets for the ventilation of grievances, all I can say is, it could not perform its function more imperfectly under the proposal of my noble friend than it does under the present system. I am quite certain that there is not a member of the Opposition in the House of Commons who has not at least a score of grievances which they would like to ventilate, and that there is no member of the Irish Party who has not 100 grievances which he would like to

ventilate and which he is debarred from ventilating under the present system. I am not at all sure that Parliament might not devote more time to the ventilation of grievances and less time to legislation rendered abortive by the present system, than it does at present.

I am afraid that the present system has come down to us with a very illustrious parentage. It was Mr. Pitt, on first coming into office, who changed the date of Parliament meeting. Before that time, under the administration of Lord North—and someone has discovered a fanciful resemblance between his Government and the present—it was the practice to meet early in November with holidays at Christmas and Easter, and to carry on business to the King's birthday, which was the 4th of June. I confess that that is the system which most recommends itself to me. I did not know until I heard the speech of my noble friend that duck shooting began on the 1st of August. I do stoutly maintain that according to every law of nature it is more natural to inhabit the Metropolis in November and December, in the winter months when we have admirably lighted streets—particularly in my own borough of Westminster, where they have recently altered the whole system of lighting at vast expense—admirable shelter from the winds, and all the resources of civilisation to enable us to combat our horrible climate, than to live in it during the hot summer months. At this time we miss all pleasure of the country; and I am not at all sure that if the deprivation of the pleasures of June and July were held as a penalty it would not act as effectually as a curb on debate as do the prospect of holidays in August at the present time. After all what puts an end to debates in the House of Commons is the exhaustion of debaters, and that exhaustion must come whether the session began in November or in February. It is, after all, a matter more for the House of Commons than the House of Lords. I think that the House of Lords has a grievance of its own. The other day, in reading a volume of letters by the Duke of Wellington to his niece, I came on a passage in which it is shown that in the last year of William IV. this subject was being mooted in Parliament. The Duke

of Wellington, writing to Lady Burghersh, said—

“I should think that Lord Melbourne must be aware that in these times he cannot get rid of Parliament one day earlier in summer, assemble it when he may in winter. There are some things which must be done before Easter; and he should assemble Parliament at so early a period as to afford time for them. The duration of the session does not depend upon its early commencement. To Brougham and others whose amusement is in Parliament and who have nothing else to do than to attend there, the early commencement of the session is important; but not so to Ministers who have something to do.”

One serious objection to this Motion is that, however early the session begins, the rhetoricians would insist on going on.

The House of Lords has a grievance of its own, and that grievance is copiously illustrated in debate every year about the month of August. I think the speeches of Ministers here in August might almost be stereotyped. The House of Lords at the end of the session is treated as a dustheap by the other House, and it is expected to gasp through a London summer only to be refreshed with a flood of Bills at a time when the House should be duck shooting, and when we are wholly unable to give them that deliberate consideration which as a Chamber of revision we are supposed and entitled to do. On the last occasion when a Bill, the Education Bill, reached the House of Lords at the last moment, it was treated in a way which showed that it was considered this House was not worth reckoning with; but we were worth reckoning with, because we added half a million to its charge. But that was an occasional outbreak which is quite an exception. The process by which the House of Lords meekly swallows the measures sent to it from the House of Commons, and thereby reduces itself to a legislative nullity is much more the rule than the exception. I should like to see a strike of the House of Lords. I should like to see the House of Lords take its courage boldly in its right hand and adjourn at the time it thought fit—the time suggested by my noble friend—and that it should come back in two or three months time and discuss, more at leisure, the Bills sent up to it. I am quite certain that is the only real remedy for the present state of things. As long as you are prepared to submit meekly to the

impositions of the House of Commons and the arbitrary manner in which it sends its measures up to you, it is only human nature to suppose that you will have to submit to them. I suppose there would be some objections on the ground of Private Bills to such a course as I propose, but I think it is the only effective one. The House of Commons sits for several months discussing Bills, and the moment the Bills are out of the House of Commons its Members are anxious to see what effect they will have in the country. If the House of Lords were to adjourn from the month of July, and the Commons found that their Bills would not be considered until October at the earliest, I think we should have more Bills sent up to us in a more timely way than at present. I entirely agree with the suggestion in the Motion of my noble friend, and I hope he will use his influence in the House of Commons, which is, I believe, considerable, to ventilate the subject there, and call on his friends to quote the discussion in this House as showing the natural innocent taste of this House, as well as the intolerable sense of oppression under which we groan.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The Earl of MORLEY): My Lords, my noble friend, in the very amusing and able speech with which he introduced this Motion, made some reference to the effect it would have on the private legislation of this House. On that ground I venture to address a few words to you. Speaking generally, I can assure my noble friend that, so far from regarding his suggestions as the offspring of a disordered imagination, I admit that the proposals he has put before us are of a very tempting character. I think we should all agree that to spend July in the country would be in every way preferable to spending it in London, but I am somewhat afraid that if my noble friend's Motion were carried the only result would be that we should have an autumn session, and also have the ordinary session carried to its usual length. We have autumn sessions, but at very rare intervals, and it is admitted on all hands that, however necessary autumn sessions may be on certain occasions, they cause a considerable

The Earl of Rosebery.

amount of dislocation of business in the country. The noble Lord said it would be very easy to expedite the private business in the early part of the session, and I must say that I entirely agree. I think there are stages in the early part of the session where the progress of Bills might be expedited so that they would come before the Committees at an earlier period than they do now, and I am considering the matter with my right hon. colleague in the House of Commons with a view to ascertaining whether and in what manner the intervals between these stages may be shortened. But when it comes to putting forward the period for the deposition of Bills, I think there are a good many objections to be urged. You must remember, whatever you do here, that our national custom is that there should be holidays. Even Ministers must have a holiday at some time of the year, and I think you will find that all Ministerial bodies and all promoters of Bills will have their holidays, whatever you may do, in August or September, and to cause them to deposit their plans or Bills before the end of November would be extremely difficult and inconvenient. But that does not prevent the other stages being, as I have said, in some measure shortened.

I think my hon. friend was rather misleading when he drew attention to the average attendance of Peers in the House of Lords in the month of July and the average attendance last December. He said that last December there was an average attendance of ninety-eight, and that the average throughout the eighteen days of July was ninety-two. But your Lordships must remember that during the month of December last we were engaged in the discussion of an extremely interesting and absorbing Bill, and it is not at all fair to compare the attendance of Peers on an occasion of that kind with the ordinary attendance in July. Then my noble friend spoke of the attendance of Peers on Committees. I think in that he was accurate. About ninety Peers serve on Committees every year. This year he complains that our Private Bill Committees began at an extremely late period. So they did, but your Lordships did not begin to sit until 17th February,

and it takes four or five weeks after the House meets before a Bill is sufficiently matured for a Private Bill Committee to sit upon it. The pressure was also increased this year by the fact that Easter came somewhat early. As a rule a great deal more private business is done before Easter than was done this year, and even although only one Committee sat before Easter I am pleased to say that at the present period the business is fairly well advanced. My noble friend was not correct when he said that there was great congestion of private business at the end of the session. There is great congestion of public business, and in that I heartily sympathise with my hon. friend, and with Lord Rosebery. I should be glad if he or any other noble Lord had really the courage of his opinions and resorted to the heroic measure of moving the adjournment of the House and leaving the legislation sent up from the House of Commons to stand over. But I am not quite sure that that heroic measure will be taken. In fact, I think I shall live a good many years without seeing your Lordships take that step. I have very little to say with regard to the private business. I am quite sure you could not get it done completely before the beginning of August, and I think it would be extremely inconvenient to prolong it into an autumn session. I fear that, if my noble friend's Motion is carried, however alluring the prospect of July in the country may be, the result will be that you will have an autumn session and have your ordinary session prolonged as at present.

*LORD RIBBLESDALE: My Lords, I think everyone will agree that Lord Newton has clearly made out his case that public advantage, and, as I think, public convenience, would result from the change he has suggested, and he has received the support of Lord Rosebery and other noble Lords. I do not want to go over any ground which has already been traversed, but I must say a word or two with reference to what fell from my noble friend behind me. I understand the noble Lord (Lord Tweedmouth) to be actuated by that sort of conservatism of custom which always dislikes any change, but in this

particular case it is just possible that he has dressed up the conservatism of custom in an attire which is very natural to him, having held the distinguished office of Whip in the House of Commons. There is no doubt that his appeal to you was that to keep people sitting late was the only way to get business done. I shall not go into the many considerations urged in support of this Motion. The noble Lord appealed to me particularly as a representative of the human family which is known as the hunting man. He asked me what I thought about his proposal from the hunting point of view. I speak only for myself, but I believe he is quite right in saying that a change of this kind would make very little difference to the number of people who hunt, and what little difference would be made would be to the advantage of hunting as an institution. I would remind you of that celebrated character in "Handley Cross"—Captain Doleful, who was in the habit of saying that hunting was the only thing worth living for. I believe that the Captain Dolefuls in Parliament are comparatively few, and most of us who like to go hunting also desire, as far as possible, conscientiously to attend to our Parliamentary duties. But here, again, I quote from Mr. Jorrocks that London is one of the very best places you can hunt from. He said that the best of everything came to London, and why not the hunting. At the London railway stations will be found the best cover hacks, and I can assure you, *crede experto*, that it is perfectly possible now to vote in a Party division in this House, miss all your trains, and yet have an imperial crowner about half-past eleven the next morning; and as for people who want to hunt nearer London, they can amuse themselves very well on the Hampshire hills or the Surrey heaths. I was interested to hear what the noble Earl the Chairman of Committees said about private business. I think one advantage which would accrue from our meeting on a fixed date, say on 15th January or somewhere about then, would be that it would enable Private Bills to be considered before Easter, however early Easter fell. I hope your Lordships will give your vote in favour

Lord Ribblesdale.

of the Motion, which I regard as an extremely reasonable and business-like one.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: My Lords, I venture to hope that the noble Lord will not content himself with having made a very able and interesting speech, but will also take the sense of the House on the question. It is quite true, as has been said, that Parliament cannot meet at a different time without the consent and the approval of the House of Commons, and that perhaps in this matter, the opinion of the House of Commons is more important even than the opinion of your Lordships' House. But, on the other hand, I can see no reason whatever why your Lordships should not declare your opinion on this subject. The noble Earl, Lord Rosebery, told you that we live in a state of oppression, but having done that he advocated a very heroic remedy, a much stronger remedy than is proposed by my noble friend; but he said that that was the only adhesion he was afraid he could give to the Motion. I hope, at all events, and I do not think we really heard anything from the noble Earl which did not justify us in hoping, that he will give his valuable vote in support of the Motion. There is only one matter which I wish to impress upon your Lordships, and that is the scandal that annually occurs in the last three weeks of the session. I have been in this House longer than most of your Lordships, and my universal experience has been that important Bills come up to your Lordships at a time when it is absolutely impossible to consider them properly, and they are always thrust down our throats, generally with promises that the thing won't occur again; but still we have no time to consider them, and the result is that your Lordships do not bestow the amount of time and consideration upon important Bills which you ought and which you would do, I believe, if the time of the session was more convenient. What I support is this, that the House should meet in the autumn, not for the purpose of beginning a session, but of ending it. I feel sure that if we met, say, at the end of October or the beginning of November to consider the one or two important Bills that there are, much more consideration would be given to

those measures and a much better result would accrue for the country. More than that, the House of Commons would then have a better opportunity of considering any Amendments which your Lordships might make.

The suggestion of Lord Rosebery that we should adjourn would have a very drastic effect indeed; it would have the effect almost of coercion, because then the House of Commons would be obliged to consider our Amendments and to meet, and if they did not choose to meet at that time the result would be that the important legislation would have to be dropped. But what always seems to me the greatest scandal in the occurrences of the last three weeks of the session, is that almost any individual Peer could stop the whole business of Parliament. The rule of your Lordships' House is that unless thirty Peers vote in a division the Bill must be postponed and brought up again. There is extreme difficulty in getting thirty Peers together when you are getting far through the month of August, and I remember last year I myself went over to the Government Bench and said that I thought I would stop the Bill then before the House for a day or two, and I was appealed to not to do anything so ill-natured. I believe that at that time I could have made the House sit for a week longer, and it would have been necessary to bring up sufficient Peers to override me. At the same time, I admit that that was the thing which, properly speaking, ought to have been done. This House is reduced at that period of the year to a state of absolute impotence. I am sure that if the course proposed by the noble Lord opposite, or that suggested by Lord Rosebery, were adopted, very great benefit would be conferred on the country. Your Lordships need not be afraid of a revolution in this matter. When it comes to a revolution your Lordships are not such bad revolutionists. I remember that some time after I became a Member of the House, your Lordships used to meet at the hour of half-past five. A noble Lord generally got up at half past five and moved a Bill, speaking till about six o'clock. Then two Members, one from each Front Bench, rose and spoke between them till a quarter to seven. They never

failed to say they were particularly anxious that the junior Members of the House should speak, and that opportunity should be given for rising young men; but the result was that when a quarter to seven arrived if any Member of the House got up, he was regarded as a public enemy. Not merely was that the consequence, but it never used to happen in those days that we concluded the business on the Paper. I have known business to go over day after day, and there was not the least certainty when a particular matter would be reached. A Motion was made that we should meet at half-past four. The execrations with which that proposal was greeted were marvellous, but after hearing the whole of the discussion, your Lordships adopted the Motion without a division. That is what I hope you will do with regard to the Motion now before the House.

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Duke of DEVONSHIRE): My Lords, I need hardly say that I do not rise for the purpose of expressing any strong opinion on the part of the Government on this question. As has already been mentioned, it is a question which has been discussed on more than one occasion in the other House; and on none of those occasions has the Government attempted to give to the discussion a Party character or to exercise any pressure on their supporters on the subject; and there is no reason, so far as I know, why the Government should not at the present time keep, at all events, as open a mind on the subject as different Governments have on previous occasions. It has also been stated that this is a question on which, although it is of very considerable interest and importance to us, and one on which we have a perfect right to express an opinion, we are ourselves obviously incompetent to give any final decision. It is one in which the other House is interested to a far larger extent than we can possibly be. The demands made upon the time of the other House so vastly exceed those made upon ours that I do not think any of your Lordships will doubt for a moment that the opinion of that House must be the predominant one in deciding such a question as this.

There is one matter which has been referred to by Lord Newton, and still more pointedly by Lord Rosebery, which does greatly affect the character of the proceedings of your Lordships' House, and that is the unfortunate manner in which a great part of the business in this House has to be transacted either in the month of August, or, as recently happened, in the month of December. If it were probable that any change such as that advocated in this Resolution would make any material difference in that respect, that would be a consideration which would entitle your Lordships to express a very strong opinion in the matter. But I do not feel that this aspect of the question is one which is greatly affected by the Motion, which only deals with the times at which Parliament is to sit. I am afraid that until some method is devised by which the other House can be induced to dispose of its business and to send us our business in a more convenient manner, it does not very much matter whether the session terminates in August or in December.

One remedy that has been suggested is of a very drastic character. I understood the noble Earl to suggest that we should ourselves adjourn in the month of July, informing the House of Commons that we should meet again at a more convenient time to discuss any business they might have ready for us to discuss. I do not think the noble Earl quite foresaw one, at all events, of the reasons which make such a proceeding on our part almost impossible. If we were dealing with legislation only that course might be open to us; we might inform the other House that we should leave the consideration of measures of legislation to some time in the autumn. But it is not a matter of legislation only. As long as the House of Commons does not complete the consideration of Supply until some days into the month of August, and does not send us the necessary Bills connected with Supply until that time, it would be impossible for us to take the course suggested without suspending the whole business of the country. I should like to point out to the House exactly, as it appears to me, the real effect of the suggestion which has been made to us. The noble Lord has suggested, as a

plan by which we might secure an adjournment early in the month of July, that Parliament might begin in November. To that plan I think there are very serious objections. It is difficult to bring into operation for the first time. If the Parliamentary session lasted into the month of August and it was proposed to begin the next session in November, there would be no time for preparing the Estimates and the Bills of the Government. That might be got over, perhaps; but it is extremely probable that, even if Parliament did meet in November, the sitting would be protracted during the whole of the summer.

The noble Lord has neglected to observe that the business of Parliament has now become so vast that it would be almost impossible to bring it to an end, even in the course of a whole year, if it were not for the interposition of some date which brings the session almost automatically to a close. That date is now roughly provided for us by some date in the middle of August. I do not attribute the importance that I know is attributed by some people to the magical 12th of August; I do not believe it is the necessity of going grouse shooting which really brings the session to a close some time in the middle of August. The fact is Members of Parliament have by that time become thoroughly exhausted, that the temperature and atmosphere of London have become almost intolerable, that the social attractions of London have entirely disappeared, and that everyone who feels that he must have a holiday thinks his holiday must begin then or he will not have it at all—it is the combination of these conditions which, under ordinary circumstances, brings the session to a close in August; and all these conditions would not exist at any earlier period. Therefore, I say, the experiment of meeting in November with the hope of being able to rise in July without prolonging the session to the following autumn would be altogether a delusion.

The alternative plan suggested to us seems to me a much more practicable one, that we should make up our minds to an autumn session as part of our

ordinary arrangements, meeting as early as may be in the new year, and sitting till the beginning of July. In my opinion, there is a great deal to be said for such an arrangement as that, if it commends itself to the other House as well as to your Lordships. I entirely agree with those who think it far better to sit for some weeks in November and December to attend to the business of Parliament than to sit in July and August. There are, of course, certain objections to it. In my opinion, the effect of such an arrangement would be that Parliament would sit on the whole for a longer period than it does now, probably three or four weeks longer; for there would not be that pressure, from the conditions to which I have referred, which would bring the session compulsorily to a close. There would also be the objection that there would not then be the long and continuous holiday which we usually get now. In ordinary years we have from the middle of August until the beginning of the following year, and that is a period of time which enables members of both Houses to make long journeys, to visit India and the colonies, and to engage continuously in other forms

of work. The proposed arrangement would not allow that opportunity. There is also the objection, which must be felt by those who have had official experience, that it would to a considerable extent interfere with the Government in the preparation of their business for the ensuing session. The preparation of measures would, under such an arrangement, necessarily have to be carried on during the time when Parliament was still sitting. There is also the possibility that it would be found difficult to wind up the session before Christmas. I think, however, that by the exercise of judgment and discretion the difficulties might be overcome; and I certainly think that if the experiment should receive the support that it has received on former occasions in the other House, it would be quite possible for us to consider it. The matter, of course, is one not primarily for this House to decide. Without in the least endeavouring to influence the vote of any of your Lordships who support me, I shall give my vote in favour of the Motion.

On Question, their Lordships divided :
Contents, 88 ; Not-Contents, 26.

CONTENTS.

York, L. Abp.	Goschen, V.	Elphinstone, L.
Devonshire, D. (<i>L. President.</i>)	Hampden, V.	Farrer, L.
Bedford, D.	Hutchinson, V. (<i>E. Donough-</i>	Fermanagh, L. (<i>E. Erne.</i>)
Abercorn, M. (<i>D. Abercorn.</i>)	<i>more.</i>)	Glanusk, L.
Ailesbury, M.	Powerscourt, V.	Grenfell, L.
Lansdowne, M.	Sidmouth, V.	Heneage, L.
Zetland, M.	Chester, L. Bp.	Kenry, L. (<i>E. Dunraven and</i>
Abingdon, E.	Ashbourne, L.	<i>Mount-Earl.</i>)
Camperdown, E.	Avebury, L.	Lamington, L.
Carrington, E.	Balfour, L.	Lilford, L.
Chesterfield, E.	Barnard, L.	Manners of Haddon, L. (<i>M.</i>
Dartrey, E.	Battersea, L.	<i>Granby.</i>)
Denbigh, E.	Belhaven and Stenton, L.	Mount Stephen, L.
Egerton, E.	Belper, L.	Muskerry, L.
Feversham, E.	Brougham and Vaux, L.	Napier, L.
Hardwicke, E.	Burghclere, L.	Newton, L. [<i>Teller.</i>]
Lathom, E.	Calthorpe, L.	Oranmore and Browne, L.
Lauderdale, E.	Carew, L.	Ribble-dale, L.
Lytton, E.	Carysfort, L. (<i>E. Carysfort.</i>)	Robertson, L.
Malmesbury, E.	Chaworth, L. (<i>E. Meath.</i>)	Rosmead, L.
Mansfield, E.	Cheylesmore, L.	St. Levan, L.
Mar and Kellie, E.	Clifford of Chudleigh, L.	St. Oswald, L.
Romney, E.	[<i>Teller.</i>]	Sandhurst, L.
Rosse, E.	Colchester, L.	Sefton, L. (<i>E. Sefton.</i>)
Rosslyn, E.	Congleton, L.	Sherborne, L.
Selborne, E.	Crawshaw, L.	Ventry, L.
Stamford, E.	Davey, L.	Wandsworth, L.
Stanhope, E.	de Ros, L.	Wemyss, L. (<i>E. Wemyss.</i>)
Westmeath, E.	Denman, L.	Wenlock, L.
Colville of Culross, V.	Dunboyne, L.	Windsor, L.
		Wolverton, L.
		Zouche of Haryngworth, L.

NOT-CONTENTS.

Halsbury, E. (<i>L. Chancellor.</i>)	Spencer, E.	Hatherton, L.
Wellington, D.	Waldegrave, E.	Hawkesbury, L. [<i>Teller.</i>]
		Herries, L.
Pembroke and Montgomery,	Churchill, V.	Lawrence, L.
E. (<i>L. Steward.</i>)	Cross, V.	Leigh, L.
Clarendon, E. (<i>L. Chamberlain.</i>)	Allerton, L.	Lyveden, L.
Ancaster, E.	Ardilaun, L.	Methuen, L.
Bathurst, E.	Ashcombe, L.	Mostyn, L.
Crewe, E.	Boyle, L. (<i>E. Cork and</i>	Tweedmouth, L. [<i>Teller.</i>]
Morley, E.	<i>Orrery.</i>)	
	De Mauley, L.	

DECK LOADS ON MERCHANT SHIPS.

LORD MUSKERRY, in rising "to call attention to the continuance of the practice of the carriage of deck loads in the winter time, by merchant ships, which subject was brought forward in this House in the year 1901; to allude amongst other cases to the 'Blenheim' and the 'Firth of Forth'; and to move that inasmuch as under the Merchant Shipping Act, merchant ships are prohibited from carrying deck loads to the ports in the United Kingdom in the winter time, this prohibition should now be extended to similar vessels carrying deck cargoes to Continental ports during the winter season," said: My Lords, the subject of my Motion vitally concerns the lives of our seafarers, and I had the honour of introducing it to your Lordships' notice in the year 1901, after the Board of Trade Inquiries into the loss of the steamer "Mobile" with all hands, and the casualty to the steamer "Huddersfield," where it was found that, owing to their carrying deck loads in the winter time in the North Atlantic, both vessels were sent to sea in an unseaworthy condition. I then desired to know whether the Board of Trade intended to take any action to avert such serious loss of life on the facts as stated in the judgments of these two Board of Trade Inquiries. My noble friend, Lord Dudley, in replying, showed that, as usual, the Board of Trade were impotent in such cases. They cannot take action against the owners of the vessels, exactly in the same way as they have admitted they cannot take action in regard to owners who have been found to blame for sending their vessels to sea in an unseaworthy condition through insufficient ballast. For the information of your Lordships I may say that deck loads are never brought to this country in the winter time by merchant ships, because the law imposes upon the

master of the ship, and also upon the owner, if he is privy to the offence, a fine not exceeding £5 for every hundred cubic feet of wood goods carried in contravention of the law. A very simple means of evasion is, however, adopted, for what is easier than to pile on as much deck cargo as possible and take it to a Continental port and there discharge it, the remainder of the cargo being then brought into port in the United Kingdom for discharge. I have on a previous occasion pointed out to your Lordships how the "Mobile" and the "Huddersfield" were proceeding to the Continent in this way in the winter time, the former ship, which was lost with all hands, carrying a deck cargo of pitch pine timber estimated at no less than 700 tons. Another case which I might mention, is the loss of the ss "Cardinal." The Board of Trade Inquiry in this case resulted in the Court finding that the loss of this vessel was caused by the deck cargo being washed overboard by heavy seas, carrying away the bulwarks and steering gear and staving in the after hatches, thus rendering the vessel unmanageable and water-logged.

I had hoped that after bringing the matter before your Lordships' House this most reprehensible and dangerous practice would have ceased, but from information I have received, and from the cases of the "Blenheim" and the "Firth of Forth," the fact is very plain that it still goes on. In the case of the "Firth of Forth" it is proper for me to say that the disaster was not, at any rate, immediately due to the deck cargo; but still the Annex to the Report of the Board of Trade Inquiry furnishes instructive reading. She left the United States with a deck cargo consisting of no less than 760 large logs, these being consigned to Amsterdam, and the remainder of the cargo to

Sunderland. From the Annex to the Report it appears that previous to the stranding of the vessel she had a list, which increased considerably until the ship was almost on her beam ends, and after a consultation with the chief officer the master decided to cut the lashings and sacrifice the deck cargo. I have no hesitation in saying that if he had not done this the ship would have eventually been herself sacrificed and most probably her crew as well. Then, again, there is the "Blenheim" which left Ship Island in the United States in the winter time with a deck cargo of 111 standards of timber. She left Ship Island for Sydney, Cape Breton, to coal, and then departed for her voyage to Fecamp, France. The Board of Trade Inquiry was not prepared to say that when the vessel left Sydney, Cape Breton, she was seaworthy, but on the same afternoon it appears that the master filled up No. 4 ballast tank. The Court thereupon said that they were not prepared to say that after this she was not unseaworthy, from which it seems to me there was considerable doubt existing as to what was actually the case. The vessel met with heavy weather, as is naturally to be expected in the North Atlantic in the winter, and consequently the deck load shifted, causing a great list to starboard and the vessel to ship large quantities of water. The Court stated that the cause of the deck load breaking adrift, and the vessel taking a list to starboard was that she laboured heavily and was struck by a heavy sea on the port side. Great damage was sustained by the vessel then and thereafter, and the Court stated that, although they would have been practically of no assistance, no less than three of the deck pumps were inaccessible in consequence of the deck timber being stowed over them. The Court attached no wrongful act or default to anybody, but desired to state that in their opinion this disaster showed the wisdom of the statutory regulation that vessels shall not carry deck loads of timber to discharge at ports in the United Kingdom in winter, and they wished that other nations would adopt the same course. If then, it is desirable to prohibit such vessels in the United

Kingdom, to be consistent it is equally necessary that they should be prohibited from running to the Continent, as in this case of the "Blenheim."

To revert to the disaster to the "Cardinal." The opinion of the Court was—

"Although Section 451 of the Merchant Shipping Act prohibiting the carrying of deck loads during the winter season to United Kingdom ports does not apply, as in this case, to a vessel bound to a Continental port, still, having regard to the weight of the deck cargo carried, and to the length and size of a great proportion of the pitch pine logs of which it consisted, the Court was of opinion that the vessel, as laden, was not in a good and seaworthy condition when she left Pensacola on a winter voyage across the North Atlantic."

From the reply of my noble friend the Earl of Dudley, it seemed to me that the Board of Trade were more anxious to fix the responsibility on the unfortunate shipmaster than upon the owner for whose interests he was working. The question arises as to what is the actual discretion of the master, and whether he is able to decline to carry a deck load. The owners say it is at his discretion to carry it or not, but the masters, on their part, contend that they have no option, especially as if others carry deck loads and they do not, they will inevitably lose their positions on arrival home. This is a perfectly reasonable view of the matter, and is a sample of the discretionary powers vested in shipmasters. I will quote from a letter sent by the owners of the "Cardinal" to the master of that vessel before she proceeded from the United States with her deck cargo. The owners wrote as follows—

"Deck load—I wish you to carry as much as you can safely and legally."

I may here interpolate that there was really no limit, as she was bound to a Continental port.

"If you go to the Continent, I think you are entitled to carry a larger quantity than to the United Kingdom. If you are not acquainted with the custom in such cases, doubtless you can procure authentic information from the best authority in Pensacola where timber carrying is a speciality."

I may state that the custom is that vessels bound to Continental ports carry deck cargoes, so that the master does not seem to have had much option. The following are the instructions from the owners of the "Blenheim" to the captain

of that vessel whilst she was lying at Pensacola—

“We are sorry to say it is a miserable business; the homeward market is simply in a desperate condition, and we fear the present voyage is going to be a very poor one indeed. We rely upon your best being done to prevent, at all events, a loss, and hope a favourable cargo will be shipped. You will, of course, be allowed to carry a full deck load for the Continent compatible with the steamer's seaworthiness, and we trust you will take full advantage of this liberty.”

There is no cause for surprise that the master *did* take full advantage of the liberty, and I contend very strongly that letters of instruction such as these leave but one course for the master, whilst at the same time they afford a loophole for the owners to escape by stating that the master had discretion when, as a matter of fact he had not.

The time has now come when the Board of Trade should bestir itself and prevent unnecessary risk to life at sea. I am not inconsistent in holding very strongly that if it is dangerous to carry deck cargoes to this country in the winter-time—a danger recognised by law—there is also serious danger in carrying them to Continental ports. I have no doubt I shall be told that this is another move in the placing of further restrictions on our shipowners, but if these deck cargoes are dangerous to the ships then they are calculated to be detrimental to the interests of their owners, and were all such cargoes prohibited then I do not think the shipowners would suffer, as in that case the competition between them, which causes them to carry the fullest amount of cargo possible, would be at least removed so far as it concerns the carriage of deck loads to Continental ports. A captain with a very extensive experience writes—

“It is certainly a disgrace to allow steamers to sail from the Gulf ports with deck cargoes as they are at present doing for the Continent.”

And on this another gentleman writes—

“Steamers load at Pensacola, Mobile, and other Gulf ports, the very same deck load winter and summer. Their voyage in winter is generally to the Continent with a deck load, and then to London or a British port to discharge the under deck cargo—thus evading the law. These ships all take the same Atlantic track, and the results are well known. The master must obey instructions, or very naturally the owners will get someone who will do what is the custom in the trade.”

Lord Muskerry.

In submitting my Motion to your Lordships, I earnestly hope for your support in obtaining an Amendment to the law, which is perfectly reasonable and consistent, and which, if carried out, will undoubtedly add very considerably to the protection of the lives of our mariners whilst following their perilous calling on the high seas.

Moved to resolve, “That this House is of opinion that, inasmuch as under the Merchant Shipping Act, merchant ships are prohibited from carrying deck loads to the ports in the United Kingdom in the winter time, this prohibition should now be extended to similar vessels carrying deck cargoes to Continental ports during the winter season.”—(*Lord Muskerry.*)

LORD WOLVERTON: My Lords, as far as British ports are concerned, the law as it now stands is rigorously enforced against British and foreign ships alike. During 1901–2 there were twenty-two convictions, of which no less than seventeen were obtained against foreign vessels. In the case of the “Blenheim” the Court exonerated the master, the officers, the managers, and the owners, and therefore a prosecution was impossible. In the case of the “Firth of Forth” the Court found that the stranding was due to negligent and improper navigation. With regard to the general question, I understand that the noble Lord wishes to make the carrying of deck loads of timber in winter by British ships illegal, wherever the loads may have been shipped or discharged. That would mean seriously handicapping our own ships in their competition with foreigners—already very severe—upon whom, of course, we have no power to impose similar restrictions. The Legislature has hitherto refrained from subjecting British ships to regulations which they would have no power to impose on foreigners. I will give my noble friend the figures of losses as regards the trade between foreign ports for the last four years—namely, foundered or missing, eight ships and thirty lives; and for the four years previous to that, nineteen ships and 129 lives. With these figures in mind I hope my noble friend will not press his Motion.

LORD MUSKERRY: I wish to strengthen the hands of the Board of Trade and must press my Motion.

THE EARL OF MEATH: The loss of life involved is such a serious matter that I trust His Majesty's Government will do what they can to induce other nations to take action in this matter by drawing their attention to the serious loss of life which occurs, especially among British seamen. It appears to

me that His Majesty's Government have acknowledged the fact that it is exceedingly dangerous that these deck cargoes should be carried, and I think some steps ought to be taken to prevent legislation which has been passed by Parliament being absolutely ignored in the way described.

On Question, their Lordships divided:—
Contents, 4; Not-contents, 18.

CONTENTS.

Zetland, M.
Romney, E.

| Chaworth, L. (*E. Meath.*) | Muskerry, L. [*Teller.*]
| [*Teller.*] |

NOT-CONTENTS.

Halsbury, E. (*L. Chancellor.*)
Devonshire, D. (*L. President.*)
Denbigh, E.
Hardwicke, E.
Lytton, E.
Mansfield, E.

| Morley, E.
Rosse, E.
Waldegrave, E. [*Teller.*]
Churchill, V. [*Teller.*]
Belhaven and Stenton, L.
Belper, L.

| Cheylesmore, L.
Clifford of Chudleigh, L.
Heneage, L.
Lawrence, L.
Windsor, L.
Wolverton, L.

Resolved in the negative.

REGIMENTAL CANTEENS.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: My Lords, in Earl Grey's absence I beg to put the Question standing in his name, viz:—"To ask His Majesty's Government whether it is proposed to give effect to the recommendations of the Committee appointed to consider the existing conditions under which canteens and regimental institutes are conducted."

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The Earl of HARDWICKE): My Lords, I had hoped to have been in a position this afternoon to have given the noble Earl a full statement as to the course that the Secretary of State proposes to adopt with regard to the Report in question. Unfortunately, I am not in a position to make that statement this afternoon, and I hope the noble Earl will understand that the reason I am not able to do so, is simply that the Report to which he refers was not an unanimous Report. The Secretary of State has had to give very serious consideration to the recommendations contained in the Majority Report, and also to those contained in the Minority Report. It is intended, in the course of the next few weeks, to issue regulations regarding the future management of canteens. I need hardly say that this is a question that very

closely affects the daily life of the soldier, and if we have taken a considerable time to come to a decision in this matter it is because we wish to provide that the new regulations will give satisfaction to the Army generally. I hope that in the circumstances my noble friend will give me the opportunity of making a statement after Whitsuntide, which I shall be very pleased to do.

MUSICAL COPYRIGHT BILL [H.L.].

House in Committee (according to Order). Bill reported without Amendment; re-committed to the Standing Committee.

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY COUNCILS) BILL [H.L.].

House in Committee (according to Order). An Amendment made; and Bill re-committed to the Standing Committee.

POLLING ARRANGEMENTS (PARLIAMENTARY BOROUGHES) BILL [H.L.].

House in Committee (according to Order). An Amendment made; and Bill re-committed to the Standing Committee.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL AND BILLS IN PARLIAMENT.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: My Lords, in pursuance of the conversation

which took place the other day on this subject, I beg to ask His Majesty's Government if they will obtain a Return showing, with regard to the London County Council:—

1. The names of the Bills promoted in Parliament in each year, with the sums of money spent annually in such promotion; and whether each such Bill passed into law.

2. The sum of money spent annually in opposing Bills in Parliament.

At the suggestion of my noble friend Lord Wemyss, I beg to add the words "and the names of the Bills so opposed."

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (The Earl of HALSBURY): The noble Lord who represents the Local Government Board not being in his place, I have been asked to state the view of that Department. The President of the Local Government Board is willing to grant a Return on this subject, but there appears some difficulty as to its precise form. I would suggest that the noble Earl should communicate with the President of the Local Government Board in order to agree upon the form in which the Return should be made.

NEW BILL.

ALLOTMENTS (LONDON) BILL [H.L.].

A Bill to facilitate the provision of allotments by the London County Council was presented by the Earl Carrington; read 1^a; and to be printed. (No. 82.)

House adjourned at ten minutes past Seven o'clock, till Tomorrow, Two o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 25th May, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of
The Earl of Camperdown.

Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz:—

Belfast Water Bill [Lords]; Shephed Urban District Gas Bill [Lords]. Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERE-TO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz:—

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill. Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time to-morrow.

Cheshire Lines Committee Bill. Read the third time, and passed. (New Title.)

East Ham Improvement Bill; Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill (King's Consent signified). Bill read the third time, and passed.

London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway Bill (King's Consent signified). Bill read the third time, and passed. (New Title.)

Plymouth and Stonehouse Gas Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

Wellingborough and District Tramroads Bill; West Cumberland Electric Tramways Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Baker Street and Waterloo Railway (Transfer) Bill; Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway Bill. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Great Southern and Western Railway Bill. As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time.

Mullingar, Kells, and Drogheda Railway Bill; Plymouth Corporation Bill; South Yorkshire Joint Railways Bill; Woolwich Borough Council Bill. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Baker Street and Waterloo Railway (Extension of Time) Bill; Birmingham Corporation Bill [Lords]; Rickmansworth Gas Bill [Lords]; Sutton Coldfield Corporation Bill [Lords]. Read a second time, and committed.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (Housing of Working Classes) Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill. As amended, considered; to be read the third time to-morrow.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 14) Bill; Local Government Provisional Order (No. 16) Bill. Read a second time, and committed.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 17). Bill to confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Bury and the Bury and District Joint Hospital District, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Grant Lawson and Mr. Walter Long.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 17) Bill. "To confirm certain Pro-

visional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Bury and the Bury and District Joint Hospital District," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills and to be printed. (Bill 210.)

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP E).

Sir ALEXANDER HARGREAVES BROWN reported from the Committee on Group E of Private Bills, That Mr. Arthur Lee, one of the Members of the said Committee, was not present within one hour after the time appointed for the meeting of the Committee this day.

Ordered, That Mr. Arthur Lee, one of the Members of the Committee on Group E of Private Bills, do attend the meeting of the said Committee To-morrow, at Eleven of the clock.

Wood Green Urban District Council Bill, reported from the Police and Sanitary Committee, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to, Land Drainage Provisional Order Bill, without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to empower the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Worthing to construct tramways in and adjacent to the borough; and for other purposes." (Worthing Corporation (Tramways) Bill [Lords].)

Worthing Corporation (Tramways) Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

PETITIONS.

LICENCES RENEWAL AND TRANSFER BILL.

Petition from Darwen, against; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING LAW (COMPENSATION FOR NON-RENEWAL) BILL.

Petitions against: from Darwen; and Brighouse; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Petition from Fetteresso, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL.

Petitions in favour: from Westminster; Stratford-on-Avon; Summerseat; Heywood; Llandudno; Bolton; Brierfield; Dundee; Yardley Hastings; and Kingston-upon-Hull; to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Petitions for alteration of Law; from Hyde; and Clitheroe; to lie upon the Table.

THAMES CONSERVANCY.

Petition from Buckinghamshire, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894.

Copies presented, of Orders in Council of 20th May, 1903, (a) providing that the powers and duties of a British Consular Officer under the Act shall in the New Hebrides be exercised by the Resident Deputy Commissioner; (b) approving By-laws made by the Cardiff Pilotage Board; and (c) fixing the Engineering Establishment of the Corporation of Trinity House [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

FOREIGN JURISDICTION ACT, 1890.

Copy presented, of Order in Council of 20th May, 1903, amending the Order in Council of 19th November, 1902, respecting the currency of the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

COLONIAL PROBATES ACT, 1892.

Copy presented, of Order in Council of 20th May, 1903, applying The Colonial

Probates Act, 1892, to the Colony of Newfoundland [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Copy presented, of Report of the Chief Inspector for 1902, Part I., Reports [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (INTELLIGENCE DIVISION).

Copy presented, of Annual Report of Proceedings under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1875 to 1899, the Merchandise Marks Acts, 1887 to 1894, and other Acts for the year 1902 [by Command], to lie upon the Table.

NATIONAL DEBT ACT, 1883 (TERMINABLE ANNUITIES).

Copy presented of Treasury Warrants, dated 18th May, 1903, for the adjustment of the Terminable Annuities created under the Finance Act, 1899, and held by the National Debt Commissioners on account of the Trustee and Post Office Savings Banks [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (MISCELLANEOUS SERIES).

Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Miscellaneous Series, No. 591 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2984 to 2986 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ALLOTMENTS (SCOTLAND).

Return ordered, "of Allotments made in Scotland, showing (1) the proceedings of parish councils in regard to Allotments and common pasture under Section 26 of The Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1894; and (2) the proceedings of County Councils in regard to representations by parish councils for orders under The Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1894, Section 26, authorising land to be taken on lease compulsorily for Allotment, since the date of the last Return on the 8th day of August last."—(Mr. Eugene Wason.)

ARMY PROMOTIONS.

Address for, "Return showing the average time taken from the date of first commission, in attaining respectively the ranks of Captain and of Major of Officers

in the Cavalry, Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, Infantry, and Indian Army, before the late war and subsequently, in the following form :—

	Captain.		Major.	
	Year.	Months.	Year.	Months.
1898 :—				
Cavalry - - - - -				
Artillery - - - - -				
Engineers - - - - -				
Infantry - - - - -				
Indian Army - - - - -				
1903 :—				
Cavalry - - - - -				
Artillery - - - - -				
Engineers - - - - -				
Infantry - - - - -				
Indian Army - - - - -				

—(Major Evans-Gordon.)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Alien Immigrants into East London.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): To ask the President of the Board of Trade what steps he is taking to prevent the anti-Semitic disturbances in Russia increasing the number of Russian and Polish immigrants into the East End of London; and can he state what increase, if any, in the number of immigrants by the German line plying between Hamburg and London has taken place since March last.

(Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.) I think my honourable and gallant friend must be aware that the Board of Trade possesses no such power as his Question suggests. There has been no increase since March in the number of Russians and Poles arriving in London from Hamburg, whether in German or other vessels. The total figures are:—March 368; April, 172; May (up to the 18th), 104. These figures include persons in transit.

Income Tax.

MR. WHITLEY THOMSON (Yorkshire, W.R., Skipton): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will

state for the last financial year for which the figures are available the numbers of Income Tax payers who paid Income Tax on incomes under £400, £500, £600, and £700, respectively; the net yield of the Tax from each of the above classes of Income Tax payers; and the gross amounts which would have been payable by each class had there been no abatements allowed.

(Answered by Mr. Ritchie.) It is not possible to give the numbers of persons who pay Income Tax in any class, nor the amount of tax paid by them. But the numbers of persons who claim abatement of Income Tax can be given. The figures for the year to 31st March, 1902, are not yet complete; but the following figures for the several classes named in the Question may be taken as approximately correct:—Class £160–400, Number of taxpayers claiming abatement, 555,000; Class £400–500, Number of taxpayers claiming abatement, 47,000; Class £500–600, Number of taxpayers claiming abatement, 24,000; Class £600–700, Number of taxpayers claiming abatement, 10,500; Total, 636,500. The amounts of Income Tax at 1s. 2d. in the pound allowed in the several classes were approximately:—Class £160–400, £5,180,000; Class £400–500, £411,000;

Class £500-600, £168,000 ; Class £600-700, £43,000 ; Total, £5,802,000. The sums actually paid by each class are not ascertainable, but would have been increased by the above amounts, had no abatements been allowed.

Medical Officers in Crofting Districts.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland) : To ask the Lord Advocate if he will say how many parish councils in the crofting counties of Scotland have at present no parochial resident medical officer ; and what steps are being taken in such parishes to secure medical attendance for the poor.

(*Answered by Mr. A. Graham Murray.*) Parish councils are bound to provide medical attendance for paupers. I am informed that all the parishes in the counties in question, with the exception of Gigha, have regularly appointed medical officers who reside either in or near the parishes for which they hold office. In the case of Gigha a doctor is employed by the parish council when necessary.

MR. CATHCART WASON : To ask the Lord Advocate if the Committee of the Scottish Local Government Board, who have been making inquiry into the subject of Poor Law medical relief, have also inquired into the grievances of the parochial medical officers in the highlands and islands of Scotland ; and, if so, will he state what steps the Government proposes to take in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. A. Graham Murray.*) The Committee in question is a Departmental one to inquire into and report on the methods and conditions under which Poor Law medical relief is at present administered in Scotland, and on what changes, if any, it is advisable to make in regard thereto, or in the regulations for distributing the sum contributed from the local taxation account to the cost of Poor Law medical relief and trained sick nursing, or in the rules and regulations for the management of poorhouses ; and it is only incidentally, therefore, that the subject of the hon. Member's Question can come within the terms of reference. In any case the Committee not having reported it is not possible as yet to say what steps it may be the duty of the Government to take in the matter.

MR. CATHCART WASON : To ask the Lord Advocate if his attention has been called to the fact that certain parishes in the crofting counties have difficulty in procuring the services of a medical officer for any length of time ; and, whether, in the interests of the poor, the Government intend to introduce legislation on the subject.

(*Answered by Mr. A. Graham Murray.*) I can only refer the hon. Member to my Answers to his previous Questions, and as in my reply to his second Question to add that it is not possible to promise any legislation in the matter at present.

Conveyance of Mails from Longford Station to Post Office.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.) : I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether, in view of the heaviness of the parcel and mail traffic at Longford, he will sanction the employment of some mode of transit of mails and parcels from the station to the post office other than requiring the letter carriers to drag them on trucks from the station.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) I am making inquiry into the matter, and will communicate the result to the hon. Member in due course.

Postage Rates in the Transvaal.

MR. LOUIS SINCLAIR (Essex, Romford) : To ask the Postmaster-General whether his attention has been called to the fact that the postage of newspapers from Barberton and other towns in the Transvaal to England is at the rate of 1d. per two ounces, whereas the charge from England to the Transvaal is $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per two ounces ; and, if so, whether he will take steps to assimilate these rates.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) Yes, Sir, I am aware of the facts stated in the Question ; but I have no control over the rates charged in the Transvaal. Any representations which the hon. Member may wish to make on the subject should be addressed to the Transvaal Government.

Electricity in Mines—Report of Committee.

MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he anticipates the Report of the Departmental Committee on the Use of Electricity in Mines will be in the hands of Members.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*) I understand that the Committee have completed the evidence which they propose to take. The preparation of their Report involves the consideration of technical details of some complexity; but it is hoped that it will be concluded within about two months.

Rule of Succession in State of Hill Tipperah, India.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will explain why an Order was recently passed by the Government of India interfering with the established rule of succession in the Native State of Hill Tipperah, and declining to recognise Samarendra Chandra as Jubaraj upon the death of the previous ruler of the State, in view of the fact that by the law of succession in this State the Bara Thakur is entitled to succeed as Jubaraj under such circumstances, and that Samarendra Chandra had been for twenty-five years regarded as the Bara Thakur of this State by the Government.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) The present Raja of Hill Tipperah was installed in March, 1897. In February, 1899, he appointed his eldest son Birendra Kishore Thakur to be Jubraj. The Bara Thakur (Samarendra Chandra) appealed to the Government of Bengal and subsequently to the Government of India against the Raja's selection of his son to be Jubraj, on the ground that he himself was entitled to this appointment, which carries with it the right of succession to the chiefship. The matter has been very carefully considered by the Government of Bengal and by the Government of India. The Government of Bengal came to the conclusion that the alleged family custom making it obligatory on the Raja to pro-

mote the Bara Thakur (if there be one) to the appointment of Jubraj had not been established, and recommended that the Raja's son should be regarded as Jubraj and successor designate to the chiefship. The Government of India concurred in the view of the Government of Bengal, and declined to interfere with the Raja's action in appointing his son to be Jubraj, a measure which in their opinion was in the public interests of the Hill Tipperah State.

Foreign Ministers of Commerce.

MR. LOUIS SINCLAIR: To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether he is in a position to state when he can lay before the House the information on the constitution and functions of Foreign Ministers of Commerce, as promised on the 15th December last.†

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) Most of the Reports have now been received and are being prepared for presentation, but we are still awaiting those from Italy and Hungary and from a few less important countries.

Cusack Estate, Longford.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will say what is the present position of the Cusack, county Longford, Estate; and whether, seeing that the evicted tenants on the estate who until recently were allowed to take grazing tenancies, have now been refused these privileges because they wanted to purchase their holdings, he can take any steps to assist the tenants to purchase their farms.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) I am informed that the persons who formerly took grazing on the Cusack Estate were, nearly all of them, tenants on adjoining estates. Only four were tenants on the Cusack Estate. These persons refused to pay for the grazing this year the same rates as formerly. The incumbancers were of opinion that the most remunerative method of dealing with the lands in the circumstances would be to authorise the receiver to stock the lands. The Land Judge on the 12th instant made an order

† See (4) *Debates*, cxvi., 1198.

to this effect. I do not understand what the latter part of the Question is intended to convey.

Ireland—Hospital Relief for Policemen.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether he will consider the advisability of amending the law to relieve boards of guardians in Ireland from the obligation of affording hospital relief to policemen in receipt of full pay, without being able to enforce payment by such policemen of the cost of such relief.

(Answered by Mr. Wyndham.) This Question is founded on a misconception. Under Section 5 of the 25 and 26 Vic., chapter 83, a board of guardians is entitled to be repaid "the full average daily cost of maintenance and establishment charges, medical and surgical treatment," incurred by police constables in the circumstances mentioned. No amendment of the law is called for.

Musketry and Mounted Infantry Course for Sandhurst Cadets awaiting Commissions.

MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE (Somersetshire, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for War what is the number of Sandhurst cadets who have passed the final examination and are now waiting for commissions; and whether he will consider the practicability of giving these young men a course of training in musketry or mounted infantry drill during the summer months, so as to increase their value as soldiers when they join their regiments.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.) The total number of the last batch of cadets from the Royal Military College who are fully qualified and not yet gazetted is 33. These cadets have been allowed to wait, for their own convenience, for special regiments in which at present there are no vacancies. The Army is at present largely in excess of its establishment of Officers.

Militia Rations at Maryborough.

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the

rations of the Militia recruits at present assembled at Maryborough have been curtailed; and, if so, will he state what system exists for checking the rations issued and seeing that every man gets his allowance; and whether, seeing that the recruits are now drilled before breakfast from 6.45 to 7.45 a.m., he will explain why the allowance of coffee and biscuits given to recruits before first parade has been discontinued this year.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.) The hon. Member has been misinformed. The rations of the Militia recruits have not been curtailed, and the men appear to be satisfied with them. A board of two officers inspects and witnesses the issue of Government rations daily. There is no parade before 9 a.m., but half an hour from 7 to 7.30 is employed in cleaning the barracks. Breakfast is at 7.45 a.m.

MR. DELANY: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will explain why the food allowance given at night in past years to the guard of the Militia (4th Leinster Regiment) in training at Maryborough has been discontinued this year.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.) The system by which military police supersede the guards being in vogue, the recruits are not taken for this duty, and therefore no light refreshments are necessary.

Pay of Queen's County Militia Recruits.

MR. DELANY: To ask the Secretary of State for War if he will say who is the officer responsible for paying Militia recruits; and how are the recruits of the Queen's County Militia paid, and by whom.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.) Militia recruits, if drilling on enlistment, are paid by the company officers of the depôt at which they are drilled, and if drilling on preliminary drill, are paid by the officers called up to assist in the preliminary drill. There is no information at the War Office to show that the regiment mentioned is adopting a system not in accordance with the usual procedure.

Cost of Military Operations in Nigeria.

MR. JOHN ELLIS: To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any charge is expected to fall on the National Exchequer during the financial year 1903-04 in consequence of the military operations in Nigeria; and, if so, what sum.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.)

It is not anticipated that any additional charge will fall on the National Exchequer on account of these operations during the current year.

Commission on Amalgamation of Unions in Ireland.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: To ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he will state whether any, and, if so, what steps have been taken to form the Commission on Amalgamation of Unions in Ireland, the terms of reference to the Commission, and the names of the Commissioners; and will he undertake that in case the Commission is not wholly departmental or judicial, some Irish Members of Parliament will be asked to serve on it.

(Answered by Mr. Wyndham.) The Commission was appointed on the 12th instant. The Commissioners are—Mr. G. Murnaghan, M.P., Dr. Coey Bigger, Medical Inspector of the Local Government Board, and Mr. W. L. Micks, Chairman. The terms of reference are as follows:—I. Whether any Poor Law unions could be dissolved with advantage to the ratepayers, and without hardship to the sick and destitute poor; and if any such dissolution be deemed desirable, what arrangements, by amalgamation of unions or otherwise, should be substituted therefor. II. Whether, in the event of any unions being amalgamated and the workhouses thereof being no longer required for Poor Law purposes, such workhouses could, with advantage, be taken over by County Councils for auxiliary lunatic asylums under Section 76 of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, or could be otherwise utilised for any public purpose. III. Whether it would be possible, either by an arrangement for the maintenance of paupers in adjoining workhouses, or by combining a number of unions for the purposes of indoor relief, to make better provision for the classification and treat-

ment of the inmates, specially the aged and infirm, sick, lunatics, and children chargeable to the said unions; and whether any changes in the law and procedure as to the administration and chargeability of relief would be desirable in the event of such combination of unions being carried out. IV. Whether, having regard to the number and capacity of workhouses, hospitals, and infirmaries existing in any county, union, district, or locality, and to the other provisions for the relief of the sick poor, any additional accommodation is now required for the proper treatment of the sick poor, and if additional accommodation is necessary how it might best be provided. V. Generally to inquire and report whether any, and what, administrative and financial changes are desirable, in order to secure a more economical system for the relief of the sick, the insane, and all classes of destitute poor in Ireland, without impairing efficiency of administration.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Disease-Infected Army Blankets.

SIR THOMAS DEWAR (Tower Hamlets, St. George's): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that a number of Army blankets which were condemned in South Africa were sold to the training ship "Cornwall," where an outbreak of enteric fever has occurred among the boys on the ship and is directly traceable to the infected blankets; that the Public Health Department of the Metropolitan Borough of Stepney has detained forty tons, probably 30,000, of the same consignment in a warehouse in Assam Street, White chapel, as they were found to contain the enteric fever bacilli in large numbers; and that the blankets sold in South Africa are stored in Whitechapel; and if so, will the War Office consider the advisability of having them returned in order that they may be either destroyed or disinfected.

The following Question also appeared on the Paper—

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): To ask the Secretary of State for War

if he will state how goods no longer required by his Department are disposed of; and what steps, if any, are taken in the case of goods as regards which there are grounds for presuming that they may carry infection, to prevent the spread of disease; and will he also state what steps were taken with this object in the case of blankets used by the troops in South Africa recently disposed of by the War Office.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): I have ascertained that a large number of blankets have been sold by tender in South Africa. I have no power whatever to recall those blankets which have been sold. The ordnance regulations lay down that no condemned blanket should be sold before it has been torn in four pieces, and complete instructions are also included in medical regulations as to disinfection in every case of infectious disease. I also issued special orders to South Africa two years ago, neither to sell these nor to send home any textile fabrics which might convey infection, and I have called upon the General Officer Commanding to investigate and report fully on the matter, and to take steps to have any condemned blankets still remaining in South Africa destroyed.

Barrack Expenditure in South Africa.

MR. BLACK (Banffshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies what is the estimated cost of erecting buildings for the housing of troops in South Africa; and whether, in view of the fact that these buildings will form a permanent addition to the assets of the colonies where they are situated, he proposes that the colonies should pay the cost of erection; if not, upon what fund will the cost be placed, and does the cost appear in this year's estimate.

MR. BRODRICK: The expenditure on accommodation for the garrison in South Africa (mainly consisting of hutments) has up to 31st March last amounted to about £1,025,000, the necessary provision having been made in Army Estimates for the last three years. Such further expenditure as is

required on accommodation of a permanent character will be provided in the Military Works Loan: the amount cannot at present be definitely stated. I am not in a position to make any statement at present as to the incidence of cost, as no decision has been arrived at as to the future garrison of South Africa.

MR. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.): When will the Military Works (Loans) Bill be introduced?

MR. BRODRICK: A similar Question was put to the First Lord the other day and the right hon. Gentleman then said he was not in a position at present to make any statement.†

Royal Visit to Edinburgh—Military Arrangements.

MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he is aware that Volunteers sent from the North of Scotland to line the streets during His Majesty's visit to Edinburgh were thus kept on duty two hours after contingents from Edinburgh and the neighbourhood were dismissed, and that the contingent from Laurencekirk had to mobilise at Banchory, entailing their starting the night before and making the journey to and from Banchory before leaving for Edinburgh; and will he say who is responsible for these arrangements; and whether steps will be taken to prevent similar inconvenience in future.

MR. BRODRICK: The arrangements referred to rest entirely with the local military authorities, in conjunction with the railway companies.

Mediterranean Fleet—Alleged Waste of Ammunition.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty, has he now received the Report on the alleged waste of ammunition in the Mediterranean Fleet on 29th April last by eight battleships firing away over 7,000 rounds at distances and under conditions depriving the practice of utility as gunnery training for accuracy in marksmanship; what was

† See page 1357

the range at which the practice was conducted, the time it took, and the number and approximate value of the rounds fired; in what respects did this practice depart from the Admiralty regulation that the attainment of good shooting and proficiency in gunnery are always to be considered as taking precedence over all other duties; by whom was this practice ordered and its conditions prescribed, and by whom has the Report thereon been made; in view of the practice which had been adopted on 14th May last that the reasons of failure in gunnery practice are reported on by the admirals under whose orders the ships are acting, that the Reports are considered by the Admiralty, and such steps taken with regard to the individual officers concerned as in the opinion of the Admiralty are required, will he say whether any, and if so, what steps have been, or will be taken, in this case.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): As I stated in my reply on the 13th inst.,† a Report on this subject has been called for, but owing to the Commander-in-Chief having proceeded from Malta to Alexandria sufficient time has not yet elapsed for the Report to be received. I must therefore ask my hon. friend to kindly postpone the Question for a few days longer.

Transvaal Mines—Asiatic Labour.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether His Majesty's Government has sanctioned or is lending support to the movement of the mine-owners to import Chinese or other Asiatic labour into the Transvaal.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): No, Sir.

MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has received reports of the meeting held at Johannesburg early in April, and attended by about 5,000 men, at which a resolution was adopted, with practical unanimity, against the introduction of

Asiatic labour for the mines or other industries in the Transvaal; whether the Government have expressed any opinion on this question in despatches to Lord Milner or otherwise; and, in that case, when Papers on the subject may be expected to be laid upon the Table.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have seen a report of the meeting referred to. The opinions which I expressed to Lord Milner, when I was in South Africa, are the same as those contained in my statement in the House of Commons on 19th March.†

Transvaal Legislative Council.

MR. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he will state the numbers and composition of the Transvaal Legislative Council; whether Generals Botha, Delarey, and Smuts are members; and how many Boers are included.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The Council consists of thirty members, of whom sixteen are official and fourteen non-official members. Five of the latter are Boers. The three gentlemen mentioned by the hon. Member were invited to serve on the Council, but declined for reasons which have been already published.

MR. LAMBERT: Where were they published?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Oh, in every single newspaper in the country.

British Trade with Foreign Countries.

THE MASTER OF ELIBANK (Edinburgh, Midlothian): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can furnish a Return showing the volume of the import and export trade between British Colonies and foreign countries.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Yes, Sir, I shall be prepared to furnish this Return.

Labour in the Transvaal Gold and Coal Mines.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for

† See page 536.

† See (4) *Debates*, cxix., 1283.

the Colonies if he has any official information showing separately the number of white men and Kaffirs employed in and about gold mines in the Transvaal at the commencement of 1898 and 1903, respectively, and any similar information in respect to the number of persons employed in and about coal mines in the Transvaal; and, if not, will he obtain the information.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I am unable to give complete figures for the dates mentioned by the hon. Member. On the 31st December, 1897, there were 8,060 whites, and about 70,000 natives employed on the gold mines. The average numbers employed on the coal mines during 1897 were 472 whites and 6,661 natives. For January last the figures are: On gold mines, 10,766 whites and 42,994 natives; on coal mines, 378 whites and 6,542 natives.

Finances of Burmah.

MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the surplus shown by the finances of Burmah of £1,800,000 in the year 1901-2 is spent in Burmah or transferred to the credit of the finances of India; and will he state why the course selected was adopted.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord GEORGE HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): The revenue received in Burmah and in the other provinces of India forms part of the revenues of India, although, as a matter of administrative convenience, the local authorities are entrusted with its collection, and with control over certain portions of it. This is, and has long been, the established practice, and I am not aware of any good reason why it should be changed.

Indian Imports and Exports.

THE MASTER OF ELIBANK: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he can furnish a Return showing the volume of the import and export trade between India and foreign countries.

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON: Full and detailed information as to the quantity and value of the import and

export trade between India and each foreign country is given in the Tables relating to the Trade of British India with British Possessions and Foreign Countries which are annually presented to Parliament. The Tables for 1903 were dated the 29th January and were presented during the recess.

Advertisements in Consular Reports.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether, in sanctioning the advertisement of particular firms in Consular Reports, the Foreign Office makes previous inquiry and accepts any responsibility for their financial stability.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord CRANBORNE, Rochester): The hon. Gentleman is under a misapprehension in assuming that the Foreign Office sanctions the advertisement in the Consular Reports of particular firms. That would be entirely contrary to our practice.

Postage Rates to the Continent.

SIR THOMAS DEWAR: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General, having regard to the fact that the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Budget Speech in 1897 stated that the Government desired to reduce the rate of postage from this country to the Continent from 2½d. to 2d. the half-ounce, and that efforts to secure the assent of the Postal Union to the proposed reduction have hitherto failed, will arrangements be made to again bring the point forward at the next meeting of the Postal Union.

THE POSTMASTER - GENERAL (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcester-shire, E.): I do not propose to initiate any discussion on this point at the next Postal Union Congress.

Wapping Telegraph Office.

SIR THOMAS DEWAR: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General, having regard to the fact that the Wapping Telegraph Office, situated at Old Gravel Lane, east of Wapping Bridge, is not available to firms in business west of the bridge on the occasions when the bridge is open, will he take such steps as may be

necessary to secure the establishment of a telegraph office in Wapping west of the bridge.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: As I informed the hon. Member by letter last month I shall be quite willing to remedy the inconvenience complained of if any reasonable method of so doing can be devised, but up to the present no premises suitable for a post office and centrally situated can be found. I also suggested to the hon. Member that some of the firms having suitable premises in the district might think it desirable to offer facilities for the establishment of a post office, but apparently the suggestion has not been taken up.

Swine Fever—Compensation for Compulsory Slaughter.

MR. STEVENSON (Suffolk, Eye): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, in view of the fact that the seizure and condemnation of swine on the ground that they are unfit for human food takes place, not under the Diseases of Animals Act, 1894, but under the Public Health Acts, he will consider (in conjunction with the Board of Agriculture) the desirability of amending those Acts, with the object of securing that compensation shall be paid out of the National Exchequer for pigs condemned as unfit for human food by reason of the existence of tuberculosis, in cases in which the presence of the disease is undiscoverable until after slaughter.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (MR. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.): Perhaps the hon. Member will allow me to refer him to the answer which I gave to a Question on this subject on the 29th of April last.† As I then stated, I cannot give any promise on the subject of compensation, especially pending the Report of the Royal Commission on Tuberculosis.

Inspection of Poor Law Schools.

MR. CROOKS (Woolwich): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he will consider the advisability of placing the inspection

of all Poor Law schools under the Board of Education.

MR. WALTER LONG: I am in favour of the inspection of education in Poor Law schools being placed under the Board of Education, and I am at present in communication with that Department on the subject.

Nottingham Smallpox Hospital.

MR. JOHN ELLIS: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to the erection by the Corporation of Nottingham of a smallpox hospital on the extreme northern boundary of their area, in close proximity to a road along which numbers of persons are daily passing, and to a number of dwelling-houses and a growing population; and whether he can take any steps in the matter for the protection of the public outside Nottingham.

MR. WALTER LONG: The Nottingham Town Council have erected a smallpox hospital on a site which they consider the most suitable that could have been selected within the borough. I am informed that the neighbourhood is the most sparsely inhabited part of the borough, that there is no considerable population within a radius of two miles of the site, and that within this radius there are only a few scattered houses and the Bestwood Colliery and Ironworks, the latter being half-a-mile from the hospital. The Town Clerk informs me that the road referred to in the Question is used almost solely by men working at the colliery and ironworks, most of whom drive by in brakes when going to and from work and have no need to pass at any other time. He adds that there is no evidence of any increase, or likelihood of increase, in building operations in the neighbourhood. The Town Council have not applied to me for sanction to a loan in connection with the hospital and I have no jurisdiction in the matter. I should gather that the conditions which the Local Government Board require in the case of hospitals provided by means of loans sanctioned by them have been complied with, but I will make further inquiry as to this.

† See (4) *Debates*, cxxi. 791.

Disease Infected Blankets—Typhoid on the Training Ship "Cornwall."

MR. DAVID MORGAN (Essex, Walthamstow): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if his attention has been called to an outbreak of typhoid on the training ship "Cornwall," lying off Purfleet, which has been reported upon by the port sanitary officer of the Corporation of the City of London; and, if so, will he state what steps he proposes to take.

MR. WALTER LONG: My attention has been called to this matter, and the acting medical officer of the Port of London has been in communication with my Department on the subject. The blankets which were considered to be the cause of the outbreak were all removed to the disinfecting station of the port authority and thoroughly disinfected and cleansed. In addition, every article of bedding was removed from the ship and submitted to the same process. The infected quarters on board have also been thoroughly disinfected. I understand that not more than ten cases of fever occurred on board the vessel, and I am glad to be able to say that no fresh case has been notified since the 4th instant.

Argentine Cattle Trade.

MR. SCHWANN: I beg to ask the hon. Member for North Huntingdonshire, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, if he will say whether the origin of the alleged cases of contagious disease, said to have occurred amongst cattle in Argentina, has been discovered; what the nature of the disease is supposed to have been; whether it is now considered to be at an end, or what stoppage of live cattle exports from the River Plate will be entailed, and what is the extent of the district of Argentina supposed to be affected; and what is the number of cattle actually ascertained to be affected and destroyed.

MR. AILWYN FELLOWES (Huntingdonshire, Ramsey): The Board were informed by the Argentine Government on the 8th inst. that foot-and-mouth disease had been reported to exist amongst imported cattle then undergoing quarantine at Buenos Ayres, and that the exportation of animals from that port

had been prohibited. The animals affected appeared to be healthy on their arrival, but the disease broke out among them eleven days afterwards. The outbreak is attributed to green alfalfa from a small holding in the province of Buenos Ayres where a few cases of the disease have since been discovered. These facts point to the probability that foot-and-mouth disease still lingers in a few centres unknown to the Argentine Government. It is not possible to forecast the future course of events in the case of a disease of such extraordinary infectivity as foot-and-mouth disease, but we shall, of course, use every possible means of obtaining full information on the subject.

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children.

MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will instruct the constables of the Metropolitan Police to report the cases of breach of the Intoxicating Liquors (Sale to Children) Act which come to their notice to the Commissioner, with a view to prosecution.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY TO THE HOME OFFICE (MR. COCHRANE, Ayrshire, N.): There are standing instructions to this effect and they are complied with. But it does not follow that proceedings can always be instituted. My right hon. friend stated the other day that the police had had before them no recent cases of breach of this Act which they could take up, and the particular case in October last, which, I understand, the hon. Member has in mind, was one in which it was not possible to take proceedings.

Walsham-le-Willows Anti-Vaccinationists.

MR. MALCOLM (Suffolk, Stowmarket): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that the Lxworth bench of magistrates has refused exemption from vaccination certificates to residents in the village of Walsham-le-Willows, in the county of Suffolk; and that one person, whose objection to vaccination was stated to be conscientious, was sent upon Friday last to Ipswich Gaol; and, if so, will he say what steps he proposes to take in the matter.

*MR. COCHRANE: I am informed by the Ixworth Justices that they have refused to grant certificates of exemption from vaccination to a few persons living at Walsham-le-Willows who failed to satisfy them that they conscientiously believed that vaccination would be prejudicial to the health of the child in question. I understand further that a person was committed by the justices to Ipswich Gaol on Friday the 15th instant for the reason that he failed to comply with an order of the Court for the vaccination of a child in respect of whom he had not applied for a certificate of exemption. There are no steps for the Secretary of State to take in the matter.

Imported Food Supplies.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can say when the Return relating to Imported Food Supplies, ordered by the House on 4th March last, will be in the hands of Members.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE (MR. BONAR LAW, Glasgow, Blackfriars): The Return is in the printer's hands and will be issued within a fortnight.

John Bright's Statue.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): To ask the hon. Member for West Derbyshire, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, if he can arrange to have the statue of John Bright placed in the same lobby as the statues of Mr. Gladstone and other Statesmen.

MR. VICTOR CAVENDISH (Derbyshire, W.): The First Commissioner regrets that he is not prepared to remove the statue of Mr. Bright to the Central Lobby, which he thinks should be reserved for Leaders of the Houses of Parliament and perhaps, in the future, for Prime Ministers only.

MR. POWELL-WILLIAMS (Birmingham, S.): Will the First Commissioner consider the propriety of removing the statue of John Bright to a better site than it at present occupies?

MR. VICTOR CAVENDISH: If any better site is suggested the First Com-

missioner will, I am sure, gladly consider it.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Can the hon. Gentleman say why the Bright statue has been subjected to the humiliation of being shoved into a corner with Oliver Cromwell?

[No answer was returned.]

Westminster Hall.

MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland): I beg to ask the hon. Member for West Derbyshire, as representing the Office of Works, what was the date of the closing of Westminster Hall to the public; what reasons then existed which made it desirable to prohibit free access to it; whether any of those reasons still exist; and, if not, whether he can see his way to re-opening it to the public.

MR. VICTOR CAVENDISH: The hon. Member is under a misapprehension, as Westminster Hall is now open daily to the public at reasonable hours, except while Parliament is sitting, and exclusive of Sundays, Christmas Days, and Good Fridays. The only other restriction is that persons may not enter or leave by the New Palace Yard door. The First Commissioner does not think it necessary or expedient to make any alteration in these conditions.

Repairs of Voluntary Schools.

MR. LAMBERT: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether, as Clause 7 (d) of the Education Act, 1902, enacts that funds should be provided by the managers for keeping the school-house in repair and making such alterations and improvements in the buildings as may be reasonably required by the local authority, he will explain why the Board of Education have decided that the Aid Grant under the Act of 1897 may be applied to such purposes.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (SIR WILLIAM ANSON, Oxford University): The hon. Member would appear to be under some misapprehension on this point. Schedule 2 (12) of the Education Act, 1902, definitely states that any balances in the hands of the former managers of a voluntary school shall,

after paying outstanding liabilities, be handed over to the persons who are managers of the school for the purposes of the Act, and shall be applied by them for the purposes for which provision is to be made under the Act by those managers. There is no decision of the Board of Education involved.

MR. LAMBERT: Have I not correctly quoted Clause 7 in my Question? Does it not clearly state that the managers shall themselves provide the funds for repairs?

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: But Schedule 2 provides for the handing over of certain balances which can be so applied.

Royal Irish Constabulary—Bicycles.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state the number of Royal Irish Constabulary who are provided with bicycles; whether the bicycles are the personal property of the members using them; and if he can say how many of the bicycles are of Irish manufacture.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (MR. WYNDHAM, Dover): Bicycles used by members of the Force are in every case the property of the men except two motor cycles the property of Government. The number of the former is unknown, nor can it be stated where the machines were manufactured. The two motor cycles were not manufactured in Ireland.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: In view of the fact that good bicycles are manufactured in Ireland, will the right hon. Gentleman see that they are purchased

in that country when required for police purposes?

MR. WYNDHAM: That rests with the men.

Irish Equivalent Education Grant.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he intends to apply any of the Equivalent Education Grant of £185,000 to primary education in Ireland; and, if so, how much.

MR. WYNDHAM: I have already stated that inquiries in this matter are still proceeding and that until these have been completed it will not be practicable to allocate the grant.

[Labourers' (Ireland) Acts.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, if he will grant the Return dealing with the Labourers' Acts on to-day's Paper.

MR. WYNDHAM: Full information in respect to Columns 1, 3, and 4 of the proposed Return is already published in the annual Reports of the Local Government Board, which are presented to Parliament. The publication of dates under Columns 5 and 6 would be misleading without reasons explanatory of the delays, for which the Board is in no way responsible. For a general statement on this particular subject I refer the hon. Member to the Board's Annual Report for 1901.

The following is the Return referred to in the Question—

Return giving particulars as to Improvement Schemes under above Acts, in the following form:—

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
Name of Union.	Number of schemes proposed.	Total number of cottages proposed to be erected.	Number of cottages annually sanctioned and erected.	Date at which scheme initiated.	Date at which loans sanctioned for cottages.

Irish Land Bill.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland how, under the Land Bill, it is proposed to redeem drainage and other similar charges.

MR. WYNDHAM: The provisions of the existing Acts provide for the redemption of superior interests, an expression which includes the charges referred to. The extension of these provisions proposed by the Bill will be found in the Bill.

Land Purchase (Ireland) Acts.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the number and amount of advances applied for under the Land Purchase Acts and sanction to which was withheld by the Land Commission on the ground that the security was inadequate.

MR. WYNDHAM: I hope to be able to give this information on Wednesday, if the hon. Gentleman will repeat the Question on that day.

New Bishopric of Southwark.

COLONEL STOPFORD-SACKVILLE (Northamptonshire, N.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he is now in a position to give a definite reply to the memorial, which was presented to him by certain Members of Parliament in March last, asking him to introduce legislation for the purpose of constituting a new Bishopric of Southwark, in accordance with the provisions of the Bill which was read a second time in the House last session.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): The question is still under consideration, but I hope very shortly to have the matter settled and to make an announcement.

Upkeep of Voluntary Schools.

MR. LAMBERT: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he will give the House an early opportunity of discussing the decision of the Education Department that public money may be used for the upkeep and alteration of voluntary school buildings.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The point referred to by the hon. Gentleman is, as I understand, not a decision of the Board of Education at all. It was laid down specifically in the Act passed last year. If the hon. Member will refer to Schedule 2 in that Act, I think he will see that it is not the Board of Education, but Parliament, which is responsible for the decision to which he appears to object.

MR. LAMBERT: Will the right hon. Gentleman give us an opportunity of discussing the action of the Board of Education in allowing public funds to be expended on private property.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not think the Board of Education are travelling, in this respect, beyond what they are obliged to do by Act of Parliament.

MR. LAMBERT: Is it not a matter within their discretion?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: If so, they are clearly not going beyond their powers.

The Whitsuntide Holidays.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): When does the right hon. Gentleman propose to take the Motion for the Adjournment for the Whitsuntide holidays?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am afraid I cannot say at the present moment. I should have liked to have felt more secure as to the course of the Committee of the Bill on which we are now engaged. I hope, however, to be able to answer to-morrow.

MR. BRYCE: There has been no indication as to what will be done on Thursday?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Supply, I should hope.

Brussels Sugar Convention.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, in view of the fact that the Brussels Sugar Convention prescribes that the first meeting of the Brussels Permanent Commission shall be held not later than 1st June next, and that the expenses incurred for its organisation and working are to be borne in part by this country, and of the

fact that the assent of this House has not yet been obtained, or asked for, to any such expenditure, do His Majesty's Government propose to incur the expenditure in question without previously obtaining the assent of this House; and, if so, out of what funds and under what conditions do they propose to provide for it.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: As my hon. friend is aware, the House in November last passed a Resolution in these terms. They undertook to adopt the necessary measures to enable His Majesty's Government to carry out the provisions of the Brussels Convention. In view of that undertaking, it will be competent for the Departments concerned, with the consent of the Treasury, to charge any necessary expenses out of the moneys voted for their services. The usual practice in such a case is to call attention by a note on the Appropriation Account of demands which are not expressly provided for in the Estimate. Of course, if the money is not sufficient, a Supplementary Estimate will have to be presented.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Has the right hon. Gentleman consulted the authorities of the House in order to ascertain whether such a Resolution authorises the expenditure of public money by the Government in this way?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It is not in my province to answer for the authorities of the House, but I have done my best to discover whether the procedure is one in consonance and harmony with the general practice of the House.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Which are the Departments immediately concerned—the Board of Trade or the Foreign Office?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I should think the Foreign Office mainly.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Out of what funds will money be provided?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: In view of what I have said, I apprehend it will be competent for the Department concerned, with the consent of the Treasury, to

charge any necessary expense to the money voted for their service.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs): Will there be any opportunity of discussing the expenditure on the Sugar Convention at all this session?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes, on the Bill.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: When will it be introduced?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not think there will be any long delay in introducing the Bill.

MR. BUCHANAN: Will the money be spent before the Bill is introduced?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have explained that the Treasury are of opinion that they have adequate authority for such expenses—travelling expenses entirely, as a matter of fact—under the Resolution already passed by the House.

MR. JOHN ELLIS: That may be the opinion of the Treasury, but can the right hon. Gentleman quote any precedent for that?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! This is really becoming a debate.

MR. JOHN ELLIS: It is a very important constitutional matter. [Cries of "Order!"]

*MR. SPEAKER: It may be a very important constitutional matter, but it does not arise out of this Question.

MOTION FOR THE ADJOURNMENT.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): I beg to ask leave to move the adjournment of the House in order to call attention to a definite matter of urgent public importance—namely, the determination of His Majesty's Ministers to spend public money in connection with the Brussels Sugar Convention without the sanction of Parliament.

*MR. SPEAKER: I do not think I can accept that Motion, because, as I understand, a Bill is already down upon that subject, and the matter can come on for discussion then.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: With submission, I do not understand that that Bill has anything whatever to do with that expenditure. I understood the Prime Minister to say that the Bill was not required at all for the purpose of the expenditure. The point we wish to press is the right of Government to spend money without the sanction of Parliament.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: May I remind you, Sir, that the Government has already announced that the Bill with regard to the Convention will not be introduced in Committee of the House, and, therefore, will not presumably authorise the expenditure of public money?

*MR. SPEAKER: Nobody knows better than the hon. Member that Bills authorising the expenditure of money are constantly introduced in the ordinary way, and that it is only when their main object is expenditure that they must be introduced in Committee. As regards the other point, it seems to me that the Convention which is to be carried out by the Bill is the cause of the expenditure. It necessitates organisation, travelling expenses, and other matters.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I understood the Prime Minister to say it was proposed to spend the money before introducing the Bill. Surely it is open to the Opposition to contest the right of the Government to spend money without the sanction of Parliament merely on a promise to carry through a Bill.

MR. LOUGH: The Convention is to meet on the 1st of June and the Prime Minister said the Bill would not be introduced before that date.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I said just the contrary.

MR. WHITLEY (Halifax) asked whether a Resolution passed last year could be taken under the rules of the House as authorising this expenditure of public money.

*MR. SPEAKER: That is not a matter which arises on this Motion. In fact, I

do not know to what Resolution the hon. Member refers.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: It is not on the Order-book.

*MR. SPEAKER: Notice has been given to the House by the Government. [Several HON. MEMBERS: No!]

MR. BUCHANAN: Can we be prevented from discussing this Motion because of a mere verbal promise to introduce a Bill dealing with a subject not yet on the Order-book?

*MR. SPEAKER: Although my statement has been contradicted I may point out that notice of a Bill to enable the Government to carry into effect the Convention is on the Order-book, and has been there many weeks.

MR. BRYCE: We have heard from the Prime Minister that the ground on which the Treasury consider that they are authorised in entailing this expenditure is a Resolution passed last session. What my hon. friend desires to discuss is whether the Treasury is right and whether it has the power on a Resolution of last session to take action. That is quite irrespective of the introduction of the Bill.

*MR. SPEAKER: I do not understand that to be the point.

MR. BRYCE: Did not the Prime Minister say that the Treasury conceived that they were allowed to spend the money on the strength of the Resolution of last session.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): Yes, Sir. A Resolution has been accepted by the House which puts on the Government the necessity of introducing a Bill to carry out the Convention, and that Bill will be introduced. ["No, no!"]

*MR. SPEAKER: I have given my opinion, right or wrong, to the best of my judgment. I have to decide these questions as they appear to me on the spur of the moment. I hold that the proposed Motion is out of order.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (BLIND AND DEAF CHILDREN) BILL.

"To amend The Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1893," presented by Mr. Cripps; supported by Mr. Henry Hobhouse, Mr. Lyttelton, and Sir Charles Renshaw; to be read a second time upon Monday, 8th June, and to be printed. (Bill 211.)

LONDON EDUCATION BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 2 :—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 9, after the word 'shall,' to insert the words 'consist of such number of members as the local education authority shall determine, of whom a majority shall be persons who are members of the local education authority, appointed by that authority, and twelve shall be persons who are members of Councils of Metropolitan Boroughs appointed in manner provided in the First Schedule to this Act, and twenty-five shall be appointed by the local education authority in accordance with a scheme under this Act made by that authority and approved by the Board of Education."

"(2) The local education authority may, if they think fit, appoint not more than five persons from among the members of the London School Board to be supernumerary members of the first Education Committee; but those supernumerary members shall cease to hold office on the expiration of a period of five years from the date of the constitution of the first Education Committee, and any vacancy in their number occurring by death, resignation, or otherwise shall not be filled up."—(Sir William Anson.)

Question again proposed, "That those words, as amended, be there inserted."

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) said he found on page 26 of the Amendments one in the name of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education to omit Clause 2. He thought it would be to the convenience of the House if the Government made a statement of their intentions in this greatly altered position of affairs.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I think that the request of the right hon. Gentleman

is eminently reasonable; and I can explain in a few words both the intentions of the Government as regards this clause and the precise effect of leaving it out. The House will remember the general principles which I ventured to lay down as being those which ought to govern us in dealing with this complicated and difficult problem of London education and of London government generally. Those two propositions were certainly as regards education that it would be impossible, for many reasons which I need not recapitulate, to have other than a central single authority for dealing with London. That, I think, was accepted by all sections of the House. But we had a Second-Reading debate, and a very important division as to whether that central authority should be elected *ad hoc* or whether we should avail ourselves of the existing municipal institutions of the Metropolis for carrying out this great policy. The Government were always of opinion that the existing institutions should be utilised. That was the first proposition which I think the House after debate affirmed. The general proposition that it ought to be a single authority was held unanimously or almost unanimously; and we on this side of the House thought that this single authority should be the County Council. Then the second proposition I laid down as being that which ought to guide us in determining this matter was, also for a variety of reasons, the cogency of which is not denied in any quarter, that the London boroughs should have their share in working the educational machinery of the metropolitan area. I do not think that any one dissents from that broad proposition. Even those who have, perhaps, less regard and less parental affection than I should naturally be supposed to have towards the Borough Councils of the Metropolis were strongly of opinion that there should be no temptation on the part of the County Council to fall into that over-centralisation into which even the greatest friends of the School Board admit that distinguished body has fallen. Over-centralisation becomes a very great danger when you are dealing with so vast a population and an enormous number of schools as the education authority of London must necessarily deal with. We were, therefore, of opinion that the metropolitan boroughs should

have some share in the general work ; but, as I stated on the Second Reading, the exact character of the apportionment of these duties must be one for discussion in Committee, and it is impossible to say beforehand, as a matter of absolute principle, one way or the other, which scheme is to be adopted until the views of the House in general, and those of the London Members in particular, are known.

The plan which we hoped to see adopted was in the nature of a compromise. We felt the argument addressed to us on the First Reading of the Bill, that it was quite impossible to give such a representation to the boroughs on the Education Committee as would practically make the boroughs, if they acted together, almost supreme, or at all events practically supreme, by giving them the overwhelming voice on the Committee. We felt again, for reasons which I need not recapitulate, that that might lead to friction between the County Council and its own Committee ; and if there was jealousy between these two bodies it would greatly hamper the successful working of the Act, would produce a great deal of unnecessary heat, and would not tend either to smooth administration or to the true interests of education. We therefore endeavoured to find a compromise which should leave the boroughs some representation on the Education Committee without giving them that very great authority on the Committee which a representative of each borough would necessarily do. All compromises are open to the objection that they do not carry into effect some logical principle, and they do not carry the extremest consequences of some view which is or may be held. That is a defect common to all compromises. But there is an advantage which some compromises possess when the two sides are willing to give up something—to diminish the full and logical effect of their views in order to produce harmony, and to come to some common agreement with those with whom in many respects they are probably at one. Unfortunately the compromise of the Government has turned out as possessing not even this advantage, without

which a compromise is quite worthless. The compromise, unfortunately, pleases nobody, or fully satisfies nobody. And if anyone will study the division lists as I have studied the list in the division which took place on Wednesday, he will see that we had the misfortune of finding against us in the lobby, or deliberately abstaining from voting, hon. Gentlemen who thought that we were giving too much representation to the boroughs on the Central Committee, and hon. Gentlemen who thought that we were giving too little. Those Gentlemen, though holding very different and opposite views, joined together in order to condemn to the best of their ability the course taken by the Government. I do not know whether that would have been necessarily a matter which we could have avoided in any circumstances, but it is especially important when we remember the result if this compromise is to be carried out. It will involve on the first schedule of the Bill an elaborate discussion of the kind of question which in my experience produces great heat and difficulty, above almost any other class of questions with which the House is concerned—namely, the local question, in which the local likings and dislikings come to the front, and in which there is no real strong principle to guide the House, or to enable it to decide between the opposing views. I do not think it would be possible to work through that schedule except the House is convinced, as far as its majority is concerned, that it is worth a struggle to carry out a principle which the great majority desire to see carried out. It is evident that we have no such support behind us. I never refuse to accept the facts of a situation when they are presented to me clearly ; and it is quite evident, not only that the great body of the House, unconnected directly with London, look with considerable suspicion and dislike on this plan, but the majority of London Members themselves, for one reason or another, very often for different reasons, do not approve it. In these circumstances it was not possible to carry out the compromise that we had hoped, but hoped in vain, would bring peace to the two parties ; and we thought therefore that the best plan was to put the London County Council, as far as regards the constitution

of this Committee, precisely in the position of the other County Councils in the country. That will be the effect, and it will be the only effect, of carrying the Amendment of my hon. friend in charge of the Bill. In the Press there has been, I believe, a great misunderstanding as to what the result of this Amendment will be. The whole result of omitting Clause 2 is that the London County Council will be in precisely the position of other Councils under the Act of last year as far as the constitution of its own Committee. In other words, they will have to produce a scheme which will have a majority of members of the County Council, unless the County Council shall otherwise determine; and which will provide for the appointment of experts, the inclusion of women, and the appointment of some members of the London School Board, if it is thought desirable, on the first Committee. These are the provisions in the present Bill, and they will be transferred, without amendment, diminution, or modification of any kind, to the London County Council. Undoubtedly the result will be a great simplification of the Bill; and although it is perfectly vain to hope that we can carry the whole body of London opinion with us, yet I believe it is on the whole the course which the Committee will be best advised to adopt in the circumstances.

My hon. friend in charge of this Bill has received some very undeserved criticism for not having adequately consulted London opinion on this subject. Any one who levels that criticism at my hon. friend can only do so in total ignorance of the facts. I am certain that all London Members, and all who have any special title to speak on metropolitan education, will agree that my hon. friend has been unwearied in his efforts, both to collect views and opinions, and to adopt suggestions which would be as far as possible in harmony with their views, in a matter which is more or less a question of details. If my hon. friend has not been successful, it is not his fault, nor that of the London Members. It is the fault of that division of opinion which exists over the whole Metropolis. I am sure that the House will acquit my hon. friend of having failed either in desire or in effort to settle this matter without prolonged controversy. I have been quite frank with the House. I have

Mr. A. J. Balfour.

told the House exactly by what stages we have arrived at the present position; and I hope the House will accept the plan which we now propose, and that even those who would prefer an *ad hoc* authority will now bring themselves to give the present scheme its best shape, and will not endeavour either wholly to exclude the Borough Councils or hamper the County Council. Perhaps we may make more harmonious progress in regard to this measure of local government than we have made recently in the hours we have spent on this thorny topic. I hope I have answered the appeal of the right hon. Gentleman, and that my explanations of the Government's position may be satisfactory to both sides of the House.

MR. BRYCE said that the House was much indebted to the right hon. Gentleman for his statement. On Wednesday last they had a sort of Second Reading debate, and the result was seen in the action which the Government had now taken. After the complete change which had been made by the Government, and after such a transformation in the character of the Bill, it was impossible to proceed with the discussion of the Bill at once. [MINISTERIAL cries of "Oh!" and OPPOSITION cheers.] The Committee required an interval before resuming its discussions.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Why?

MR. BRYCE: The Government had done very wisely in altering their Bill. They had listened to the voice of reason, as it was so largely expressed by their own supporters; and he hoped that they had not been wholly unaffected by voices which had made themselves heard elsewhere than in the House of Commons. For the changes which they had made the Government deserved all possible credit. [Cries of "No."] They had completely altered the whole character of the Bill in one vital point.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): It does not make it much better.

MR. BRYCE: But that was not by any means the only point in controversy. There remained a clause which would make just as much difference to smooth working

of the Bill as the clause which has disappeared. They had heard frequently from the right hon. Gentleman that London required different and special treatment, and that it was unlike other bodies. Was the right hon. Gentleman justified in giving the Committee no opportunity of discussing any alterations in the conditions which should be attached to the London Education Committee, as distinguished from other Education Committees? That question could have been discussed if Clause 2 had remained, but now the opportunity of moving Amendments would be gone. There ought to be such an interval of time as would allow Members to consider the altered circumstances, and their effect on Clause 3, which would hand over management, in a sense very different from that of last year's Bill, to the Borough Councils. But, although the Borough Councils were driven out in one direction, they came back in another. The Committee did not know where they were. They wanted to consider what difference the omission of Clause 2 would make, and how far it would affect the question of management. Whenever a vital and far-reaching change of this kind was proposed by a Government, it was customary to adjourn consideration for a time, to allow of Amendments being put down. There were two bodies of great weight and influence which had a right to address representations to the House on the subject. The London County Council and the London School Board ought to have an opportunity of considering the Bill in its new aspect, and of addressing communications to the House upon it; and with a view of securing an interval which would ultimately conduce to the smooth conduct of the proceedings, he begged to move that progress be reported.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report progress, and ask leave to sit again."—(*Mr. Bryce.*)

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The right hon. Gentleman is amazingly unreasonable. He talks of some vital and fundamental alteration of the Bill in deference to debate in this House, and I think he said in deference to some body outside. I do not quite know what he means. I am not aware that either of the two bodies he has mentioned have dealt with this

question since Wednesday last. Whom he takes his inspiration from he is avowedly reluctant to say himself. Whatever body it was, it must of course have sat on Thursday or Friday, because the Amendment was put down for Friday. I do not know whether subsequent to Friday the right hon. Gentleman has received inspiration from any other quarter; if so, that other quarter must have received its own inspiration from the Government. In truth I think the right hon. Gentleman is, if I may venture to say so, not acting a very reasonable part. He says he wants to make a lot of other changes in the Committee. I think the Amendment put down in the name of my hon. friend was also put down in the name of several hon. Gentlemen on that side of the House, and when a concession is made to the Opposition, I do not know that it is usual for them at once to get up and say, "This is an outrage on the House of Commons," and that the adjournment must at once be moved so that the House may have time to go into retreat to consider the novelty of the situation thus presented. I am sure that the right hon. Gentleman is far too ardent a worker not to have considered the effect of an Amendment so long on the Paper. The right hon. Gentleman wants a long time now to consider Clause 3 because the modifications in Clause 2 find an echo in Clause 3 and because it is perfectly impossible to consider now what Clause 3 is to be. I do not believe it will be possible for the hon. Gentleman to frame an Amendment to Clause 3 which would have been in order if Clause 2 had remained and which would be out of order now that Clause 2 has been removed. The truth is that Clause 3 does not depend on Clause 2. It belongs to a wholly different branch of the subject. It has no intimate or logical relation with Clause 2, and to say that this House is so slow of comprehension and dull of apprehension as to be incapable of continuing the discussion on this Bill because it is stunned, astonished, and befogged by the change the Government announced forty-eight hours ago, is really to trespass on our common sense, and I am sure the right hon. Gentleman is absolutely incapable of suggesting any course for the sole purpose of delaying this Bill. But had the right hon. Gentleman been of less

weight and character in this House I should really almost have been betrayed into the supposition that there was some obstructive intention behind his action. I am happy to think that he has gradually built up a character which makes such a suspicion quite absurd. But I must remind the right hon. Gentleman that even the best of characters may be shattered by evil communication, and that it would conduce to his dignity and influence, as well as the dignity of the House at large, if we were now to proceed to discuss the Bill, with every detail and bearing of which I am certain all the Members of the House are familiar.

DR. MACNAMARA said he had not much character to lose, and he confessed he was not afraid of what the Prime Minister had said. The right hon. Gentleman had spoken of the Motion as amazing and unreasonable. Let him say with all respect that he considered the conduct of this Bill by the Government as amazingly grotesque. He considered that the Government had played with the House of Commons. He had sat through these debates, and the thought that had constantly occurred to him was that this sort of thing would have been better if it had been acted at the Savoy Theatre than in the House of Commons. He would recommend the conduct of this Bill to Mr. Gilbert as affording the materials for a screaming farce. What was their position with regard to the conduct of the Bill? The Second Reading was taken four Parliamentary days after the First Reading, and the Committee stage was rushed before either the School Board or the London County Council had an opportunity of examining its details, in distinct defiance of the Prime Minister's own pledge.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I cannot allow that statement to be made. It is not so.

DR. MACNAMARA: Will hon. Members allow me to prove the statement?

*THE CHAIRMAN: This has nothing to do with the Motion before the Committee. I must remind the hon. Member that a Motion having been made to

report progress, the debate must be strictly confined to that matter.

DR. MACNAMARA said he was in a difficulty now. He had stated a fact which, by the ruling of the Chairman, he could not prove.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Well, never mind about it.

DR. MACNAMARA said he would confine himself strictly to the question before the Committee, namely, Clause 2. The Government got Clause 1 through Committee on the understanding that the Act of last year was to apply to London. But there was one vital exception to that. The constitution of the Education Committee for London was to be left over for consideration until Clause 2 was reached. Therefore, now that Clause 2 was to be struck out, the Committee were thrown back on Clause 1, which was to give them an authority for London. But the Government had got Clause 1 under false pretences, because if it had not been for the existence of Clause 2, providing for the constitution of an Education Committee, hon. Members would have had something to say about the constitution of the Committee as set up under last year's Act. Now, Clause 2 was to be withdrawn, and Clause 1 was widened. That, he considered, was a dishonest mode of procedure. [Laughter.] He did not use the word in a bad sense, he hoped. [Laughter.] Very well, he would use it in any way they liked. He felt very strongly on this matter. London was not being properly treated in this matter. He asked the Committee to consider the kaleidoscopic changes it had undergone. The original form of the clause was as follows—

"The Education Committee of the local education authority shall be constituted in manner provided by the First Schedule to this Act."

The First Schedule originally provided that there should be thirty-six persons who were members of the local education authority, thirty-one who were members of the Councils of the Metropolitan boroughs; and twenty-five appointed by the local education authority. That was how the schedule stood when the Committee passed Clause 1. Last Tuesday

Mr. A. J. Balfour.

night, after nine o'clock, he was astonished beyond description by hearing the hon. Baronet say, on behalf of the Government, that Clause 2 of the Bill and the First Schedule were both to be dropped. The second edition of the clause would, the Parliamentary Secretary announced, make the Committee consist of seventy-nine members. The Government proposed to ask the London County Council to contribute forty-two members; there were to be twelve representatives of the boroughs and twenty-five outsiders. The proposed constitution of the Committee stood in that condition until six o'clock last Wednesday, and when they resumed the discussion of Clause 2, the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Cambridge University got up and moved the third edition of the clause. In view of these facts, which must be in the memory of the Committee, he maintained that he was justified in saying that the House was being played with in this matter. They were entitled, on Clause 1, to discuss the constitution of the Committee, but that clause was passed under false pretences. They understood that they could discuss the constitution of the Committee on Clause 2, and that clause, having undergone a series of changes, now disappeared altogether. He would ask the Government why they did not bring their courage up to the sticking point and drop the thing altogether. He would suggest respectfully that they should try again, and take longer time over it, and then they would have something definite to discuss. They would then be thrown back on Section 17 of last year's Act, and the constitution of the Education Committee for London would be carried out by that Act. He ventured to say that this was the feeling of the House of Commons. The Prime Minister had just said that what was now proposed would give the County Council complete control over the appointment of the Committee. It would do a lot of other things which he ventured to say the Committee had not realised. He protested against the dropping of the clause now, because they could not constitute a Committee in London in the same way as in the counties. Clause 2 did give them a chance of getting a special Education Committee for London. They ought to have had an opportunity

of discussing that when they determined to apply last year's Act to London. It was grossly unfair to the people of London that the House had been driven into the position of passing Clause 1 under false pretences. It meant a serious breach of faith. He, for one, would protest as long as he could against this after-thought of adapting Section 17 of last year's Act to London. He thought that the conduct of the Bill had been grotesque and unworthy of the Government or the House. If it were not a fact that London sent to this House a large majority of Tories, this would not have been proposed, but in the circumstances the Government did what they liked.

MR. BOUSFIELD (Hackney, N.) rose to a point of order, and asked whether, if the Committee agreed to strike out Clause 2, it would be in order to bring up a new clause. He submitted that any Member could bring up a new clause dealing in a different manner with the constitution of the Committee.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I think if the Committee strikes out Clause 2, it intends thereby to say that the Act of last year is to be applicable. That is the view I held last Wednesday, as the hon. Member will recollect if he was here.

MR. BOUSFIELD said that those who desired an alternative to Clause 2 would have to vote in the same lobby with those who desired to introduce the provisions of last year's Act. He submitted that the Committee would be stultified unless they could make their views heard in reference to some alternative.

*THE CHAIRMAN said [he was afraid that the working out of Parliamentary procedure often resulted in hon. Members of totally different views voting for the same Motion.

SIR W. HART DYKE (Kent, Dartford) said that of course it was not unnatural that there should be irritation caused by these changes made on the part of the Government. He had been long enough in Parliament to know that a similar thing had happened before and would happen again. So far

as he was concerned he was thankful to feel that they had at length moved some of these miserable barbed wire entanglements which had raised one or two heated debates, and that they found themselves in smooth water at last. He was perfectly content with the situation as it now stood. The hon. Member opposite had made a very excited speech; in fact this Bill seemed almost too much for his brain. But, after all, he would remind the hon. Member that when he had been longer in Parliament he would find that great and even serious changes were very often made in Bills in Committee. It was as easy as possible for any partisan, in attacking the Government, to find any amount of cases of breach of faith and all those other terrible accusations that he had been bringing against the Government. After all they were dealing with a very tangled and difficult question, and they should take credit to themselves, on whichever side of the House they sat, that their object was to secure what would be best for the State and the purpose in view; and they ought to dismiss those very serious charges in which the hon. Member had indulged—especially the charge of breach of faith against the Prime Minister. He believed that the hon. Gentleman and himself were both anxious to deal with educational matters on very nearly the same lines, but there was one point on which he was at issue with the hon. Member. The hon. Gentleman indicated that he thought it was very hard indeed that under the new state of affairs the Committee would not have an opportunity of discussing the constitution of the Education Committee. Now, he felt most strongly that the more the formation of that Committee was left to the central authority, that the less it was left to the discussion of this Committee, the better the Committee would be and the more efficient and beneficial work it would do for education. He had all along struggled for the London County Council being made the one authority for education in the Metropolis. He had lately been attending many meetings of the Education Committee in his own county of Kent, and had been very keenly anxious to see how the Act was likely to work

out. In Kent they divided the work into sub-divisions, and he had been astonished at the extreme facility with which the work had been performed. They had formed small sub-committees of 6, 7, and 8.

*THE CHAIRMAN said he must remind the right hon. Gentleman that the merits of the Question were not now under discussion. The only Question before the Committee was whether they should report progress or not.

SIR W. HART DYKE said he was sorry he had been led away by the remarks of the hon. Member for Camberwell in regard to the danger of not allowing the Committee to discuss the formation of the Education Committee. Under the circumstances, he did not think it would be advantageous to report progress, and for this reason, that he did not think that there was a single Member who was not clearly and positively aware of what the new position was. Clause 2 had been criticised and condemned again and again on both sides of the House. But what about his right hon. friend who moved to report progress? Did he not understand the new state of things? And, if not, why did he put down an Amendment on the Order Paper to leave out Clause 2 and insert Section 17 of the principal Act? That was the very proposal of the Government. Therefore, his right hon. friend was placed in this dilemma—either that in making his Motion to report progress he was obstructive in his tactics, or that he had put on the Order Paper an Amendment the effect of which he had not studied.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) said that the object of the Motion was to know distinctly where the Government was at the present moment. In his first explanation the right hon. the Prime Minister said that the compromise was nowhere; but he thought the compromise was where the Government was. They did not know exactly where they were. The Bill had been under discussion for three days, and they had had three different proposals. They started with the Borough Councils each being represented by one member; these were

Sir W. Hart Dyke.

cut down to twelve by the grouping process, which nobody understood—not even His Majesty's Government—and there was nobody even to defend it. Now the final representation of the Government's views on the subject—as he understood the Prime Minister—was practically to put the London County Council in the same position as the County Councils in the country.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: As regards the Committee.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: Then it was not proposed that the London County Council should have the same powers even now as the County Councils in the country?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: As regards Clause 2.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said that the Prime Minister had given a most important explanation, but if that was all that he intended his explanation was incomplete. The London County Council was not in the position which the County Councils in the country were in, for although the nomination of the Committee was in the hands of the London County Council, that Committee was deprived of all its powers by Clause 3. He did not despair, after what had happened, of the Government altering their mind again, for they did not seem to have the power of sticking to anything except office. He was not complaining. It was military tactics according to the latest development. It was Boer tactics to stick to your kopje; and one kopje was just as another. The Prime Minister said that one principle was just as good as another. One kopje was just as another so long as they had got cover and forage. He was, therefore, very glad of that explanation from the Prime Minister. With these principles there was no real necessity why they should not get something in the shape of a Bill after all. The Prime Minister said there was no principle involved—he would quote the hon. Gentleman's exact words—

“It was not a matter of principle one way or the other.”

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Quite right, on Clause 2.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: What is the principle? It seemed to him that the principle was just as elusive as De Wet, because on Clause 1, they thought that was the principle of the Bill; but the Prime Minister said, “No, we go further and chase the principle into Clause 2.”

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not like to interrupt the hon. Gentleman especially as he is affording the Committee so much entertainment, but let him have his entertainment upon somebody else than upon me. When the hon. Gentleman wants to invent a speech and put it into somebody's mouth, do not let him choose me, that is all. I never said anything like that.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said he simply quoted the exact words of the Prime Minister. It was perfectly clear that, after a good deal of scouting, the principle of Clause 2 was chased into the illimitable veldt of the schedule. They all thought they had surrounded it with the barbed wire entanglements spoken of by the right hon. Gentleman opposite, and had captured it. He supposed they would get it at some time or another; but at the present moment, after the Prime Minister's speech, there was really no particular principle in the Bill at all. He rather agreed with the Prime Minister. There was a very extraordinary statement as to why the right hon. Gentleman was abandoning his position on this particular kopje. The right hon. Gentleman said he had no support; his reserves had retired, and therefore he felt that he had been outflanked by the hon. Member for Limehouse and others, and that he did not consider he had sufficient support to face the attack. What was desirable to be known was, what was the Prime Minister's idea of support? No support! The right hon. Gentleman had the support of the majority of the London Members. Did the right hon. Gentleman consider that the majority of the London Members represented the views of London? Evidently he did not, because the majority of the London Members supported him on this particular clause. The Prime Minister had come to the conclusion that they did not represent London and that was exactly the conclusion to which his friends had come.

He asked the right hon. Gentleman to carry the position a little further. He was still on Clause 2.

* THE CHAIRMAN: If the hon. Gentleman desires to discuss the substance of the clause, the Motion to report progress had better be withdrawn, otherwise the debate would be very limited. It is obviously difficult for the hon. Member to confine himself to the Motion before the Committee.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said he did not think the Committee was in a position to discuss anything, and therefore he was supporting the Motion to report progress. The Government had escaped from the battlefield and they did not know where their Army was. He was discussing the question of progress from the point of view of the Government supporters. The Government had come to the conclusion that, for one reason or another, learned Gentlemen sitting behind them did not represent London, so they abandoned this clause. If they did not represent London whom did they represent at all on this Bill?

* THE CHAIRMAN: Not by the widest stretch of the imagination can the hon. Member's observations be held relevant to the Motion before the Committee. I ask the hon. Gentleman to confine himself strictly to the question of adjournment.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said he would submit that the Government ought to accept the Motion in order that they might reconsider the whole position. It was perfectly clear that the Government were not sure of their own position. They ought not only to reconsider Clause 2, but the whole position. The Bill had been changed three times in Committee on one clause. Wednesday last was devoted to one Amendment to the clause, and they were to be asked to devote that day to the abandonment of the entire clause. It was perfectly clear that the Bill had not the support of London. He did not believe that even the noble Lord the Member for Greenwich would support it. Therefore, he submitted that there was a good case

Mr. Lloyd-George.

for adjourning the discussion in order to afford the Government an opportunity of reconsidering their position.

MR. COHEN (Islington, E.) said he thought the hon. Member for North Camberwell would regret some of the epithets he had used in his speech, which was totally incomprehensible. The present proposal of the Government would go far towards meeting the objections which had been urged from the other side of the House, by no one more repeatedly than by the hon. Member himself. The hon. Member said that last week's proceedings partook of the nature of comic opera; but the hon. Member had a very considerable part in those comic proceedings. He hoped the Committee would proceed to the discussion of the Bill without unreasonable delay; and try and amend it in any manner which they might deem conducive to the object in view.

MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.) said the ruling which had been given from the Chair would deprive the Committee of any opportunity of carrying out modifications of Section 17 of the Act of last year. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dartford, in his interesting contribution to the debate, dwelt on the fact that Clause 17 was amply discussed last session; but it was discussed in connection with education in the country, not in London. Clause 1 of the present Bill was passed on the definite understanding that they should have an opportunity of discussing, at a later stage of the Bill, modifications of Section 17 of the Act of last year. He would put it to the First Lord of the Treasury, whose fairness of mind on such matters was never at fault, whether the Committee was now in the position which the right hon. Gentleman contemplated when he asked the Committee to accept Clause 1. By the withdrawal of Clause 2 the Committee would be deprived of any opportunity of discussing the particular application of Section 17 of last year's Act to the circumstances of London, which the right hon. Gentleman distinctly wished the House to have a chance of dealing with. No consideration pointed more clearly to the claim of the Committee to have the question adjourned than the necessity for modifying Section

17. The Chairman had ruled most distinctly, and of course the Committee would accept that ruling, that the Committee would be precluded by the elimination of Clause 2 from discussing any modifications of Section 17 in its application to London. That was a peculiar position which was almost unconstitutional in the conduct of Bills through Parliament. He would challenge the Prime Minister to this issue—if Clause 2 were eliminated the Committee would be deprived of an opportunity which the right hon. Gentleman distinctly said it should have. The right hon. Gentleman would, therefore, be obtaining an entirely new set of principles under false pretences; and in such a situation it was the duty of the right hon. Gentleman to frankly withdraw the Bill, and present the Committee with a clear and logical set of proposals to be discussed *ab initio*. He thought that a Motion for the adjournment of the debate was never more justly made than on the present occasion.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said that hon. Gentlemen opposite appeared to him to be not only unreasonable, but ill-advised. What would happen if the Motion were carried? Supply would be taken, and the entire Front Opposition Bench would leave the House, and Supply would be discussed by two or three hon. Members. As one of those who voted in the minority in the division on Clause 2 the other night, he welcomed the openness to conviction which the Government had now shown. He was extremely pleased that the Government had now followed the views of the minority; although that might be a little hard on the majority who supported them. He had heard Members of that majority, with, he thought, reasonable irritation, saying they liked a Minister who knew his own mind. He would ask the Secretary to the Board of Education where he had left those sheep in the wilderness. They supported the clause; were they now to be expected to support its abandonment. He confessed he did not know what had occurred; but it was quite clear that they were applying the Act of last year to London with modifications; and he took it that it was perfectly open to introduce such modifications either by new clauses or by Amendments to Amend-

ments. He would remind the Committee that they could not consider the question of postponing Clause 2 until they had disposed of the Amendments. A fragment of Clause 2 was before the Committee; and the entire clause should be before the Committee before it could be either postponed or abandoned. He thought the Committee were prepared to proceed with the discussion of the Bill. Surely the hon. Member for North Camberwell, who was full of the details of the measure, would not feel himself incompetent to deal with what would follow if Clause 2 were abandoned.

MR. LOUGH (Islington W.) said that the Chairman had stated that if the present Motion were disposed of, it would be possible to substitute a broader Motion, on which the merits of the question might be discussed. He would strongly press that course on the Government. The Committee were really in the greatest difficulty in proceeding at the present moment. Assuming that Clause 2 was disposed of, they would commence Clause 3; but Clause 3 was constructed with a view to Clause 2, and was the complement of it. Clause 3 absolutely depended on Clause 2; and the Committee would be in a great difficulty in considering Clause 3 without Clause 2. He would, therefore, ask the Prime Minister, if this Motion were withdrawn, would he submit a broader Motion in order to enable them to discuss the position that would be established by the withdrawal of Clause 2. The position into which the Government had brought the Committee rendered their previous debates ridiculous; and he thought the Government ought to do something to put the debate in order.

SIR JOHN GORST (Cambridge University) said he would appeal to the Committee not to waste any more time. It was quite clear that the Motion was premature, because Clause 2 was still before the Committee. There were a number of Amendments to Clause 2, which, he supposed, could be moved. After they had been disposed of, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education would move that Clause 2 be omitted, and the whole conduct of the Government could then be discussed. After that the Committee could proceed with Clause 3, which did not in any way

depend on Clause 2. A great many hon. Members had urged the Government to drop Clause 2; and that course had now been adopted.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton) said he looked at the facts before the House. A few days ago they were discussing Clause 2, and the Government were exceedingly anxious that Clause 2 should be passed. Now they asked that Clause 2 should be withdrawn. He, however, understood that that could not be done. The Government would move that Clause 2 should be withdrawn and hon. Gentlemen who were opposed to the Clause would oppose that, and the hon. Member for Camberwell would come

down and make one of the many valuable speeches he had made in this debate against it. Was that the way in which an afternoon ought to be spent? When the Government made a declaration that they ought to withdraw Clause 2, the hon. Member for Camberwell should have sufficient time to consider what his attitude should be. There was other business on the Paper to which the House might go, and therefore he applied to the Government to accede to the Motion of the right hon. Member to report progress.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 111; Noes, 234. (Division List No. 98.)

AYES.

Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbt. Hy.
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Black, Alexander William
Brown, Geo. M. (*Edinburgh*)
Bryce, Right Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Causton, Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Davies, M. Vaughan (*Cardigan*)
Dewar, John A. (*Inverness-sh.*)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, John Edward
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Sir F. H. (*Maidstone*)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (*Leith*)
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, J. M. F.
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (*Berwick*)
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale
Hayter, Rt Hon Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.

Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristol, E*)
Holland, Sir William Henry
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Hutton, Alfred E. (*Morley*)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, David Brynmor (*Swansea*)
Jones, Wm. (*Carnarvonshire*)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J
McKenna, Reginald
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mappin, Sir Fredk. Thorpe
Mellor, Rt. Hn. John William
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Cardmarthen*)
Morley, Rt. Hn. John (*Montrose*)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Palmer, Sir C. M. (*Durham*)
Palmer, G. Wm. (*Reading*)
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (*Saffron Walden*)
Perks, Robert William
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (*Dumfries*)
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard

Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Robertson, Edmund (*Dundee*)
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
Schwann, Charles E.
Shaw, Charles E. (*Stafford*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Fo-farshire*)
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, A. (*Cardmarthen, E.*)
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glam., E.*)
Thomas, David A. (*Merthyr*)
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (*Barnsley*)
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Wason, E. (*Clackmannan*)
Wason, J. Cathcart (*Orkney*)
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
Whiteley, G. (*York, W. R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, O. (*Merioneth*)
Wilson, J. W. (*Worcestersh. N.*)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES.—
Mr. Herbert Gladstone
and Mr. William M'Arthur.

NOES.

Abraham, W. (*Cork, N.E.*)
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Aug. Henry Eden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.

Sir John Gorst.

Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Austin, Sir John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (*Walsworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert

Baird, John George Alexander
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (*Manchester*)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (*Hornsey*)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christchurch*)
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.

Bignold, Arthur
 Bigwood, James
 Bill, Charles
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bond, Edward
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Bowles, Col. H. F. (*Middle.*)
 Bowles, T. Gibson (*Lynn Regis*)
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brown, Sir Alx. H. (*Shropsh.*)
 Bull, William James
 Burdett-Coutts, W.
 Burke, E. Haviland
 Butcher, John George
 Campbell, John (*Armagh, S.*)
 Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
 Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*)
 Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (*Birm*)
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. A. (*Worc.*)
 Chapman, Edward
 Charrington, Spencer
 Churchill, Winston Spencer
 Clive, Captain Percy A.
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coddington, Sir William
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasg.*)
 Cox, Irwin Edwd. Bainbridge
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
 Cullinan, J.
 Cust, Henry John C.
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Denny, Colonel
 Dewar, Sir T. R. (*Tr. Ham'ts*)
 Dickson, Charles Scott
 Dickson-Poynder Sir John P.
 Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Jos. C.
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
 Doxford, Sir William Theodore
 Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Faber, George Denison (*York*)
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (*Man'r*)
 Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
 Flower, Ernest
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Forster, Henry William
 Tyler, John Arthur
 Gardner, Ernest
 Garfit, William
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (*City of Lond.*)
 Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (*St. Albans*)
 Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nairn*)
 Gordon, Maj. Evans (*Tr. H'm'ts*)
 Gore, Hn. S. F. Ormsby-
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
 Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
 Goulding, Edward Alfred

Graham, Henry Robert
 Gray, Ernest (*West Ham*)
 Greene, Sir E. W. (*Bury St. Ed.*)
 Greene, Hy. D. (*Shrewsbury*)
 Greene, W. Raymond (*Camb*)
 Grenfell, William Henry
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Gunter, Sir Robert
 Hain, Edward
 Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
 Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashfd*)
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Harris, Frederick Leverton
 Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
 Healy, Timothy Michael
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Helder, Augustus
 Hoare, Sir Samuel
 Hobhouse, Rt. Hon. H. (*Som'r's't. E.*)
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Howard, J. (*Midd., Tottham*)
 Hozier, Hon. Jas. Henry Cecil
 Hutton, John (*Yorks, N. E.*)
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
 Johnstone, Heywood
 Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir J. H.
 Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*)
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*)
 Kerr, John
 Keswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Knowles, Lees
 Laurie, Lieut.-General
 Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
 Lawrence, Sir Jos. (*Monm'th*)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*)
 Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks. N. E.*)
 Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
 Legge, Col. Hon. Honeage
 Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Chas. W. (*Evesham*)
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (*Bristol, S.*)
 Lowther, C. (*Cumb. Eskdale*)
 Lowther, Rt. Hon. Jas. (*Kent*)
 Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*)
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
 Maconochie, A. W.
 M'IVER, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*)
 M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Maxwell, W. J. H. (*Dumfriessh.*)
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Middlemore, Jn. Throgmorton
 Mitchell, William (*Burnley*)
 More, Robt. Jasper (*Shropshire*)
 Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
 Mount, William Arthur
 Mowbray, Sir Robt. Gray C.
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (*Bute*)
 Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
 Myers, William Henry
 Newdegate, Francis A. N.
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Nolan, Joseph (*Louth, S.*)
 O'Brien, K. (*Tipperary, Mid*)
 O'Brien, Patrick (*Kilkenny*)
 O'Connor, Jas. (*Wicklow, W.*)
 Palmer, Walter (*Salisbury*)

Pease, H. Pike (*Darlington*)
 Peel, Hn. Wm. R. Wellesley
 Pemberton, John S. G.
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Plummer, Walter R.
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Rattigan, Sir William Henry
 Redmond, William (*Clare*)
 Remnant, James Farquharson
 Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
 Renwick, George
 Ridley, Hon. M. W. (*Stalybridge*)
 Ridley, S. F. (*Belthnal Green*)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
 Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
 Robertson, H. (*Hackney*)
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*)
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
 Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Saunderson, Rt. Hon. Col. E. J.
 Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
 Seely, Chas. Hilton (*Lincoln*)
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, E.*)
 Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks*)
 Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
 Spear, John Ward
 Stanley, Edward Jas. (*S. merset*)
 Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir Jn. M.
 Stock, James Henry
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Sullivan, Donal
 Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
 Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (*Ox'rd Univ*)
 Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Sir Edgar (*Exeter*)
 Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir William H.
 Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (*Taunton*)
 Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (*Notts.*)
 Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Rt. Hon. J. Powell (*Birm.*)
 Williams, Colonel R. (*Dorset*)
 Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (*Yorks.*)
 Wolff, Gustav William
 Worsley-Taylor, Hry. Wilson
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir Alexander Acland-
 Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

Question again proposed, "That those words, as amended, be there inserted."

*THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir WILLIAM ANSON (Oxford University): I wish, after what has occurred, to ask leave to withdraw the Amendment.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) said there was one point which he hoped his hon. friend would insist on discussing, viz., the representation of women on the new authority. By the withdrawal of Clause 2 the London County Council would be put in the same position as other County Councils, whereas there were unquestionably certain respects in which differences should be made. Unless the Committee discussed this question before the withdrawal of the clause there would be no opportunity of raising it; he therefore hoped the matter would be now debated, in order that the views of the Government might be ascertained.

MR. LOUGH moved to insert after "Act" in the proposed Amendment the following "with such number not exceeding one-third of the whole Committee of whom not less than six shall be women and who." By the proposals of the Government the London County Council were to be left to constitute its Committee as all other County Councils had done. But most County Councils had appointed only one woman on their Committees, or, at most, two, so that there was no surety that women would be adequately represented on the new authority unless the Bill specially provided for it. On the present School Board there were eight or nine women members, and ever since 1870 there had been a distinguished band of women who had rendered most excellent service to the cause of education in London. Section 17 of the Act of 1902 would not ensure continuity in that respect, as one woman would satisfy the requirements of the clause. The Committee had been rushed into a most unsatisfactory position in this matter. By a consequential Amendment he proposed to omit the words "and twenty-five," leaving it to the County Council to fix the number

of outsiders to be appointed, subject only to the condition that the number should not exceed one-third of the Committee.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, as amended—

"After the first word 'Act,' to insert the words 'with such number not exceeding one-third of the whole Committee of whom not less than six shall be women and who.'"—(Mr. Lough.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I hope the hon. Member and others will not persist in discussing this question. I do not think it is sound procedure or one which it is to the dignity of the Committee to debate. I am not going into the details of the question, but I would remind the Committee that the London County Council will be in the same position as all other County Councils as regards fixing the number of women that should be appointed, and I have no reason to believe that they will fail in their duty to the cause of education or deprive themselves of the services of an adequate number of the accomplished ladies, of whom the hon. Member has spoken in terms not the least too strong. But we are only wasting time by discussing a clause which is not to be proceeded with. I would ask the hon. Member to withdraw his Amendment, and the Committee either to allow my hon. friend to withdraw his, or to come to a decision on the Amendment as a whole. Do not let us go on discussing Amendments to Amendments in endless debate which cannot possibly bear any fruit to the benefit of the Bill. I hope the hon. Member will see the reasonableness of my request and withdraw.

DR. MACNAMARA thought that in the interests of London some form of Clause 2 would be preferable to Section 17 of last year's Act, and if the Government would look into the matter they would come to the same conclusion.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No.

DR. MACNAMARA said that that, at any rate, was his opinion, because Section 17 of the Act of 1902 would have to be accepted with all its faults;

they could not amend a single comma. He desired to discuss Clause 2, not from any wish to obstruct, but simply with a view to making it a good clause. The Prime Minister was probably correct in thinking that the London County Council would appoint a sufficient number of women. The present Council certainly would, but that body would not last for ever, and this was not a matter which should be left to the chances of an election. The second part of the Amendment—the omission of the “twenty-five”—was even more important, because the County Council would probably do the right thing with regard to women. The Government insisted, so far as the clause had gone, that on the Education Committee there should be twelve borough councillors, and that the County Council should have a majority. If there were to be twenty-five outsiders and five members of the School Board, it would mean that the County Council would have to appoint at least forty-three of their own members. He held that the Council could not spare so many for the work; therefore, it was necessary that they should be given a discretion as to the number of outsiders to be appointed.

MR. BOUSFIELD pointed out that the first clause was subject to modifications made in the schedule. The second schedule set out modifications of the principal Act. He suggested that the matters left to be dealt with in reference to Clause 1 would be in order on the second schedule where modifications might be introduced. This course would very much shorten the discussions on Clause 2. There was one modification which he wished to suggest, viz., that the County Council should appoint the whole of the Committee, but should appoint twenty-nine of them from the boroughs. That was a modification which he should like the Committee to discuss. He wished to know whether that course would be in order when they reached the schedule which dealt with modifications of the principal Act.

*THE CHAIRMAN: There is some difficulty in construing what the word “modification” means. If the modification is an entire reversal of the Act of

1902 it cannot come under “modification.” The modifications of Schedule 2 depend upon Clause 4. I am not prepared now to decide whether a matter which I have not yet seen is a modification; if it is a complete reversal of the spirit of the Act of 1902 it cannot be a modification. I should, however, imagine that there are some slight changes which might be made.

MR. BOUSFIELD asked if the present Amendment could be discussed as a modification to the principal Act.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The question resolves itself into whether six is a modification of one. Under the Act they are bound to put one on, but is it a modification to say that they shall put six? That is a matter I shall have to take a little more time to consider.

MR. BRYCE called attention to the provision with regard to the supernumerary members, to which they attached great importance, because they thought such members would very much aid the new Committee. He wished to know if it would be in order to make a proposal to put on supernumerary members in addition to the ordinary members of the Committee.

MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland) said this was an extremely serious question, and he could not help thinking that if the Government would accept the Amendment of the hon. Member for Islington it would be the easiest way out of the dilemma. This was the only place where they could raise this question, and it would permit the Government to bring forward modifications which would provide for more women representatives.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said ample provision was made by the Act of 1902, and there was no reason to suppose that the London County Council would be less attentive to the importance of placing women on the Committee than other County Councils. Already there were Councils which had elected five, four, three, and two women, the cases in which one woman only had been appointed were very

few in counties. The needs of London would be very much greater than in the Councils which had already come before the Board of Education. He could not believe that the London County Council would fail to place an adequate number of women upon the Committee.

MR. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.) said that in order to prevent a narrow interpretation being placed upon the term "women" the House should modify the term by adopting a number like six. He thought it would be a proper addition to the schedule.

MR. MIDDLEMORE (Birmingham, N.) said he was glad to find himself in agreement with the Government upon this point. He had been opposing the Government in regard to certain proposals because he had been fighting for the absolute freedom of the County Council. Now the hon. Member for Islington, as soon as they had secured what they had all been longing for, wished to impose fresh conditions. He regretted this Amendment, for they were now fighting for a very fair principle which everybody could understand, viz., the freedom of the local education authority, and for that principle he was prepared to vote.

MR. HUMPHREYS-OWEN (Montgomeryshire) thought that when the County Council came to form their Committee their choice would fall upon the more conspicuous men on their Council, whose names would be more favourably received, and in that way the claims of the women would be gradually overpowered. He thought it would be well to declare that the Council must appoint six women, and then they might exercise their full choice among the men.

MR. ERNEST GRAY (West Ham, N.) hoped the hon. Member for Islington would not press this question to a division, because by so doing he would only do injury to his own cause. He was quite as keen as the hon. Member opposite about seeing women represented on the Education Committee, and he appealed to the Government to leave this question in a

satisfactory condition. The questions he wished to see dealt with were the supernumerary members, the women, and the list of organisations from whom persons might be selected. When upon the Bill of last year he voted in favour of women finding a place, he never anticipated that the selection of one woman would satisfy that Act. When he found that a scheme with one woman representative was accepted by the Board of Education he could not understand it. He was not prepared to leave the question of the representation of women in that condition for London, and he was not willing either to leave it to chance or to the interpretation of the Board of Education. He hoped the Prime Minister would be able to suggest some means by which this question could be fairly dealt with. He appealed to the Prime Minister to lend a hand in that work. It was true that under the parent Act they would have the power of co-opting a certain number of the members of the School Board, but that was not satisfactory, for many of the County Councils had only co-opted the chairman of the Board. That would not be sufficient in London. An obligation should be imposed on the County Council to include in the membership a large proportion. It would be futile to spend the afternoon debating a clause which was subsequently to be withdrawn. He asked whether the Government could by a modification of the schedule or by a new clause moved in Committee, or on the Report stage, give the House an opportunity of dealing with this matter.

MR. BRYCE said the question was one of great importance, and he appealed to the Government to give some indication that they would take an opportunity of allowing the House to express its opinion on the inclusion of women and the fixing of the minimum.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am certainly not in a position to give the hon. Gentlemen the pledge they desire, for I do not know what opportunities there may or may not be legitimately at later stages of the discussion. I venture to tell the Committee very respectfully that they are going on the wrong track. The

Sir William Anson.

original idea of the Government, no doubt, was that the Committee should be more or less a statutory Committee, and that it should in that respect differ from other Education Committees throughout the country. If it was a statutory Committee I confess that it might be right to fix the number of women, and I think it would also be right to fix the number of representatives of Borough Councils on the Committee. I believe the London County Council would probably select some gentlemen qualified to represent the opinions of the Borough Councils, but we have decided that we shall not force them. The plan that we are now going on is that the County Council is competent to appoint its own Committee, with the aid and advice of the Education Department, and I feel that if the House is again going to start an elaborate description of what it is to be, it will get into the difficulty which we were in on Tuesday and Wednesday last. Hon. Gentlemen perhaps thought that the discussion then resulted from the fact that the Government's plan was bad. I do not wish to enter into controversy now on the matter, but I may be allowed to say that was not the reason. The reason is that if you are going in this House to determine the numbers of a Committee of this kind, opinion is not organised; there are an enormous number of gentlemen each with his own scheme, and the House is apt to get adrift in one scheme after another. We have found after prolonged experience the futility of the attempt to lay down in this Bill precisely what the constitution of the Committee of the London County Council is to be. The House had better take the other course which, I am convinced, in practice would not have the effect of depriving education in London either of the services of women, the representatives of the Borough Councils, or any other interest that ought to be represented. That is a clear-cut and perfectly logical position, and I think it would be a mistake if we now travelled again into the wilderness of difficult detail. I would, therefore, beg the hon. Gentleman to withdraw his Amendment, and let us proceed to the discussion of the remainder of the Bill.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON agreed with the general principle laid down by the

Leader of the House, but he thought, in this case, there was a special reason for dealing with the question of the inclusion of women now. He desired to point out that, on the London School Board, there had always been a considerable number of women who had done most admirable work. There were 100,000 girls and infants in the London Board schools, and it seemed to him that it was absolutely essential that there should be women on the central body. This was a matter of much greater importance than borough representation, and he thought they ought to fix the minimum number of women to be placed on the central authority. He trusted his hon. friend would take a division on this, in order to give the Committee an opportunity of expressing an opinion regarding it.

MR. LOUGH asked whether the question of the inclusion of women could be raised by Amendment to the schedule.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that the question could be raised on the schedule if the present Amendment were not pressed.

Amendment to the proposed Amendment, as amended, by leave, withdrawn.

DR. MACNAMARA asked whether the Government would, on the schedule, accept an Amendment, altering the provisions of Section 17 of the principal Act, so as to make the meetings of the Education Committee public meetings.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I want to be quite honest with the House in this matter. It is not for me to decide what modifications to the schedule may be in order. But, frankly, I wish to discourage, as much as I can, any modifications of the parent Act in dealing with the application of that Act to London. That being my general view, we will get into an illimitable deep if we attempt to discuss the whole Act on the schedule, and we will spend an intolerable amount of time.

DR. MACNAMARA said he understood the Prime Minister would be prepared to receive suggestions on this question. He hoped the Committee

would have an opportunity, when discussing one of the schedules, of making some recommendations as to the conduct of the meetings of the Committee. He asked whether it would be in order to move an Amendment on Schedule 2.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Under the original Act, I take it, the Education Committee would have the power to decide for themselves whether their proceedings should be in public or in secret. When the hon. Member proceeds, by his Amendment, to deprive them of that power, that is a modification clearly; and if it be a modification, I suppose it can be brought up in the consideration of the Schedule.

Proposed Amendment, as amended, by leave, withdrawn.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any other Amendment to be moved?

There being no response—

MR. YOXALL said that for several days past he had had an Amendment on the Order Paper to leave out Clause 2. He did not know whether that notice on the Paper took precedence of the Motion of the Minister in charge of the Bill, but if so he begged now to move it. From the outset of these debates he had said that Clause 2 was a great mistake. The Clause was now dead; the Government had killed it; and he had now very much pleasure in moving that it be deleted from the Bill.

MR. STUART SAMUEL (Tower Hamlets, Whitechapel) said he had listened with the greatest attention to all the arguments adduced by hon. Members opposite, by his own colleagues in the representation of London, and his other hon. friends on that side of the House, but he did not feel in the slightest degree weakened in his opinion as to the absolute justice of the claim of the Borough Councils to have representation on the central Education Committee. However, he did not see how they could reasonably ask the

Government to take any other attitude in regard to this clause than they had done that day. The Government had shown their belief in the true principles of local government, and had recognised in the Bill, as originally introduced, that there were two authorities having jurisdiction in the same area; but he acknowledged that a house divided against itself was sure to fall, and that the Government were justified in the course they had taken. While the overwhelming majority of the London Members were in favour of the inclusion in the Education Committee of representatives of the Borough Councils, the responsibility for that not being carried out rested not with the Government but with other Gentlemen on the Government side of the House more than with Gentlemen on the Opposition side, and he was absolutely confident that they would regret their action in the days to come. Hon. Members from the provinces had, in fact, not taken the trouble to thoroughly understand the enormous difficulties of the educational problem in London.

DR. MACNAMARA said he had received a communication from the Conservative Association of Camberwell and Peckham, stating that that Association had passed a resolution expressing regret that the Government intended to reduce the representation of the Borough Councils on the Education Committee, objecting altogether to the proposed system of grouping, and urging the Government to restore the original representation given to the Borough Councils. He supposed it would be the last time he would be ever called upon to read such a resolution to the House. As to Clause 2, he objected to its being dropped, because that would drive the Committee back upon Section 17 of last year's Act. He wanted Clause 2 to stand and be converted into a good clause. He was profoundly convinced that Section 17 of last year's Act was not applicable to London, and it would raise administrative difficulties. By that section, County Councils had to prepare a scheme to provide for the appointment by the County Council of a Committee, the majority of which should be members of the Council, unless, in the case of

Dr. Macnamara.

agricultural counties, the Councils should otherwise determine. That was to meet the geographical difficulty of rural areas; but the essence of the section was that in every town, at any rate, the majority of the Education Committee must be members of the Council. He dared say that the present County Council would always agree to a majority of the Committee being composed of its own members, but, conceivably, another Council might arise to whom there would be a temptation to appoint a majority of outsiders on the Committee. That, he insisted, would be disastrous to London, for London education would then be managed by people who were not responsible to the ratepayers. The scheme, according to last year's Act, must provide for the appointment by the Council on the nomination or recommendation, where it appeared to be desirable, of representatives of other bodies, including associations of voluntary schools, of persons of experience in education, and acquainted with the needs and the various kinds of schools required in the area. He wished to know from the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education whether, under Sub-section 3 (b) of Section 17, the London County Council would be compelled to select "persons experienced in education, and acquainted with the needs and the various kinds of schools required in the area" to serve on the Committee from the ranks of the outsiders, or whether they could choose them from their own members, if such persons were on the Councils?

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said it was perfectly easy in a properly constructed scheme to meet the difficulty. He rather thought that at first the Councils would appoint on the Committee such of their own members as possessed the necessary experience. But Councils might not always possess persons qualified under the Act, and the Board of Education had endeavoured to meet the difficulty by suggesting to the County Councils that certain sorts of experience and acquaintance with the schools should always be represented on the Committee, whether by members of the Councils or by outsiders.

DR. MACNAMARA said there was another difficulty in regard to Section 17 of last year's Act. Schemes were to be prepared by the County Council to be afterwards approved by the Board of Education. Would it be competent for the London County Council to prepare a scheme under which fifty-nine persons, directly elected, one from each of the County Council divisions, should form the Committee? If not, why not? Would not the County Council be in a position to say that they would allow the Technical Education Board to continue for the control of the higher education, but that for elementary education they would permit a scheme under which one person would be elected from each of the County Council divisions, specifically for the purpose of controlling elementary education. There was another matter which would constitute a real administrative difficulty. Sub-section 7 of Section 17 provided that if a scheme had not been made within twelve months after the passing of the Act and approved by the Board of Education, that the Board might make a provisional order for the purposes for which such a scheme might be made. The Act was passed on 19th December, 1902, and he should be glad to know if the Board of Education would be in a position to say to the County Council on the 19th of December, 1903, "You have not got your scheme ready; you must accept this scheme." That would be the result of adopting, as it stood, Section 17 of the Act which they were told did not require to be modified in its application to London. Could the Board of Education thrust down the throats of Londoners a scheme in the manner he suggested?

SIR JOHN GORST said that the difficulty was provided for in the second schedule.

DR. MACNAMARA said the right hon. Gentleman did not appreciate the effect of certain proposals in that schedule, which would keep alive the date to which he referred. Again, under the parent Act any urban district or municipal borough in one case of over 10,000 inhabitants, and in the other of

over 20,000, could have a separate Committee for elementary education. If the Act was to be applied to London, he wished to know whether every urban district with a population of over 20,000 would be entitled to assist on a Committee for elementary education appointed by itself. It was very desirable in the interest of wise administration that they should know exactly where they were; and he thought he was entitled to an answer to the question he had put to the Government.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that answering the last question first, he thought the fears which the hon. Member had expressed were entirely groundless. With regard to the question whether it would be competent for the London County Council to appoint a Committee dealing with elementary education selected from the boroughs [Dr. MACNAMARA: Elected *ad hoc*] and a Committee dealing with secondary and higher education which should be practically equivalent to the existing Technical Education Committee, that he had to say would be impossible; because the Board of Education were bound to see that the Committee could co-ordinate the various forms of education. With regard to the question whether the Board of Education could force upon the London County Council in the course of seven months a scheme of its own if the London County Council had not framed a scheme, he said he would have to look into the Act before he could give an answer. He ventured, however, to deprecate a form of argument which always went on the hypothesis that every authority which had duties under the Act was going to make as great a fool of itself as possible. Could anyone conceive the Board of Education, which had certainly not shown any excessive desire to impose its own views on reluctant authorities, entering upon a conflict with the London County Council, with the London Members, and with the House of Commons, in order to force a scheme on the Council hurriedly in anticipation of the decision at which that body would be likely to arrive? Neither the Board of Education nor the London County Council were composed of lunatics at large. These great bodies

ought no doubt to be guarded against the mistakes into which they were likely to fall, but surely it need not be supposed that they were going to fall into every kind of error in the discharge of the public duties which this House had imposed upon them; or would not be likely to fulfil their obligations to those who elected them. He thought the fears of the hon. Gentleman were groundless; and he was convinced that if they allowed Section 17 to work in its own way, a very good scheme would result. No doubt they were anxious at one time to give a fixed statutory position to the Borough Councils, because the boroughs themselves might have been of opinion that their interests could not be otherwise safeguarded. They had abandoned that; and he hoped hon. Members would not strain their ingenuity in suggesting possible follies which the London County Council, or the Board of Education, or both, might commit. He ventured to suggest that the Committee might allow that branch of the discussion to now close.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said he did not think the right hon. Gentleman quite appreciated the position of his hon. friend. It was not a question whether the London County Council would commit this or that folly; but he was afraid a very great difficulty would arise in the administration of the Act, and that the County Council would find itself in a very difficult position indeed. He sympathised very much with the remarks which fell from the hon. Member for Limehouse. He thought the hon. Member and other hon. Members who agreed with him had been very badly treated by the Government, and he could only say that the hon. Member showed great Christian forbearance. The First Lord of the Treasury said, with regard to the choppings and changes in the Bill, that the Government had consulted those specially interested in the question. As far, however, as he was able to ascertain, the Government only consulted a limited number of London Members, and did not consult the County Council or the School Board before they brought in the Bill. He, therefore, did not wonder that they came to grief in the matter. The right hon. Gentleman seemed to think that the Government were now out of the

breakers and in smooth water; but he wished to assure the right hon. Gentleman that they, on that side, had just as much objection to the grotesque proposals which remained in the Bill as they had to Clause 2, and they would still continue to give it their most strenuous opposition. The right hon. Gentleman said that Clause 2 and Clause 3 were not in any way interdependable. So far as he could see, they were absolutely interdependable. The original scheme of the Government was that the Borough Councils and the County Council should be linked together on the Statutory Committee. That link had now disappeared. He was heartily glad that the Government had seen their way clear to drop Clause 2, but they ought to propose something in the nature of a workable clause, so as to avoid difficulty and friction in administration.

MR. BOUSFIELD said he was one of those who viewed with very great regret the disappearance of Clause 2. He was convinced that the Government were right in the beginning; and that his hon. friends who agreed with him were right now, though doubtless they would be in a small minority. Nothing he had heard had shaken that conviction. It seemed so reasonable that he should not be surprised if the County Council did approve of the scheme provided that there should be twenty-nine people on the Education Committee, each of whom should be selected by one of the boroughs. That seemed to be essential to the Bill. The essential principle of the Bill was that London was to have a central authority, the County Council, and that round that central authority there should be local authorities who were to have the local management. It seemed absolutely essential to the smooth working of the Bill that these boroughs should have a man who could speak with the voice of the local authority in the central authority, and who in the borough could speak with the voice of the central authority.

MR. ALBAN GIBBS (London) expressed his regret at the fact that the right hon. Gentleman had not seen his way to accept the proposal submitted

to him. He did not think there had ever been a case in which the City had not been given exceptional representation. And having regard to the great amount they contributed to the rates, and the interest they took in education, they were entitled to exceptional representation. He had intended to move that the City be the central authority for its own district, but the forms of the House had prevented his doing so; therefore, he hoped the Government would consider this matter and introduce some clause to that effect. The City did not desire to get rid of the responsibility for education or the rates they paid in respect of it, but they thought their interest entitled them to some exceptional representation, and he hoped their wishes might be met in some degree.

MR. LOUGH thought the Government were entitled to be congratulated on the way in which they had treated this clause. He was quite sure if the authority were built up in accordance with the new plan rather than the old it would be a good thing. The Prime Minister had said he would discourage anything which disparaged the Act of 1902, but there would have to be adjustments to make it suit London. When they came to Clause 3 that would easily be seen. He applied to the Prime Minister not to drop the work he had commenced, and that having adopted the principle he would be guided a little by public opinion in London. But the right hon. Gentleman should be careful if he followed the policy which recommended him to drop this clause because he would have to follow it out in many other ways. The County Council of London was not like any other body in the country, and there were no Councils in the country like the Borough Councils, yet this Act of 1902 was to be applied to London.

MR. BURDETT-COUTTS (Westminster) said he desired to enter a strong protest against the way in which the Government had dealt with the Borough Councils in this matter. The Government, he complained, had not shown sufficient courage. He had been in the House of Commons for eighteen years, and had

never witnessed so humiliating a surrender on the part of a Government of a policy put forward to the House. Those who supported the Government on the Second Reading of this Bill were placed in a very unpleasant position by the action of the Government, and he thought the Government had no right to place even a section of their supporters in such a position. He had supported the Borough Council element in the Second Reading not only because that policy commended itself to him, but also because he was delighted to render what assistance he could to his Party, but he never dreamt that the Government were going to leave him in the ditch. His complaint was that the Government had by their action enormously strengthened and encouraged the Members of the County Council to become something in the nature of political inspectors. To him there always appeared to be a great danger of that; they had belittled—almost insulted—Borough Councils; and, lastly, they had left the question of London education largely in the hands of the National Union of Teachers, at a word from whom the London County Council in the early part of the year abandoned its claims to municipal dignity in regard to education and consented to be placed in a position inferior to that of every other County Council in the country. Was it to be supposed that the body which could so lead the County Council by the nose would not practically control the appointment of the Education Committee? That the National Union of Teachers worked for political ends was obvious from the speeches at the so-called education, but really political, demonstration on Saturday, and it was in obedience to such political clamour the Government had surrendered their policy. By their action the Government had given the impression of weakness and vacillation, but that impression might yet be removed if they would adhere to the remnant of their attenuated Bill, and yield no further in the matter of the Borough Councils.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: My hon. friend seems to be distressed by attacks on the Government which were made by gentlemen who took part in the demonstration in Hyde Park. I am quite sure that those gentlemen made able and eloquent speeches against their political opponents,

Mr. Burdett-Coutts.

as they were entitled to do. But, if I may speak my mind quite frankly, it is not the speeches of political opponents to which I object; I sometimes find more to complain of in speeches made by political friends. My hon. friend has politely accused the Government of extreme vacillation and of extreme weakness. He has also declared that we have abandoned our friends in London municipal life and surrendered ourselves to our municipal enemies. What are the facts of the case? In the first place, let me point out to my hon. friend that no change has been made in the Bill which in any way contravenes the fundamental principles of policy which I laid down in my speech on the Second Reading. The change proposed this afternoon is certainly an important change—I do not in the least wish to minimise it—but it is a change in detail, and that is not a new view of detail; it is a view which I publicly expressed on the Second Reading. The complaint of my hon. friend is that we did not retain the original proposal of thirty-one representatives of the Borough Councils on the new central authority. If he has listened to the debates, he must know perfectly well that that was impossible. It was a policy which I believe we could not have carried even if the Opposition abstained altogether from speaking and voting on the question. I do not think it was our fault that we were not aware of the feeling that that policy excited. But, anyway, it is the fact that it really met with no favour except from some political friends of mine for whom I have the greatest regard, and that it was not only not supported by representatives from other parts of the country, but was unsupported by a vast section of Unionist and Conservative London opinion. It was impossible to carry that proposal.

Then, was it possible to carry the compromise of twelve representatives of the Borough Councils, which we debated last Wednesday? I think it possible that if everybody who liked the original proposal of thirty-one Members had combined with everybody who was reconciled to the substitution of twelve Members, and had backed up the Government in that compromise, we might have carried it. But did they do that? What did my hon. friend do?

He walked out. He did not vote for the Government, whom he now accuses of vacillation. We hear a great deal about the strongest Government of modern times with a majority of 120 behind it. But if the 120 walk out, like my hon. friend, I venture to say it would be absolutely impossible for the Government to maintain the details of their measures against the Opposition. I hope, therefore, it will be thoroughly understood by those outside the House, as I am sure it is thoroughly understood by those inside, that, however much the Government may be to blame for not having known by intuition of that London opinion which has since become known, we are not to be blamed for the course we have adopted as regards the modifications in the details of the scheme. I frankly admit that I was largely moved by the arguments used against the proposal to give the Borough Councils thirty-one representatives; it was extremely difficult to sustain it in argument. As regards the compromise of twelve representatives I think a good deal too much was made of it by those who were opposed to it. But that compromise was not supported by the friends of the Borough Councils; and, that being so, how was it possible for the Government to carry it in a House of Commons in which not merely the Opposition, with their natural desire to embarrass the Government, but hon. friends behind me were arrayed against it? Therefore, I think my hon. friend should not accuse us of vacillation because we modified the details of our measure. My Parliamentary experience goes further back than that of my hon. friend, to the times of Governments which were not less strong from the point of view of numerical support than the present Government; and I have never known a House of Commons in which great Bills have been carried with less modification than they have been in this. If my hon. friend will contrast the Education Act of 1902 with the Education Act of 1870 he will abandon these charges of vacillation. At all events, no hon. Gentleman should bring such charges against the Government unless he can show by his record that he is one of their stalwart supporters—that through thick and thin, through

foul weather and fair, he has been found supporting his leaders.

MR. BURDETT-COUTTS pointed out that the Bill in its original form was supported by a majority of London Members, and that the right hon. Gentleman had not put the support of the Party to the test over the question. There was no ground for supposing that they would have turned the Government out rather than admit this very reasonable demand of the Borough Councils.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorganshire, Mid.) said it was curious the Prime Minister should chide his faithful follower for having walked out, because on that particular occasion the hon. Member was consistent, while the Government were not. The Government themselves ought to have walked out. The natural and necessary result would have been that they would have walked out in another sense, and people who took an enlightened view in educational matters would have been able to occupy the Treasury Bench. In all seriousness, however, he congratulated the Government on their courage. So far from displaying a lack of courage, he thought the Government had shown the best courage, for they had shown that they were strong enough to say that they had made a mistake. There was another sort of courage which was best described as obstinate tenacity, and whenever there was a general difference of opinion, it would be far better in the future if the Government would let the matter be freely discussed. If they had not had the discussion last Wednesday they would not have had the opinion of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Somerset and the Member for Cambridge University. He ventured to congratulate the Government upon having come to the right decision. He valued very much the advice of the National Union of Teachers, who were represented by three very enlightened hon. Members. Therefore he listened with surprise to the attack made by the hon. Member opposite who said that that Union was composed mainly of Radicals, forgetting the hon. Member for West Ham. He hoped the Government would do their best to make this a good scheme for London.

Clause 2, as amended, negatived.

Clause 3 :—

*MR. YOXALL moved the postponement of Clause 3. He had said upon a former occasion that the construction of this Bill should have been totally reversed; the commencement should have been put at the end and the end should have been placed at the commencement. This clause proposed to empower the Metropolitan Borough Councils with certain rights, duties, and privileges, and therefore it ought to receive the most careful consideration. What had happened that afternoon reinforced his original contention that they should not discuss this question of the Metropolitan Borough Councils until they had discussed what were to be the principal modifications of the Act. Until they had discussed Clause 4 and the schedule, and concluded the agreement with regard to the constitution and power of the Education Committee, and until they had clearly arrived at an exact knowledge of what the Education Committee was to be and what modifications were to be made, they ought not to consider what should be the powers of the Metropolitan Borough Councils in the management of elementary education. He heard nothing in the speech of the Prime Minister which would lead the Committee to suppose that he recognised the connection between Clauses 2 and 3, or that he felt, having abandoned the representation of the Borough Councils, the Committee ought to modify very seriously indeed the powers proposed to be given to the Borough Councils under Clause 3. He regretted very much that the Committee had refused to report Progress, for that would have given the Prime Minister and his colleagues time to consider the natural result of the withdrawal of Clause 2. He thought he was justified in his present Motion because he thought it would give the Government an opportunity to consider how Clause 3 might be modified. The postponement of this clause would enable the Borough Councils to express an opinion upon the change. When the Bill was first printed expressions of opinion upon it were given by some of the Borough Councils, some of which disapproved of it and others criticised certain parts of the Bill. The Borough

Councils of Bethnal Green, Battersea, Camberwell, Southwark, Stepney, Poplar, Shoreditch, Fulham, Lambeth, and Woolwich had passed resolutions condemning the Bill, and other Borough Councils which had not expressed an opinion were about to consider the matter. If, as was now proposed, the Borough Councils would not be represented on the Committee, and would not have a spokesman to voice their views, then those Borough Councils might reasonably come to the conclusion that they could not undertake the responsibility of managing the elementary schools. The expression of opinion on the part of several metropolitan boroughs was already pending, and in several instances meetings were being arranged, and therefore they ought to postpone this clause.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Clause 3 be postponed."—(*Mr. Yoxall.*)

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said it was important that they should decide the position of the Committee and the local education authority before they went into the details of management of these public elementary schools. They had discussed the position of the Committee and they had decided that it should be precisely the same as that of the other Committees constituted under the Act of last year. He really did not know why they should consider Clause 4 before they discussed what was the only serious modification proposed to be made in the Act of 1902, namely, the relation of the managers and the Borough Councils to the schools under the local education authority. It seemed to him that this proposal was really nothing more than a Motion to report Progress.

MR. EMMOTT (Oldham) thought that on this occasion a strong case had been made out by his hon. friend, and it did seem to him that the Government would be wise to postpone the clause for the same reason that they would have been wise to postpone Clause 2. He fancied that when they came to the discussion of the clause nearly the whole of it would have to be dropped.

He believed that if the County Council was to be the education authority they must make it a real authority. He believed this clause would cause as much friction as Clause 2 would have done if passed. They were going to hand over the management to the Borough Councils, on which there were no women at all. He would support the postponement of the clause because he considered the Government ought to give themselves more time to think over the question. It seemed to him that they had to have days of discussion before the Government could grasp the elementary objections to the Bill. Fortunately there were men who had seen the objections to Clause 2 and the Government gave way. He hoped that they would also give way on Clause 3.

MR. WHITLEY (Halifax) said there was only one sound argument in support of the clause, and that was that the Government should be spared more than one change per diem. If the Government imagined that by dropping Clause 2 they had met the objections to the Bill they were perfectly mistaken; the objections to Clause 3 were tenfold stronger than those to Clause 2. The possibility of the education authority working for more real progress was far more hampered by the proposal in Clause 3 than it could have been by Clause 2. Clause 3 really went to the root of the question whether they were to have any chance of an efficient education authority in London, and the reason why this clause should be postponed was that the Government might continue the process shown to-day of endeavouring to understand the pressure, not only from the Opposition side, but from their own side of the House, in favour of putting the education authority in London on all fours with the authorities in other parts of the country. He felt that if they persisted with this clause to-day, after giving way on Clause 2, they might stiffen their back and refuse to make any further concessions. He urged the Government, if they really meant to make this Bill as nearly a good one as it could be made—he did not admit that any copy of last year's Act could be a good one—to take the

opinion of their own supporters, whose vote last Wednesday had been to them a matter of such great moment. It really would be better for the progress of the Bill if they would take the next twenty-four hours for the purpose of considering the whole question of the direct authority of the London County Council. There was no use persevering with this half-and-half proposal, which gave the management to the Borough Councils and incomplete control to the County Council.

MR. ROBSON (South Shields) said it was not respectful to the House to go on with the Bill without ascertaining what was the feeling in regard to this particular clause on the part of those who supported the Government. It was important that the hon. Baronet the Secretary to the Board of Education should ascertain what the followers of the Government themselves thought about this management clause. He ventured to say that instead of rushing the Bill in the way that it was now being rushed, the hon. Baronet ought to postpone it for a day or two in order to ascertain their feeling. He would find the objections which the Government supporters had to the proposal in regard to borough councillors on the Committee, applied equally to borough councillors in connection with the management. If the hon. Baronet found that state of feeling prevailing among his own supporters he would remodel the clause. Surely it was better to ascertain the feeling of his own supporters by postponing the clause for a short time than to ascertain it by debates in the House which, under the circumstances, were a sheer waste of time. It would be better to discover what the state of their feeling was by private inquiries than by means of debate.

MR. WHITMORE (Chelsea) said he wished to state plainly, frankly, and emphatically that he approved of the principle of Clause 3, and he hoped with all his heart that the Government would not dream of departing from it. He hoped, however, that the clause would be amended in Committee. He wished to make it perfectly clear to hon.

Members on both sides of the House that he believed that the Borough Councils should have the responsibility of the local management of the schools.

LORD EDMUND FITZMAURICE (Wiltshire, Cricklade) asked the hon. Member for Chelsea what he meant by the essential principle of the clause.

*THE CHAIRMAN: We shall find that out when the Committee gets to the discussion of the clause.

LORD EDMUND FITZMAURICE said he agreed with that ruling, but he thought he might be allowed to make the observation without following the matter further. What he desired to impress upon the Government was that in desiring the postponement of this clause, they were not desiring to place any undue obstacle whatever in the way of the progress of the measure. What would be the result if this clause was postponed? They should then immediately pass to the consideration of the fourth and fifth Clauses and the Schedules. They had already heard, in the course of to-day's debate, of the Amendments which were adumbrated as likely to be demanded, and which were likely to be conceded by the Government in regard to certain points which could be dealt with on the schedules. These points were fresh in the mind of the Committee, and surely it would be far better, while these arguments and facts were before them, that they should proceed in that way, and then the Government would be able to ascertain what were the real views of their own friends, both inside and outside the House, in regard to the proposal in Clause 3. He thought he was really justified in holding that view all the more when he looked at the Amendments on the Paper, because it was quite clear that if they did not dispose of this clause they would be brought face to face with the Amendments to be moved from the other side of the House by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Somerset, and the Amendment which stood in the name of the hon. Member for the Chippenham division. He could not help hoping that the Committee would not be met

Mr. Whitmore

with what he would call a policy of melancholy silence from the Treasury Bench, and that the Government would really explain why they should be forced to enter on a discussion with every conceivable disadvantage, whether on this or the other side of the House. Bearing in mind, as they did, that they were met the other evening with the same *non possumus* and that they then wasted two whole days in discussing Clause 2 which was now withdrawn, they might be forced by superior numbers to proceed to the discussion of Clause 3 but he believed it was not a rash prophecy to say that, as in the case of Clause 2, their arguments would prevail, and that the Government would come and propose to strike it out of the Bill altogether.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea District) said that the question now before the Committee was simply the convenience of discussion. He was in favour of postponing the Clause, for if they were to have a rational discussion of the remaining clauses they ought to deal with Clause 4 before Clause 3. Clause 4 said—

"The modifications of the principal Act set out in the second schedule of this Act shall have effect for the purposes of this Act."

Now, what was the position of the Bill at the present moment? The Government had got Clause 1—the clause which made the Education Act of 1902,

"so far as applicable, and subject to modifications made by this Act,"

apply to London. He understood the general effect of Clause 3 was—

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member has no right to go back upon and discuss Clause 1 which has already been passed. I must ask him to give his mind to the Motion before the Committee and also not to repeat arguments already used.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES said that in the changed circumstances the Committee ought to discuss the modifications of the Act of 1902 which would determine the relations between the London County Council and the Education Committee before they came to discuss Clause 3.

*THE CHAIRMAN: That argument has been used two or three times already, and I therefore warn the hon. Member

not to fall into the error of violating the Standing Order against repetition.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES said that he was not using the same form of words. Hon. Members come and go, and he ventured respectfully to say that he had a right, on behalf of his constituents, to state his reasons for postponing the consideration of Clause 3.

* THE CHAIRMAN: If every hon. Member claimed the same right there would be no termination to the debate at all. That was why the Standing Order was passed.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES said he thought that Standing Order was to be restrictively construed; that it should only apply when an hon. Member was repeating his own arguments.

* THE CHAIRMAN: The Standing Order refers to any hon. Member repeating his own arguments or those of others.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 121; Noes, 243. (Division List No. 99)

AYES.

Allen, Chas. P. (*Glos., Stroud*)
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbt. Hy.
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Black, Alexander William
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Bryce, Right Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Causton, Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Davies, M. Vaughan (*Cardign*)
Dewar, John A. (*Inverness-sh.*)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Duncan, J. Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, John Edward
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Saml. T. (*Glamorgan*)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (*Leith*)
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Foster, Sir Michl. (*Lond. Univ*)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E. (*Berwick*)
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt Hon Sir Arthur D.

Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristol, E*)
Holland, Sir William Henry
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Hutton, Alfred E. (*Morley*)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, David Brynmor (*Swansea*)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kitson, Sir James
Lambert, George
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Layland Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
McArthur, William (*Cornwall*)
McKenna, Reginald
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mappin, Sir Fredk. Thorpe
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*)
Morley, Charles (*Breconshire*)
Moulton, John Fletcher
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Palmer, Sir C. M. (*Durham*)
Palmer, G. Wm. (*Reading*)
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (*Saffron Walden*)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, John Wynford
Pickard, Benjamin
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell

Reckett, Harold James
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (*Dumfries*)
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Robertson, Edmund (*Dundee*)
Robson, William Snowdon
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Schwann, Charles E.
Shaw, Charles E. (*Stafford*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, A. (*Carmarthen, E.*)
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glamorgan, E.*)
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. E.*)
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (*Barnsley*)
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Wason, E. (*Clackmannan*)
Wason, John Cathcart (*Orkney*)
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
Whiteley, G. (*York, W. R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (*Merioneth*)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Yoxall and Mr.
Corrie Grant.

NOES.

Abraham, William (*Cork, N. E.*)
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Aug. Henry Eden

Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope

Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.

Austin, Sir John
 Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
 Bailey, James (*Waltham*)
 Bain Colonel, James Robert
 Baird, John George Alexander
 Baldwin, Alfred
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Man'r*)
 Balfour, Capt. C. B. (*Hornsey*)
 Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch.*)
 Banbury, Sir Frederick George
 Beckett, Ernest William
 Bignold, Arthur
 Bigwood, James
 Bill, Charles
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bond, Edward
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Bowles, Lt.-Col. H. F. (*Midd'x*)
 Bowles, T. G. (*Lynn Regis*)
 Brassey, Albert
 Brown, Sir Alx. H. (*Shropsh.*)
 Bull, William James
 Burdett-Coutts, W.
 Burke, E. Haviland-
 Carew, James Laurence
 Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
 Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
 Cantley, Henry Strother
 Cavendish, R. F. (*N. Lancs.*)
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*)
 Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (*Birm*)
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A. (*Worc*)
 Chapman, Edward
 Charrington, Spencer
 Churchill, Winston Spencer
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Olive, Captain Percy A.
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coddington, Sir William
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
 Cust, Henry John C.
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Dickinson, Robert Edmond
 Dickson, Charles Scott
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Jos. C.
 Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
 Doxford, Sir William Theodore
 Duke, Henry Edward
 Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
 Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hatr
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Faber, George Denison (*York*)
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (*Man'r*)
 Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose
 Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
 Flower, Ernest
 Forster, Henry William
 Fyler, John Arthur
 Galloway, William Johnson

Gardner, Ernest
 Garfit, William
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (*City of Lond*)
 Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (*St. Albans*)
 Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nrn*)
 Gordon, Maj. Evans- (*Tr. Hm'ts*)
 Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby- (*Linc.*)
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Gray, Ernest (*West Ham*)
 Greene, Sir E. W. (*Bury St. Ed.*)
 Greene, W. Raymond- (*Cambs*)
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Gunter, Sir Robert
 Hain, Edward
 Hall, Edward Marshall
 Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
 Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord G. (*Midd'x*)
 Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashfd*)
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Harris, Frederick Leverton
 Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick G.
 Hay, Hon. Claude George
 Healy, Timothy Michael
 Helder, Augustus
 Henderson, Sir Alexander
 Hoare, Sir Samuel
 Hobhouse, Rt. Hn. H. (*Somerset, E*)
 Hogg, Lindsay
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
 Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
 Johnstone, Heywood
 Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir J. H.
 Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*)
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*)
 Kerr, John
 Kimber, Henry
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Knowles, Lees
 Laurie, Lieut.-General
 Law, Andrew B. nar (*Glasgow*)
 Lawrence, Sir Jos. (*Monm'th*)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*)
 Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks. NR*)
 Leamy, Edmund
 Lee, Arthur H. (*Hants. Fareham*)
 Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
 Llewellyn, Evan Henry
 Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (*Evesham*)
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S.*)
 Lonsdale, John Brownlee
 Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*)
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 Macdonnell, Dr. Mark A.
 Maconochie, A. W.
 McArthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
 M'iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*)
 McKillop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
 Malcolm, Ian
 Manners, Lord Cecil
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Maxwell, Rt. Hn. Sir H. E. (*Wigt'n*)
 Maxwell, W. J. H. (*Dumfriessh.*)
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Milvain, Thomas
 More, R. Jasper (*Shropshire*)

Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
 Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
 Mowbray, Sir Robt. Gray C.
 Muntz, Sir Philip A.
 Murray, Lt. Hn. A. Graham (*Bute*)
 Murray, Chas. J. (*Coventry*)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
 Myers, William Henry
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 O'Brien, K. (*Tipperary, Mid*)
 O'Brien, Patrick (*Kilkenny*)
 O'Connor, Jas. (*Wicklow, W.*)
 O'Malley, William
 O'Shee, James John
 Palmer, Walter (*Salisbury*)
 Parker, Sir Gilbert
 Pease, H. Pike (*Darlington*)
 Peel, Hn. Wm. R. Wellesley
 Pemberton, John S. G.
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Plummer, Walter R.
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pretzman, Ernest George
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Rattigan, Sir William Henry
 Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
 Renwick, George
 Ridley, Hon. M. W. (*Stalybridge*)
 Ridley, S. F. (*Bethnal Green*)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
 Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
 Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
 Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
 Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Roys, Clement Molyneux
 Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*)
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
 Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
 Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, E.*)
 Smith, Jas. Parker (*Lanarks.*)
 Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
 Spear, John Ward
 Spencer, Sir E. (*W. Bromwich*)
 Stanley, Edw. Jas. (*Somerset*)
 Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir Jn. M.
 Stock, James Henry
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (*Oxf d Univ.*)
 Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
 Thorburn, Sir Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Sir Edgar (*Exeter*)
 Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
 Wanklyn, James Leslie

Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (*Notts*)
 Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Colonel R. (*Dorset*)
 Wilson John (*Glasgow*)

Wilson, J. W. (*Worcestersh., N*)
 Wilson-Todd, W. H. (*Yorks.*)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Worsley-Taylor, Hry. Wilson

Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir Alexander Acland-Hood
 and Mr. Anstruther.

MR. MANSFIELD (*Lincolnshire, Spalding*) said he desired to move the Amendment standing in his name to insert at the beginning of Clause 3 the words, "Unless the local education authority otherwise determines." The object of the Amendment was to make the County Council the real authority. The atmosphere of the House had been very much changed in regard to the London County Council during the last few days. At one time the Borough Councils were regarded as the pets of the Government, but now the First Lord of the Treasury said it was necessary to make the London County Council the real authority. His idea was that the London County Council should be masters of the situation. He should be prepared to agree to the proposal in the clause if the Borough Councils knew anything about education; but they were not educational authorities; and his Amendment would give the London County Council the right to say whether any particular Borough Council should be acknowledged as the authority to carry out the work. A great point in connection with the Bill was that co-ordination was wanted. The clause as it stood, however, put the management in one set of hands and the authority in another; and it was quite impossible to see where co-ordination came in. The main reason given for extinguishing the London School Board was that there might be co-ordination; but the clause would not co-ordinate education. It would create a rivalry between the Borough Councils and the London County Council; and under it the Borough Councils would have the right to appeal to the Board of Education, which would help them in their rivalry of the London County Council. The object of the Amendment was to make the London County Council independent of the Borough Councils, and give them power to choose their own Committee. Unless that were done, it would put a premium on disputes between the

London County Council and the Borough Councils; and, instead of co-ordination, it would be like tying the tails of two Kilkenny cats together and letting them fight the matter out. The Amendment proposed to restore, as far as possible, the old order under which the London School Board appointed its own managers, regarding whom they had ample evidence as to their ability and earnestness in educational work. What they wanted was that a system which was admittedly successful in the past should, as far as possible, be grafted on to this Bill. He would not object to the Borough Councils being the managers if they knew anything about education; but he objected to the Borough Councils being placed in such a position, for while the London County Council would have to provide the money the Borough Councils would be able to practically dictate the situation. He hoped the Government would adopt such a very reasonable Amendment.

Amendment proposed.

"In page 1, line 11, at the beginning to insert the words, 'Unless the local education authority otherwise determines.'"—(*Mr. Mansfield.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said he was sorry he could not accept the Amendment on behalf of the Government, for the reason that it would not carry out that policy of decentralisation, which was one of the main principles of the measure. They desired that the new authority should not be encumbered with administrative duties such as the London School Board allowed itself to be encumbered with. It should be borne in mind that the new authority would have work almost infinitely wider in scope and far more serious in character than anything the London School Board had to deal with. They felt that the new authority would not be able to give its attention to the great problem of London education unless it

was substantially relieved of such part of the work of administration as was susceptible to such treatment. That form of decentralisation could best be accomplished in connection with public elementary schools. The work would no doubt be considerably diminished under the new legislation, because the London School Board had introduced into the region of public elementary schools various matters which are not connected with elementary education, and which would cease to form part of it when the Bill became operative. The hon. Member spoke of the London County Council as not being the real authority. He thought the hon. Member had not considered how full and complete the control of the London County Council would be over the managers of the schools. It would have complete financial control. Not a penny could be spent without its sanction; and no money would be received by the managers except what the London County Council gave them. The London County Council could lay down a general code, and make such rules as they pleased, and these directions the managers must accept; and to say that the London County Council would not be a real authority was a misapprehension. All the proposals for constituting boards of management which appeared on the Notice Paper left it optional to the County Council to give such boards from time to time such work as they pleased. What was required was that the Boroughs should have some work to do, should always be ready to receive more if delegated, and that the County Council should be bound to give up a stated amount of its labour to these bodies. That being the principle, the amount of management to be handed over to them and the mode in which it should be exercised were matters of detail, as to which the Government would be fully open to consider Amendments lower down on the Paper. There was, for instance, an Amendment, in the name of the hon. Member for Chelsea, providing that the statutory management should be arranged by a scheme agreed upon by the Borough Council and the County Council, or, if not so agreed upon, subject to arbitration by the Board of Education. That seemed to him a reasonable proposal, because it would give variety to the schemes. He hoped the Committee would not agree to the Amendment.

Sir William Anson.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said that nobody on the side of the House on which he sat would have any objection to Borough Councils having some of the management of the schools, so long as the central authority had full and complete control in any scheme that was proposed, but he did not see his way to accept such a proposal as had been suggested—a proposal by which the Borough Councils and the County Council were to come to some agreement, or in default the Board of Education were to arbitrate. The County Council must be put in the same position as any other County Council throughout the country. They should prepare a scheme into which they could either bring in or leave out the Borough Council. He was glad to see the hon. Gentleman trying to meet the views expressed on both sides of the House. If they were to bring Borough Councils into the scheme without giving the County Council full complete control, it would lead to considerable friction. The most important question of all was that of the appointment and dismissal of the teachers. If that duty were retained in the hands of the central body, he had no great fear of the friction that would otherwise arise. The hon. Baronet had delivered a speech which showed a most friendly and conciliatory spirit; and if the hon. Baronet meant, as he understood him to mean, that the London County Council was to be the supreme authority in the matter of management, as well as in the superior Committee, he did not think it much mattered who might be the subordinate authority.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Morley) said it appeared to him that the speech of the hon. Baronet opposite, instead of being a conciliatory speech as had been suggested by the hon. Member for Poplar, was the other way about. The hon. Baronet had for once apparently tumbled upon one of the questions of principle upon which the Government were prepared to take their last stand, and that being the case, he saw nothing particularly conciliatory in the speech. The Committee sometimes had an expression of opinion from the hon. Baronet in favour of co-ordination and at other times in favour of variety. In the speech which the hon.

Baronet had just made both opinions had been expressed. The hon. Member for Poplar had taken comfort to himself because the hon. Baronet had expressed himself as desirous of preserving intact the position of the County Council. How was the authority of the County Council to be exercised through a statutory and irremovable body of managers? The argument of the Government last year was that the managers were to be the creatures and servants of the authority. Then how was it possible, under the scheme of this Bill or the suggested amended scheme of the hon. Baronet, to assign that position to the Borough Councils and make them the masters of the elementary schools and not of what were the Cockerton schools—that is to say, the evening schools and the technical schools? There was to be one body of managers for elementary schools and another for evening schools. He was puzzled to think what the question of principle was upon which the hon. Baronet had taken his stand. They had a right to ask for some elucidation of this matter. There might be great difference of opinion between municipal boroughs and the County Council in regard to the appointment of teachers, but the County Council had no means of enforcing its opinion. The Council needed to have the power of taking back the management which it delegated in order to make its authority effective. He should have thought after the Act of 1902 that the hon. Baronet might have had enough on hand without taking on his own shoulders all these matters. Not content with the work he had to do under the Act of 1902 he had hit upon a plan whereby each Borough Council should have a different scheme. The County Council would never know whether it was dealing with a matter in which it had control, or one in which, under some precious scheme, it had merely management and not control. They were really drifting into confusion worse confounded, and it would be a matter much to be deplored if the Borough Councils were given a constitutional power to retain the management in their own hands, without there being

given to the County Council complete control in all eventualities of dispute or discussion.

MR. HALDANE (Haddingtonshire) said the Bill, in its original form, divided London education between the County Council and the Borough Councils. This clause, to some extent, fitted in with that idea, but it was now difficult to understand how it got into the Bill at all. Taking the measure as it stood, the proposal was not intelligible, and, in the interests of London education, incapable of justification. [The Government had adopted the principle of giving the control of London education to the County Council; they had eliminated the share of the authority originally proposed to be given to the Borough Councils, and yet this clause was left in such a form as to put a hard and fast barrier in the way of the County Council carrying out the policy for which it was now completely responsible. If any one principle ought to prevail in the Bill, it was that they who called the tune should pay the piper, but here the Borough Councils would have to carry out matters of which they would not bear the cost, and the responsibility for which would rest with the County Council. The working out of the proposal would result in a condition of things which would be simply intolerable. He looked forward to the day when the relations between the Borough Councils and the County Council would be much better than they now were. Such better relations, however, could be brought about only by putting those authorities into positions which did not naturally breed friction and difficulty, whereas the clause under discussion was cast in a form calculated to provoke the most acute controversy. The Government had met the opposition to a certain extent, but if the Bill was to be a workable Bill, it should be made workable all through. It was impossible to leave Clause 3 as it stood, and put the control of education in London into the hands of the County Council. He hoped, before the Bill passed, the Government would make the new educational machine workable and intelligible. By adopting the principle of the Act of last year, and only by so doing, the Government would provide for the carrying out of these matters, their difficulties would disappear,

they would have no trouble in the future, and they would carry out the wishes of their own supporters. It was because the Government had slipped away from the interests of education, and listened to the voice of the wirepullers, they had got into this difficulty, and he hoped they would yet remodel the clause so as to bring it into accord with the rest of the Bill as it stood.

MR. LOUGH said the object of the Amendment was to make the arrangements between the County Council and the Borough Councils voluntary. His hon. friend did not desire to prevent the local Councils giving any assistance they could in the work of education, but he did object to any statutory rights or powers being given them which the County Council did not willingly confer. The answer of the Secretary to the Board of Education was really appalling. The hon. Baronet had said that the Government were resolved to decentralise and give large powers to the Borough Councils who had the machinery to carry them out. They had not a scrap of machinery for the purpose, as the hon. Baronet would be aware if he knew anything about a single London division.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said the hon. Member had misunderstood him. What he said was that in the Borough Councils they had the machinery for decentralisation. He did not say that the Borough Councils had the machinery, but that they were the machinery.

MR. LOUGH said the more the hon. Baronet explained his meaning the more intolerable the proposals appeared. The management of these schools was no small business. The task in Islington alone would probably be as great as that in Birmingham or Manchester. Knowing the districts, the work, and the Councils, it really shocked him to hear the hon. Baronet say the Borough Councils were the machinery. He knew the busy men who formed the Borough Councils, and how they patriotically hurried from their shops or employment to give the time necessary for the work of the local authority, but to propose that such bodies, which were striving so hard to discharge their present duties, should be installed as the education authority of

Mr. Haldane.

a great city—if that was what it amounted to—was simply monstrous. Whatever delegation there was should be by permission of the County Council. As the clause stood, each Borough Council would be a little School Board, and there would be twenty-nine small and helpless School Boards instead of one great central institution. Where was the machinery? It was in a noble building on the Embankment, managed by the London School Board, and would be taken over by the London County Council. The Borough Councils had not a scrap of machinery, and would be bound to do the work badly. ["Why?"] Because there would be no unified control. London, after all, was one city, but instead of one central idea running through the whole system of education there would be twenty-nine different authorities. According to the hon. Baronet, on April 29th, there was to be "greater elasticity imported into the curriculum of elementary schools." That meant there was to be one curriculum in Islington, another in Southwark, another in Paddington, and so on through the twenty-nine boroughs. The system was really impossible of working. Let there be devolution by all means, but let the County Council select its machinery and do it voluntarily. That was the question on which the Government would be forced to take issue.

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his report to the House

Committee report Progress; to sit again this evening.

----- EVENING SITTING. -----

LONDON EDUCATION BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 3:—

Amendment proposed.

"In page 1, line 11, at the beginning, to insert the words 'Unless the local education authority otherwise determines.'" —(Mr. Mansfield.)

Question again proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.) said the speech of the hon. Baronet, the Secretary to the Board of Education was a frankly anti-educational speech in favour of a frankly educational programme, and a too charitable interpretation had been placed upon that speech by the hon. Member for Poplar. He regretted that too charitable interpretations were too frequently placed upon statements such as that just now made by the Secretary to the Board of Education, by the Front Opposition Bench. The speakers on the Front Bench of the Opposition did not in this matter represent the opinion of the back benches nor the vast volume of opinion outside the House, which demanded more sweeping Amendments and a much more drastic procedure towards this extraordinary Bill than had been suggested in mild, congratulatory tones from the Front Bench of what was the great Opposition Party. As a member of the rank and file of that Opposition he thought they should approach this question in a very different spirit. It seemed to him that the speech of the hon. Baronet had aggravated the situation. They all contended that Clause 3 was a bad clause and made the Bill worse than it otherwise would be, and the intimation of the hon. Baronet that he was prepared to accept the principle of the Amendment deepened the objection to the proposal. To accept that proposal meant that the Government was prepared to greatly extend the powers of delegation contained in the Act of last year. It would be practicable for the Board of Education to act as a despotic authority in dealing with this question of defining the duties of management, and in determining the manner on the failure to agree on the part of the County Council and the Borough Councils. An Amendment of this kind would infinitely increase the evils of this clause. In this education debate the Committee were becoming the victim of phrases. Phrase after phrase had been used in a most contradictory manner to enforce the arguments of the Government. "Municipalisation," "Co-ordination," "Central Authority," had all been ridden to

death and now they were to have "decentralisation" used in the same way. These phrases were being used as a sort of Moloch, to whom they were sacrificing the millions of children in London. Last year the Opposition was denounced for resisting centralisation and advocating decentralisation. A similar denunciation was now made. They were now denounced for favouring centralisation, and were asked to adopt a different principle. The Government asked for centralisation last year and decentralisation this year. It was because of centralisation in London that the School Board had done more than anybody else to organise the unorganised masses of London and give them a conception of educational duties such as they could not have attained if split up in small separate bodies. The situation was absolutely different from what it was in the Bill of last year, and to compare the separate municipal bodies which had certain duties to perform in the separate areas of London with the units of educational life in such towns as Manchester, Bradford and Leeds, was absolutely illogical. The success of the London School Board had been due to the close attention which it had given to detail, which would be absolutely destroyed under this Bill. They could not contemplate with equanimity the handing over to the County Council as a mere shadowy reproduction of the Board of Education, of the control of education of this great area. They should have a real controlling power, without which the Bill would do more harm than good to education in London. The clause now under consideration undoubtedly gave very considerable powers to the Borough Councils to create large expenditure in respect of education. It was absolutely impossible for the clause to be worked in the sense of the hon. Member for Chelsea unless the Borough Councils submitted estimates for considerable outlay in order to carry out adequately the purposes they wished to take upon themselves with the help of the Board of Education. Such a co-ordinating of the power of rating in London could only result in an enormous increase in the burden of the rates.

MR. BOUSFIELD (Hackney, N.) said it was pretty obvious from the speeches made that the Committee was to have a Second Reading debate upon this clause, and members on the Unionist side of the House would be misunderstood if they allowed the Motion to go through without replying to the arguments of the hon. Gentlemen opposite. Every one would no doubt like to see some Amendment or other in this clause. It was very improbable that the Government could succeed in framing a clause with which everyone would agree; and he would like to hear a more complete statement as to the way in which it was proposed to divide the work between the central body, the intermediate bodies of borough managers, and the subordinate bodies of managers of groups of schools who had to perform those functions which they now performed. He appealed therefore to the Secretary to the Board of Education to put them in possession of a complete statement of the way in which it was proposed to divide these duties. Everybody was agreed that there must be some sort of devolution. Devolution was wanted to get the details of the work done in every district. Centralisation was important for three reasons—first of all, with reference to uniformity of expenditure and educational policy. It was also important with reference to the co-ordination of primary, secondary, and technical education; and thirdly, with reference to the free circulation of head teachers throughout London. It was, however, absolutely consistent with these purposes to have the details of educational work in each borough done by a Borough Committee. Those Borough Committees, subject to the reasons he had given, should do the local work in the boroughs. He hoped they would have a little more light thrown upon the relations between the different authorities. They would have to have three grades of authorities. The primary duties would be in connection with a group of one, two, or three schools managed by a body of managers in the present style. Something had been said about the Borough Councils being the managers, but that was not intended to interfere with what were known as managers now who took such a keen

interest in the schools and all the details of educational work, and upon whose efforts a great deal of the success of education depended. He did not think it was intended to alter those primary duties under the Bill. Above the primary unit came the secondary unit intended to be the group of schools within the borough. That was a matter of the very highest importance. He supposed that the managers of the group of schools would have the appointment of the assistant teachers subject to the approval of the Borough Committee. Of course the appointment of head teachers should be made by the Borough Committees subject to the approval of the County Council.

If they were to have decentralisation, as they must, having regard to the size of London, then between the ultimate and primary groups of schools they ought to utilise the services of Borough Committees. He had heard one hon. Member after another snub the Borough Councils, and this he deprecated. Borough Councillors had been described as small shopkeepers without any knowledge of educational matters, but he should be very sorry if the small shopkeepers were not represented. The way to keep down the standard and character of local representatives was to deprive them of important functions. If they formed the educational plan upon that basis they would never get the most capable men to come forward to discharge the functions required. It would be open to the County Council to put a certain number of members of the London School Board on the central authority, and there was room for several of those men of experience on the Borough Committees. When they once started their Borough Committees in that way they would form an excellent training ground for educational administrators who would combine business experience with educational work. He did not quite know what was meant by an educational expert, but he should like to see a body composed of men with business capacity. Those sort of men would be the product of the scheme of this Bill. From the point of view of devolution and securing a regular flow of persons of experience in educational

matters the proposal of the Government was the right policy.

*MR. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.) thought the Borough Councils should be done away with in this clause as they had been in Clause 2. The Opposition did not object to Borough Councils or their Committees having managerial powers over schools within their area, but they objected to such powers being statutory under this Bill. He had listened with great regret to the speech of the Secretary to the Board of Education. In the provinces within the area of an administrative county, although the powers possessed by the County Council were dual—the powers for primary education and education other than primary—still those powers rested in the hands of the same set of people under the Act of last year, and the co-ordinating principle was adopted as the quickest and the most satisfactory method of getting over the difficulty set up by the Cockerton judgment. The higher grade Board schools in Sheffield were under the same management as the other Board schools, and although the finances did not come from the same source, still they were spent upon the schools within the area. The difficulties of the Cockerton judgment and the dislocation it set up in education were confessedly and professedly removed last year for the whole area of the provinces, but now the hon. Baronet was laying down the principle that, because of the Cockerton judgment they must put the management of the secondary and evening schools under the London County Council and the Board schools in the hands of the Borough Committees. Apparently there still remained some Cockerton microbes at the Board of Education office and the hon. Baronet was receiving attention from them. Not only would the management of the Board primary schools not be in the hands of the London County Council or of the Committee it might appoint, but the denominational primary schools within the area of the Borough Councils were to be under a totally different management to the Board schools. In drawing up this Bill the last thing that was considered was educational fitness and progress. The framing of the Bill seemed to him to have been a

set of most unprincipled compromises between the Borough Council champions and the County Council champions on that side, and between the Borough Councils and the Established Church. The Bishops had said to the Government, "We will not have the Borough Council Committees to manage our voluntary schools." The result was that in a place like Marylebone, where there were more denominational schools than Board schools, the Borough Council would not manage the denominational schools. They would be allowed to manage the Board elementary schools but not the higher Board schools. That was the sort of co-ordination which London was to have meted out to it. The result would be that in the metropolitan area, where there would always be a rich harvest of brains, they would not have that co-ordination, that system, that easy passage for the clever lad from school to school, that common knowledge of the wants of the schools and of the scholars, which they would have in the provinces under the Act of 1902. They were to have in London instead a chaotic arrangement, no better, and perhaps worse, than the present arrangement, because the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education had been bitten with the microbe of the Cockerton judgment.

There was also the most important question of the curriculum to be set up in the various parts of London. He believed hon. Members were under the impression that the Board of Education would take care that, although all over London there might be twenty nine different sets of managers for primary schools, the curriculum should be practically the same. He wished to point out that the Board of Education had not power to take that care. What the Board of Education did at the present moment was to put down in the code a maximum curriculum, and leave the managers of a school, or group of schools, to arrange the minimum curriculum. The Board of Education could prevent managers from getting, on false pretences, the grant which was common to all schools by instructing the the inspectors to say—"Your school is not in a slum district; it is fairly well and regularly attended, you have good premises, and a good staff, and therefore

you will only get the normal grant of the Board of Education if you present to us a fairly full curriculum." In regard to other schools, the inspector could say—"Your school premises are poor, the staff inferior, and the location is such as to make it practically impossible to get a high level of physical and mental ability. We will be satisfied, in your case, with a moderate curriculum, but do it thoroughly, and do it well." But at the present moment the Board of Education could not say to managers that they should or should not do any particular degree of work.

Referring to the cost which would be incurred under this Bill, the hon. Member said he would not deal with the expense to the London County Council in connection with the management of denominational schools all over the area, though that was a new expense which would, no doubt, cause an elevation of the rate. A multiplication of expenses would arise from having twenty-nine centres for the management of elementary education. There would be twenty-nine different sets of officials, inspectors, book-keepers, accountants, high rentals, and records to keep. There would be a multiplicity of unnecessary letters and correspondence. Clerks without number would be required, and that would increase the expense. We were not too willing to spend money on education proper. Why waste money on unnecessary machinery, and which was not called for by anybody but the framers of the Bill? The hon. Member pointed out that the proposed system would operate adversely alike for teachers and the interests of education in regard to the promotion of teachers. What was wanted was that there should be free play and opportunity for the circulation of all grades of teachers from one district to another. It was an unfortunate thing that a teacher should be located in one area during the whole of his or her professional life. He understood that under the parent Act and the Bill now before the Committee, it would be impossible for the Borough Councils to manage any of the higher elementary schools. They were going to have a system of management of primary schools which would set up division and disorder, prevent efficiency, and introduce undue

Mr. Foxall.

variety. It would bring about not an improvement in the present position, but a declension from the present standard of efficiency all over London. They were going by statute to prevent the authority for higher education from being in fact the authority for elementary education as well, and they were going to do all this in the sacred name of co-ordination. He submitted that since the Borough Councils had been cut out of Clause 2, the statutory powers given to the Borough Councils ought to be cut out of Clause 3. The retention of these powers in Clause 3 could not be explained on educational grounds. It could only be explained on Party political grounds, but even then it seemed to him to be an unwise thing to do. The power to manage ought only to devolve on the Borough Councils by resolution of the central authority.

MR. CRIPPS (Lancashire, Stretford) said the hon. Member opposite had not quite accurately interpreted the Bill of 1902 with regard to minor authorities. Undoubtedly there were six managers—four of them put on under statutory power by the central local authority, and two by the minor local authority. There was no objection in principle to adopting the same idea in the case of London. With regard to education in London, which was one of the largest Imperial questions with which they could deal, they ought to have a thoroughly sound managing body, and in order to have that, in the first place they must have some relation between the central body and the managing body. As the Bill stood at present there was no connection whatever between them, and if there were no representatives of the Education Committee on the managing body it was impossible to conceive how the scheme could work in a satisfactory and effective manner. They ought to come to some determination which might give due weight to the position of the Borough Councils, and at the same time get a managing body which would be in touch with the central education authority and guarantee the proper management of the schools. There must be some

representatives directly appointed by the central authority on the managing body. When they had accepted the central authority, they must not only fasten responsibility upon it, but give it due means of carrying out that authority in the actual management of the schools. He thought it was a great mistake on this educational question to raise anything like antagonism between different local authorities in London. When they spoke of the dignity of certain local authorities, they were going wrong in dealing with any question of this sort. He asked the hon. Baronet whether he could not see his way to have such a connection between the central authority and the managing body as would get rid of any possible friction. He repudiated all idea of anyone having the slightest feeling against the Borough Councils. They had to do with education and education only, and he urged the Government not to deal with the question as between the County Council and the Borough Councils.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) said he wished to advert for a moment to some words which fell from the Secretary to the Board of Education earlier in the evening. The hon. Baronet said the Government had an open mind on the details. So far as he could make out, everything was detail which could be thrown overboard and everything was principle which could not be sacrificed at the moment. This was an Amendment which did not settle anything, but it was treated by the Secretary to the Board of Education as one on which they could have the opportunity of a Second Reading discussion. It was not reasonable that they should refrain from endeavouring to give the Government their views as to the way in which the clause should be dealt with. The Secretary to the Board of Education indicated a disposition to accept a different scheme for the different divisions of London. That seemed to him to be a most extraordinary suggestion, and he desired to take the first opportunity of entering his protest against any method which would introduce wholly unnecessary complexity and confusion into the educa-

tional system. He could not see that anything would be gained by setting to work different schemes in Marylebone and Paddington. When the hon. Baronet came to the practical question of the constitution of the managerial body, he said it was very desirable to have decentralisation. He agreed that decentralisation was a blessed word, but what did it mean? If it meant that the London County Council and its Committee would not be able themselves to undertake and grapple with the vast mass of work thrown upon them, then he entirely agreed. If it meant also that the School Board might have, perhaps, tried to do too much, and that they might, with advantage, have thrown more functions upon local managers, then he also agreed. What were the conditions of successful decentralisation? The powers should be delegated in such a way as to retain unity of supreme control. If they were to require, or to suggest to the central authority that its administrative powers were to be delegated to a subordinate authority, they must see that there was a subordinate authority fit to discharge those powers. The Secretary to the Board of Education said that the Borough Councils were the obvious bodies for the purpose, but neither he, nor any other Member who had spoken in the debate, had attempted to grapple with the question whether the Borough Councils were fitted by knowledge, experience, or composition to undertake the management of the schools. They were not created for this work, they had no experience of this work; even the hon. Member for Hackney said he wished to give them this work to induce a better class of persons to enter the Borough Councils and raise them to a sense of their responsibilities. Surely that was not a practical spirit in which to approach this question.

MR. BOUSFIELD said what he suggested was that they should co-opt members of the existing London School Board to start with.

MR. BRYCE said that the criticisms of the hon. Member for Hackney and Stretford were suggestions of

alternative plans. He should be the last person in the world to disparage the Borough Councils. His experience of the House showed him that it was most dangerous to make anything like an attack on a public body. He hoped it would not be regarded as a disparagement of the Borough Councils when he said that he should like to know something more about them. He would ask hon. Members how much they knew of the Borough Councils. He was an average normal London ratepayer. He had lived in Marylebone for forty years, and he had always endeavoured to do his duty in the way of electing good men to the Borough Councils; but he really did not know of whom the Borough Council of Marylebone consisted. Hon. Members who were Members for London constituencies perhaps did know, because they came in contact with the members of the Borough Councils. He looked at this question from the point of view of the average ratepayer, who had no time to read the *Marylebone Observer*, or the *St. Pancras Herald* or other local newspapers, and who knew little or nothing of the Borough Councils. He dared say that this would change in a few years; that these Councils would become more important bodies than they now were; but at present they knew so little of them that they could not say whether they were fit for the educational duties it was now proposed to throw upon them. Therefore, carrying an open mind on the subject, he wanted more light on the capacity of the Borough Councils for this work than had yet been received. It should be remembered that the managers hitherto have been small bodies of persons who had the time to go in and out of the schools and know everything about them; and a good deal of the best managerial work had been done by ladies. In all parts of the House it was agreed that they should like to see the London County Council and its Education Committee delegate part of the educational work to the local bodies; but it was essential that the control should remain with the central authority. But how could the control of the central authority be effective over bodies on which the central authority had no representatives?

There should be a link between the controlling and the managerial authorities,

Mr. Bryce.

some persons from the central authority, or appointed by it, who would be their agents, represent their views, and keep the managers in touch with the central authority. That would give a certain amount of unity, and prevent that friction which must arise if there was a body of managers entirely independent of the central authority.

The truth was that in this clause, as in Clause 2, the further they went from the general principles of the Act of 1902 the worse the Bill became. If they were going to carry out the principles of the Act of last year they must carry them out completely, and not introduce elements of friction. The main point was that the local authority should be responsible to the central authority, and the managers should derive their title and power from that authority. They should not have managers who were practically independent, and could go direct to the Board of Education, or refuse to carry out the instructions of the Education Committee. He hoped the Government would take the plan of Clause 7 in the Act of 1902, and give a majority on the managerial body to the central body. A further question was as to what powers were to be given to the managers, but that could not be discussed until they knew who the managers were to be. That was a point on which stress had been laid by his hon. friend the Member for Poplar, whose speech did not seem to be quite understood by those who followed him. That hon. Gentleman was quite as opposed to giving statutory powers to the managers as anybody who had spoken in the debate. He submitted that the Government in dealing with Clause 3 should observe the same openness of mind as they had done in dealing with Clause 2; and that they should allow the Bill to take the form in which that unity and concentration, upon which the First Lord of the Treasury so often dilated, should be realised. Above all they should lay down the cardinal principle that co-ordination and unity could only be secured by giving responsibility and control to the Central Education Committee.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am sure the right hon. Gentleman has given great

comfort and consolation to my hon. friend the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education by the speech just delivered. My hon. friend has been the target for many shafts in the course of these debates, and it must be a comfort to him to know that as soon as this Bill is passed it will be regarded as a model for all other Bills. The reason why I hold out that happy prospect to my hon. friend is that I gather from the right hon. Gentleman that no higher standard of Parliamentary excellence is possible than Clause 7 of the Act of last year, and he reproached the Government with departing from the spirit of that clause, and said that our one chance of salvation was to retain not only the spirit but the letter of that clause. Yet I remember that Clause 7 was fought by the right hon. Gentleman with the same ardour as he is fighting this clause, and no doubt this clause will be praised a year hence with the same ardour as is displayed in dispraise of it now.

MR. BRYCE: I am sure the right hon. Gentleman is too accomplished a logician not to know what is meant by the *argumentum ad hominem*.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I was using it.

MR. BRYCE: And I was using it to show to the right hon. Gentleman that, at any rate, the arrangement of 1902—against which I have never ceased to protest and never shall cease, and which we must keep in mind was a great deal better than that under this Bill—should be carried out. I am entitled to appeal to the Government and their supporters to carry out the principles which they have framed in the Bill of last year and compelled the House to adopt. I may also remind the hon. Gentleman that my remarks on Clause 7 only dealt with the part which refers to the managers of provided schools, and not the part which we fought with so much tenacity.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The right hon. Gentleman has taken three times as long to explain his reasons as I have to attack them. I do not wish to carry on the

controversy; as he justly says, the *argumentum ad hominem* need not be used to excess. Another point of the right hon. Gentleman's speech was the theory that he started, or rather supported, that you cannot make a good system of London education unless you have links between the London County Council and the managers of the schools—whether Borough Councils or otherwise. That was precisely the argument by which we desired to induce the House to accept the representation of the Borough Councils on the London County Council Education Committee. That was the view we took: That if people have got to work together why not link them? That argument, however, found no favour with hon. Gentlemen opposite. On the contrary, they derided it, and said that there was nothing to be gained by having any representation of these subordinate authorities on the Education Committee. The right hon. Gentleman in an earlier part of his speech employed an argument which, from a Member of his great historical knowledge, his great authority in all questions of constitutional law and social evolution, really surprised me. Said the right hon. Gentleman to hon. Members on this side of the House—"Have you any ground for believing that the Borough Councils have got special qualifications for representation on the Education Committee? Was that the intention with which they were brought into existence; was that their historic origin?" All these questions must be answered in the negative. Are they to be answered in the positive in regard to the London County Council? Was that body brought into existence for education? [An HON. MEMBER: The School Board was.] Was it brought into existence to deal with the housing of the working classes? [HON. MEMBERS: Yes.] I beg pardon. Every gentleman who has had the smallest the most elementary knowledge of the history of local government in this country knows that these great bodies were brought into existence, not merely with the view of carrying out the duties entrusted to them at the moment of their being brought into being, but also

for other duties which, as being the organ of the community, they may be called upon to undertake. Might not the question asked by the right hon. Gentleman be asked of each of the powers conferred on municipalities since the Municipal Corporations Act of 1834? Local Government is reduced to a farce and an absurdity if, every time the growth of our institutions develops a new function, local and not Imperial, a new *ad hoc* authority is to be created. It is to be regretted that any one having the authority of the right hon. Gentleman in regard to historic and constitutional matters should have lent the weight of his great name to a fallacy so transparent.

As to the fundamental point, I must dissent from my hon. and learned friend the Member for Stretford, who seems to think that logic requires us to entrust the education of the children of the 5,000,000 inhabitants of London to the central authority of that great area alone, and to the absolute exclusion of those great bodies—great now, and greater, I hope, in the future—who have charge of the interests of communities compared with which the ordinary municipality sinks into insignificance. It would be a paradox if, having these boroughs to our hand, and having passed the provisions by which they were brought into existence and their whole system was co-ordinated, we were to ignore them at the very time that we were municipalising our education.

MR. CRIPPS: I think my right hon. friend was not in the House when I spoke.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Indeed I was.

MR. CRIPPS: My view was that they ought to be in the majority on the managing body and to have also some representation on the central body.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not see that my hon. friend gets a more logical or a more workable Bill by that scheme. If you imagine that there is to be a perpetual controversy between the County Council and the Borough Councils, I do not see how you will avoid it by putting a minority of the County Council on a

body where the Borough Councils have a majority. If his idea is to link the system up, then why was he so opposed to putting a minority of Borough Councillors on a body where the County Council would have had a majority? I cannot conceive that the scheme as we have it, is likely to interfere with the supremacy of the County Council or with the activity of the boroughs; and I do confess that the weakness of some of the arguments used—such as that these Borough Councils were not created to deal with education—makes me think that there may be some motive behind the arguments of hon. Gentlemen other than that which appears. When the right hon. Gentleman asks us in this spirit whether the Borough Councils were created for educational purposes, I must repeat the question which I have put to him before—*i.e.*, Was the County Council created to deal with technical education? When a Conservative Government asked the County Council to undertake that duty, we did not hear any protests from hon. Gentlemen opposite to the effect that the County Council had not been brought into being for the purpose and knew nothing of the work. Yet I have no reason to believe that they were specially expert in the matter. The whole principle of local government in this country is that you choose bodies to do certain work, and expect them to do it, although they may have had no previous training for it. I believe, in fact, that they do it much better for that reason. I no more believe that the Borough Councils are incompetent to deal with education because they are not school teachers, than I believe them incapable of dealing with sewage because they are not engineers, or housing because they are not architects. That is not the theory of local government in England, and the sooner we accept the fact the sooner we shall do justice to the capacities of our countrymen to carry on the work entrusted to them. I hope that this House, in its new-born passion for education, will not insist that because we make the central authority supreme we are not to give any statutory powers to the subordinate authorities. I am sure that would be a mistake. I cannot conceal from myself the suspicion that

Mr. A. J. Balfour.

if we had adopted the other scheme we should have found hon. Gentlemen opposite just as strenuous against it. I hope we shall now be allowed to get to the details, and to work out some scheme which shall neither detract from the educational control of the County Council, nor dispossess these great local institutions of the powers which, in the majority of cases, they desire to have, which I am sure they are qualified to exercise, and of which if we deprive them they will have reason to complain.

SIR EDWARD GREY (Northumberland, Berwick): The Prime Minister has really raised a large question going beyond the limits of the Bill. He has dwelt with great force on the fact that we are now engaged in a great development of local self-government in which we must devolve on existing local authorities powers which were not in contemplation originally when they were first called into existence. I agree with the Prime Minister in that. We are engaged in a great measure of devolution; but precisely because it is a great measure of devolution, because we have to give powers in respect of education to the County Council, which has had hitherto small experience in the matter, we ought to proceed very carefully, and be sure that we are giving to the County Council the best possible chance of dealing satisfactorily with an untried situation. The Government is really engaged in a great measure of devolution, a larger development of local self government than London has yet had; and they propose to do it, not by giving one undivided responsibility to the County Council, which is the central authority, but by scattering the powers and responsibilities among the different local authorities. That will be the ruin of this great experiment. I quite agree that in giving the County Council these great powers of education there will have to be decentralisation; but the Government are making the mistake of endeavouring to teach the County Council how to decentralise in a matter in which they have had no more experience than the County Council. It will have to decentralise, but it will have to learn how to decentralise.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: That is our plan.

SIR EDWARD GREY: Your plan is that the County Council should decentralise itself. The Secretary to the Board of Education said that there were two matters of detail in this clause to be dealt with. One is the mode of handing over the powers to the managers, and the amount of power handed over. I agree; but are those details? Are you going by a statute of limitations to circumscribe the power of the County Council, or are you going to leave it to the County Council to decide, and to evolve by its own experience and by methods of decentralisation, what particular amount of decentralisation it is necessary to work out in the duty you lay upon it? I agree with the hon. Member for Stretford that I should like to see the Borough Councils, which are the minor local authorities, have *ab initio* an interest, and be brought into this system of working education as a minor local authority. But I disagree with the hon. Member that it would not interfere with the working of this Bill to give these Borough Councils a majority. They should have a minority on the management, but care should be taken not to freeze the interest of the major local authority, on whom the real responsibility rests, and to interfere with the power of carrying out its duties. You have to interest the minor authority and to preserve the control of the major local authority. The First Lord of the Treasury deprecated the *argumentum ad hominem*; but last year, when we were discussing the question of the management of the provided schools, an Amendment was moved that the minor local authority should have four persons on the management, and the major local authority should have two. The First Lord of the Treasury pointed out how serious it would be to have a conflict, not between an individual, or a body of individuals, and the County Council, but between two duly constituted local authorities; and he said that if we have a conflict of that kind it will do more than anything else to paralyse the central education authority in the locality. But the Government are not merely giving the minor local authority a majority on the management, but are going to give it the whole, to those very minor local authorities who are suffering under a sense of disappointment at being excluded from representation on the central Committee, and you are establishing at

once a certainty of rivalry between these two authorities which is bound to paralyse the working of the Bill. I would appeal to the Government that they should, at any rate, consider whether they cannot meet the hon. Member for Stretford to the extent of bringing the two authorities together on the board of management; and I would urge upon them most strongly that they should look back to the line they themselves took last year on the question of provided schools, and consider whether it is not absolutely necessary that the central authority, on which responsibility is placed, should have a majority on the management of the schools. That is a matter of the greatest importance.

Take the case of a private individual, who is to be given an estate and is not to be allowed to choose his own agent or any of the *personnel* to be employed on the estate. No one would take the management of a private estate on these terms, and how can you expect the County Council to undertake the duties of education in similar circumstances? Stated that way the thing is a farce and an absurdity. How did it get into the Bill? I believe it was because the Borough Councils were to be so largely represented on the local authority; and, being so largely represented, it is natural they should have a great deal to say in the management. But they got on the management in the same way as on the Committee, not because the Government were thinking of education, but because the Borough Councils, being in existence, and being powerful, something had to be done somehow to bring them into the Bill. The Government, looking at the matter from the point of view of education only, would have done better to have stuck to their Bill of last year. That after all was a clean Bill so far as provided schools were concerned. We have but one thing to consider in the Bill. Admitting the question to be decided now, that the County Council is to be the education authority, we have the question as to how to put the County Council in the best possible position to carry out the duty we are insisting upon putting on it. No one can for a moment suppose that to separate the County Council from the management of the schools, and from the appointment and dismissal of teachers,

is giving it a fair chance in carrying out this great duty, which must be an arduous duty, and which, I believe, if you retain the clause, will turn out to be an impossible duty.

SIR JOHN GORST said the Committee had got into the very same position as that in which it found itself last Tuesday. This Amendment raised the whole question of the management of the schools, and at the invitation of the hon. Baronet the Secretary to the Board of Education the Committee had embarked on the whole discussion, but the decision on this Amendment would not decide the question at all. They would have to have a further Amendment in order to decide it. He would like to say a few words at this stage because the next Amendment to be moved was in his name, and it exactly carried out the proposal of the right hon. Gentleman who had just sat down, and because he wanted to put the present position of the question from a practical point of view before the Committee. It had never been his lot to bring in an Education Bill the principal object of which was to destroy the School Boards. It was quite true that a large proportion of the Education Bills with which he had been officially connected would have had the effect of absorbing School Boards; but they always alleged—and as far as he was concerned alleged with perfect candour and honesty—that they would be most careful not to destroy the work and organisation of School Boards, and he did not believe that the Bill of last Session did destroy either the work already accomplished by, or the organisation of, the great School Boards in the country. It was quite true that a different body took up the work; but it entered into the offices of the School Board and carried on its machinery in the same way as a newly-elected School Board. But if the proposals in the Bill—which, however, he understood the hon. Baronet had admitted he was willing to consider in a candid and open-minded spirit—were carried out they would destroy absolutely the organisation of the London School Board. He had often been complained of in the House because he had not been an

extravagant *laudator* of the London School Board, and therefore the Committee would allow him to say that, with all its shortcomings, the actual machine for carrying out the work of the elementary schools of London which they had established, was one of the most magnificent pieces of constructive work which had been accomplished in our time.

All the Board schools in London were provided for and managed in an extremely efficient manner—no doubt with a little over-centralisation, but still, on the whole, magnificently managed from that great establishment on the Thames Embankment. If the London County Council were left alone they would, no doubt, appoint an Education Committee which would go into the offices on the Embankment exactly as if it were a new School Board and carry on the work of the Board with the same officers and on the same system. He was in favour of an adaptation of that system, but at the same time he would like to see a great deal more decentralisation. He would like to see the Borough Councils interested in the work of education. The more they diffused the interest in education, the more local people they brought in, the better it was for the education of the country. But it must be done by degrees by a body which had made itself acquainted with the present routine. If they began by splitting up the great establishment on the Embankment into twenty-nine different sections the task of organisation would be so gigantic that he did not believe anybody could perform it. He did not believe that even the Secretary to the Board of Education could do it. Although the present system might be over-centralised, after all, centralisation was economical, and no doubt the schools could be more cheaply managed by a central body than by twenty-nine different bodies.

He would like to point out some of the difficulties which would attend the handing over of the management of elementary education to the Borough Councils. In the first place the Bill contained an entirely new departure in making a distinction between control and management. Hitherto there had been no such

distinction. Clause 15 of the Act of 1870 gave School Boards power to delegate the control and management to local managers. The Act of last session in dealing with provided schools did not separate control and management. A distinction was made in this clause, however, but it had never been explained to the Committee, and there was nothing about it in the Bill. As far as he could make out, the difference was that the business of the County Council was to be confined to legislation, and the work of administration was to be done by the Borough Councils. What was the good of making general rules for the observance of teachers and managers if they could not be enforced? And how was observance to be enforced if the County Council was relieved of all administrative functions? He would give an example that was not unlikely to occur. It would be necessary that promising boys and girls in an elementary school should at a certain age be transferred to a secondary school. If the County Council made rules on this subject, how were they to get their orders obeyed? The teachers of the elementary school would not be disposed to part with promising pupils; the Borough Council, which had the management of elementary schools but not of secondary schools, would not wish to lose its most promising pupils; and this might prevent the rules of the County Council being carried out. If the County Council learned that some of its general legislation was not being observed, what could it do? The teacher was the servant of the Borough Council; the Borough Council could dismiss him, the County Council could not. Being human, the teacher would probably obey the body which could punish his disobedience. A good deal had been said about the appointment of teachers. When the schools of London were treated as a whole, the central authority was able to obtain teachers for schools in undesirable districts, because it could hold out the prospect that if they did their duty there they would be promoted to some better quarter. That could not be done by the Borough Councils. The Borough Council of Limehouse would have no inducement to offer to a young man or young woman to work in their schools, because they would have no

power to promote them to anything but a Limehouse school. From this point of view, it was most desirable that there should be a general service of teachers for the whole of London. The Borough Councils would spend the money but would not raise it; and the County Council would raise the money but would not spend it. He failed to understand how an anomaly of that kind could either work to the benefit of education or tend to economy and efficiency of finance.

Another point which had been referred to was the extraordinarily anomalous position as between voluntary schools and provided schools. It was specifically laid down in the Act of 1902 that the managers of voluntary schools were to obey every order with regard to secular instruction which they got from the County Council. Therefore the County Council would be, so far as secular instruction went, a very much greater authority in the voluntary schools than it would be in its own provided schools. If any teacher in a voluntary school should set himself up against the County Council in regard to secular instruction, the Council could summarily dismiss him; but in a Board school a teacher might do a similar thing, and, sheltering himself under his immediate superiors, the Borough Council, might set the County Council at defiance. Let the Committee think of the number of schools in some of the London boroughs. In Westminster there were seven Board schools in which the Westminster Council would be supreme, but there were thirty-nine voluntary schools in which the Borough Council would have no voice, and where the County Council would have practically entire control in secular education. In the City there would be a similar position with three Board schools and fourteen voluntary schools, and in Marylebone seven Board schools and twenty-seven voluntary schools. He had said enough to show that the scheme required very careful consideration before it could be adopted. His own opinion was that the London County Council was a far better authority to draw up a plan of delegation to the local authority than the House of Commons. But if the Committee were determined to undertake the work, they should

accept an Amendment which he would move later. Why would not the hon. Baronet the Secretary to the Board of Education propose an Amendment by which the London County Council should be required to draw up a scheme by which considerable powers, with reference to elementary education, should be delegated to local Committees on which the Borough Councils should be represented. That would give the London County Council a means of doing what the Committee was attempting to do now; and which he felt sure it would fail to accomplish. An Amendment such as he suggested would indicate to the County Council that they should take into consideration the desirability of enlisting the services of the Borough Councils. He really believed that if some Amendment of that kind were proposed by the Government, it would meet with the general approval of the House; that they then might finish the Bill before Whitsuntide; and that a really good scheme would be devised for the organisation of the elementary schools of London.

DR. MACNAMARA said he confessed he would much rather have had the Borough Councils on the central authority either to the number of thirty-one or twelve than that those powers should devolve on them. He thought it would have been better for the actual working of education in London if the Borough Councils remained on the central authority than have those powers. There was so much misrepresentation as to what the School Board did in the way of management that he was very grateful to the right hon. Gentleman for pointing out that the School Board had a very fine system of local management indeed. They had 250 groups, each group managing from one to five schools, and they had 2,000 local managers, of whom 699 were women. Anyone who said that the School Board did not devolve enough power on those managers was making a serious mistake. The regulations of the managers extended over 300 pages of closely printed matter; and he defied anyone who wished to get a really effective system for London to safely

Sir John Gorst,

devolve anything more than was devolved at present. He himself went to the School Board ten years ago, believing that it was too centralised. When the Borough Councils were established he did his best to consider whether they could be utilised. But now he thought that nothing in the way of devolution could be added to the code of regulations for managers. With regard to the appointment of teachers, it was suggested that the School Board kept the matter in its own hands. As a matter of fact, the managers had the sole appointment of assistant teachers. They examined the applications, saw a number of the applicants, and the person they sent up was invariably appointed by the Board. As to head teachers, the Board saw the applications, selected three of the best applicants, sent them down to the managers, and the managers made the final appointment. Would any hon. Member say that the Board could do more than that, if they wished a wise system of selection. If the Borough Councils were to be the managers, the valuable experience of the great bulk of those 2,000 managers would be lost. The right hon. Gentleman referred to the difficulty in certain boroughs with regard to the number of schools. In Camberwell the Borough Council would have to manage 104 departments; but the bulk of the members of the Borough Council were working people. He did not blame them, of course; but they were men who could not afford to give a large amount of time to this work. The Borough Council of Hampstead, which consisted of persons of greater leisure, would only have to manage twelve departments. Again, what was to become of the special schools—the schools for the blind, the deaf, and the mentally afflicted? There was not a special school in each borough, and the question would arise as to which of the Borough Councils would manage the special school that served three or four boroughs.

[*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said that special provision would be proposed for those schools.

DR. MACNAMARA said he imagined there would have to be some modification; but the only modification that would be

satisfactory would be that the County Council should have direct control of those schools. Apart from shutting up all Board school teachers in twenty-nine water-tight compartments, this scheme would be atrociously extravagant. If hon. Members who thought the *ad hoc* authority was extravagant went in for this scheme on grounds of economy, they were in for a rude awakening indeed. What he wanted was that the County Council should have supreme power and should be supreme in the management of its own affairs. It was proposed that in the event of any difficulty arising between the Borough Councils and the County Council the Board of Education should act as arbitrator. He ventured to suggest that a dispute of this class should be settled under Queensberry rules. It would be much more likely to be an appropriate settlement.

There was rather a serious matter in connection with the curriculum in the provided schools. The Borough Councils, in respect of the Board schools, were to have a large measure of power in the settlement of the curriculum. As regarded secular instruction, that did not matter much; but with regard to religious instruction, the Borough Councils were to have complete control over instruction in the Board schools. He could mention one Borough Council which would exclude religious teaching altogether if given that power. Was that desirable? He could mention another where the scheme of what was called the "Moral Instruction League" would be certain to be introduced. He did not himself think that desirable; but he desired to point out to the Committee that they were embarking on a very dangerous course with regard to religious instruction if they handed the control over to the Borough Councils. He listened with interest to the speech of the hon. Member for the Strand Division the other night when he described the broad-minded, non-sectarian, non-bigoted manner in which the Technical Instruction Committee of the County Council had dealt with King's College. That was true, but only £200,000 was involved. But here they would have an expenditure of £4,000,000 mixed up with religious controversies and covering the whole field of elementary education. He

would ask the hon. Member for the Strand Division to wake up with regard to the manner in which the County Council would deal with the voluntary schools, especially when the people of London began to clamour against rate-aid without public control. He would read the last utterance of the County Council on the subject.

*THE CHAIRMAN: This clause has nothing to do with non-provided schools.

DR. MACNAMARA said that the managers of voluntary schools were excluded from this clause, and Amendments were on the Paper to extend the scope of the clause in order to include them.

*THE CHAIRMAN: If there are such Amendments, let the hon. Gentleman reserve himself until they are reached.

DR. MACNAMARA said he would only add that if hon. Members opposite thought that the County Council would generously deal with the voluntary schools they were in for a rude awakening. The last part of the clause proposed that the Borough Councils should have the right to settle the sites of Board schools. He could not let that pass without a strong protest. He thought the Borough Councils ought to be consulted as to the sites; but he also thought the central authority should have a veto over their decision. Otherwise, what would happen? At present the London School Board bought sites by private treaty; but if those sites were, in every case, a matter of public resolution they would cost considerably more. Another reason why the Borough Councils should not be allowed to have full discretion as to the sites to be chosen, was that they had certain local functions to perform. Let the Committee consider what happened at Stepney. The Blakesley Street site was proposed, but the Stepney Borough Council wanted the Johnson

Dr. Macnamara.

Street site. He, as Chairman of the Accommodation Committee of the School Board, went down to see the sites, but there was no comparison between them. The Blakesley Street site was an open site and approachable by good roads; whereas the Johnson Street site was dirty, and was right up to a railway line where 300 or 400 trains passed per day. It was an insanitary area which the Borough Council had to clear; and if it had been selected as the site, the money would have had to be provided out of the general rate; otherwise it would have to be cleared at the expense of the Stepney Borough rate. That was what would occur in innumerable cases. The proposal of the clause would lead to great extravagance, he would not say jobbery; and if the Borough Councils had an absolute veto, for a number of reasons they would not always choose the best sites. For those reasons he would urge on the Committee that this matter should be put into the supreme control of the County Council.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping) said that what he and others desired was a connecting link between the Committee of management and the central authority, and if the Government were not prepared to give the central authority a majority on the Committee of management, they should at all events allow them one or two members thereon.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorgan-shire, Mid) said the question before the Committee was whether the local education authority was to have supreme control even in the question of management. The Government proposed to give independent powers of management to the Borough Councils, and on that question of principle the Committee had a perfectly clear issue. The Committee had been compelled to discuss questions of principle in an extraordinary way. In the second clause they were forced to discuss an important matter on

words which were meaningless in themselves, and the Amendment now under consideration was in itself to a certain extent colourless. Surely the Government ought now to tell the Committee what their plan was. Were the Committee to understand that the Government proposed to give supreme control in matters of management to the local education authority? Were they prepared to do away with the independent powers of management proposed to be given to the Borough Councils, and to say the central authority should have a voice in the matter? The Government were not treating the Committee in a business-like manner by keeping their plan up their sleeve, and hon. Members had a right to ask that the hon. Baronet should adumbrate his modified proposals before this important Amendment was disposed of.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.) appealed to the Committee to come to a decision on this Amendment. The Government had been asked to say what their plan was. His hon. friend in charge of the Bill much earlier in the debate had stated that there were two Amendments on the Paper in the name of his hon. friend the Member for Chelsea which carried out the Amendment of the clause that the Government thought desirable. The Amendment under consideration would leave devolution entirely optional to the education authority. His hon. friend proposed in his Amendment that there should be devolution, but that that devolution should be by scheme. The whole question at issue, therefore, was whether the devolution should be optional and entirely open, or whether it should be made compulsory and settled by scheme. The subject, he thought, could be discussed with greater advantage on the Amendments which raised the precise issue, rather than on an Amendment that raised merely the general question.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said he had understood the hon. Baronet to say that the question of the statutory position of the Borough Councils was a matter of detail which it would be open for the

Committee to consider afterwards. He now understood the right hon. Gentleman to say that it was merely a question of what powers should be devolved, and that the statutory position of the Borough Councils remained intact. To have two authorities with conflicting statutory powers would be absolutely fatal to elementary education in London, and he should oppose it as strongly as possible.

MR. WALTER LONG (interposing) referred the hon. Member to the Amendments on the Paper in the name of the hon. Member for Chelsea, and read the clause as it would stand if those Amendments were embodied.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON understood that the Borough Councils would remain statutory managers, with power to appoint and dismiss teachers, and that then other powers might be left to them as arranged with the County Council. That really made matters worse, and instead of diminishing, would tend to increase the friction between the two authorities.

MR. WHITMORE hoped the Committee would not take for granted all the hon. Member for Poplar had said, but would wait until he had an opportunity of moving his Amendment, when he hoped to be able to commend it to the general sense of the Committee. He had framed the Amendment with a sincere wish to meet the general views of the Committee with regard to the management clauses of the Bill, and not in any way from a desire to give power to the Borough Councils as against the County Council.

MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE (Somersetshire, E.) rose, but——

MR. WALTER LONG rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 183 ; Noes, 99. (Division List No. 100.)

AYES.

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
 Allhusen, Aug. Henry Eden
 Anson, Sir William Keynell
 Artwright, John Stanhope
 Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
 Bailey, James (*Waldworth*)
 Bain, Colonel James Robert
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. AJ (*Manch'r.*)
 Balfour, Capt. C. B. (*Hornsey*)
 Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch*)
 Banbury, Sir Frederick George
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.
 Bhowaggree, Sir M. M.
 Bignold, Arthur
 Bigwood, James
 Bill, Charles
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bond, Edward
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. Sir John
 Brown, Sir Alx. H. (*Shropsh.*)
 Brymer, William Ernest
 Bull, William James
 Burdett-Coutts, W
 Butcher, John George
 Cavendish, R. F. (*N. Lancs.*)
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbysh.*)
 Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (*Birm.*)
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A (*Worc*)
 Charrington, Spencer
 Churchill, Winston Spencer
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Collings, Right Hon. Jesse
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
 Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasg.*)
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
 Cust, Henry John C.
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Denny, Colonel
 Dickinson, Robert Edmond
 Dickson, Charles Scott
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Dimsdale, Rt. Hn. Sir Joseph C.
 Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir J. E.
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Doxford, Sir William Theodore
 Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Faber, E. B. (*Hants, W.*)
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Ed.

Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (*Man'r*)
 Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
 Forster, Henry William
 Fyler, John Arthur
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (*City of Lond*)
 Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
 Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nairn*)
 Gordon, Maj Evans (*Tr. H'mlts*)
 Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Greene, Hy. D. (*Shrewsbury*)
 Grenfell, William Henry
 Grenville, Hon. Ronald
 Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord G. (*Midd'x*)
 Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashf'rd*)
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Harris, Frederick Leverton
 Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
 Healy, Timothy Michael
 Heath, James (*Staffords. N. W.*)
 Helder, Augustus
 Henderson, Sir Alexander
 Hoare, Sir Samuel
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Hutton, John (*Yorks, N. R.*)
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
 Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
 Johnstone, Heywood
 Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*)
 Keswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*)
 Lawson, Jn. Grant (*Yorks. N. R.*)
 Lee, A. H. (*Hants, Fareham*)
 Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
 Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S.*)
 Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*)
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (*Liverpool*)
 Macconnachie, A. W.
 M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Maxwell, Rt. Hn. Sir H. E. (*Wig'n*)
 Maxwell, W. J. H. (*Dunfriesshire*)
 Middlemore, Jn. Throgmorton
 Milvain, Thomas
 Molesworth, Sir Lewis
 Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
 Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (*Hants.*)
 More, Robt. Jasper (*Shropshire*)
 Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
 Morgan, Arthur H. Aymler
 Mount, William Arthur

Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (*Bute*)
 Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
 Myers, William Henry
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 O'Brien, Patrick (*Kilkenny*)
 O'Shee, James John
 Palmer, Walter (*Salisbury*)
 Pease, H. Pike (*Darlington*)
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edw.
 Purvis, Robert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Remnant, James Farquharson
 Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
 Renwick, George
 Ridley, Hon. M. W. (*Stalybridge*)
 Ridley, S. F. (*Bethnal Green*)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
 Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
 Robertson, H. (*Hackney*)
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*)
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
 Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
 Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
 Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
 Seely, Chas. Hilton (*Lincoln*)
 Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*)
 Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, E.*)
 Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks.*)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
 Spear, John Ward
 Stanley, Lord (*Lancashire*)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir Jn. M.
 Stock, James Henry
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (*Oxf'd Univ.*)
 Thorburn, Sir Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. E. M.
 Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
 Tuke, Sir John Batty
 Valantia, Viscount
 Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
 Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (*Tarant'n*)
 Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Colonel R. (*Dorset*)
 Wilson John (*Glasgow*)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*)
 Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES :—
 Sir Alexander Acland-
 Hood and Mr. Anstruther

NOES.

Allen, Chas. P. (*Glos., Stroud*)
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Atherley-Jones, L.

Black, Alexander William
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Brigg, John

Bryce, Right Hon. James
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Burns, John

Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Robert
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Cremer, William Randal
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Crooks, William
 Dewar, John A. (*Inverness-sh.*)
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Elibank, Master of
 Evans, Saml. T. (*Glamorgan*)
 Fenwick, Charles
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Foster, Sir Michl. (*Lond. Univ*)
 Fuller, J. M. F.
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Grant, Corrie
 Gray, Ernest (*West Ham*)
 Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (*Berwick*)
 Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
 Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
 Harmsworth, R. Leicester
 Harwood, George
 Hay, Hon. Claude George
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
 Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D
 Helme, Norval Watson
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
 Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristol, E*)
 Holland, Sir William Henry
 Horniman, Frederick John

Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (*Morley*)
 Jones, Wm. (*Carnarvonshire*)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kitson, Sir James
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lambert, George
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Leigh, Sir Joseph
 Leng, Sir John
 Levy, Maurice
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lough, Thomas
 Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
 M'Crae, George
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 Mansfield, Horace Rendall
 Morley, Charles (*Breconshire*)
 Moss, Samuel
 Norman, Henry
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 Partington, Oswald
 Pease, J. A. (*Saffron Walden*)
 Peel, Hn. Wm. R. Wellesley
 Price, Robert John
 Priestley, Arthur
 Rea, Russell
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Rigg, Richard

Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Roe, Sir Thomas
 Rose, Charles Day
 Russell, T. W.
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (*Stafford*)
 Shipman, Dr. John G.
 Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, A. (*Carmarthen, E.*)
 Thomas, Sir A. (*Glam., E.*)
 Thomas, David A. (*Merthyr*)
 Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
 Toulmin, George
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Wason, John Cathcart (*Orkney*)
 Weir, James Galloway
 White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
 Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, O. (*Merioneth*)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (*Huddersf'd*)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES —
 Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
 Mr. William M'Arthur.

Question put accordingly, "That those
 words be there inserted."

The Committee again divided:—Ayes,
 99; Noes, 174. (Division List No. 101.)

AYES.

Allen, Charles P. (*Glouc., Stroud*)
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Atherley-Jones, L.
 Black, Alexander William
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Bond, Edward
 Brigg, John
 Bryce, Right Hon. James
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Burns, John
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Robert
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasg.*)
 Cremer, William Randal
 Crooks, William
 Dewar, John A. (*Inverness-sh.*)
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Elibank, Master of
 Evans, Saml. T. (*Glamorgan*)
 Fenwick, Charles
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Foster, Sir Michl. (*Lond. Univ*)
 Fuller, J. M. F.
 Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Grant, Corrie
 Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E. (*Berwick*)
 Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
 Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
 Harmsworth, R. Leicester
 Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-

Hayter, Rt Hon Sir Arthur D.
 Helme, Norval Watson
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
 Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristol, E*)
 Holland, Sir William Henry
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (*Morley*)
 Jones, William (*Carnarvonshire*)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kitson, Sir James
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lambert, George
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Leigh, Sir Joseph
 Leng, Sir John
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lough, Thomas
 Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
 M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*)
 M'Crae, George
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 Middlemore, Jn. Throgmorton
 Morley, Charles (*Breconshire*)
 Moss, Samuel
 Norman, Henry
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 Partington, Oswald
 Pease, J. A. (*Saffron Walden*)
 Price, Robert John
 Priestley, Arthur
 Rea, Russell

Rickett, J. Compton
 Rigg, Richard
 Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Roe, Sir Thomas
 Rose, Charles Day
 Russell, T. W.
 Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
 Schwann, Charles F.
 Shaw, Charles E. (*Stafford*)
 Shipman, Dr. John G.
 Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, A. (*Carmarthen, E.*)
 Thomas, Sir A. (*Glam., E.*)
 Thomas, David A. (*Merthyr*)
 Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
 Toulmin, George
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
 Wason, John Cathcart (*Orkney*)
 Weir, James Galloway
 White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
 Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, O. (*Merioneth*)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (*Huddersf'd*)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES.—
 Mr. Mansfield and Mr.
 Levy.

NOES.

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Arkwright, John Stanhope
 Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
 Bailey, James (*Walsworth*)
 Bain, Colonel James Robert
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Manchester*)
 Balfour, Capt. C. B. (*Hornsey*)
 Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christchurch*)
 Banbury, Sir Frederick George
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
 Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
 Bignold, Arthur
 Bigwood, James
 Bill, Charles
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bolland, John
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brown, Sir Alex. H. (*Shropshire*)
 Brymer, William Ernest
 Bull, William James
 Burdett-Coutts, W.
 Butcher, John George
 Cavendish, R. F. (*N. Lancs.*)
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*)
 Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
 Cecil Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (*Birmingham*)
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A. (*Worcester*)
 Charrington, Spencer
 Churchill, Winston Spencer
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Cochran, Hon. T. H. A. E.
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Crossley, Sir Savile
 Cullinan, J.
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Denny, Colonel
 Dickinson, Robert Edmond
 Dickson, Charles Scott
 Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph C.
 Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir J. E.
 Douglases, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Doxford, Sir William Theodore
 Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Faber, Edmund B. (*Hants, W.*)
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Ed.
 Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (*Manchester*)

Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
 Forster, Henry William
 Fyler, John Arthur
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (*City of London*)
 Gordon, Sir Augustus Fredk.
 Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nrn*)
 Gordon, Maj. Evans (*Tr. Hmts*)
 Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Greene, Hy. D. (*Shrewsbury*)
 Grenfell, William Henry
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Hamilton Rt. Hn. Lord G. (*Mid. & V.*)
 Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashford*)
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Harris, Frederick Leverton
 Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
 Healy, Timothy Michael
 Heath, James (*Staffs., N. W.*)
 Helder, Augustus
 Henderson, Sir Alexander
 Hoare, Sir Samuel
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Hutton, John (*Yorks, V. R.*)
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
 Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
 Johnstone, Heywood
 Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*)
 Keswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*)
 Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks. N.R.*)
 Lee, A. H. (*Hants, Fareham*)
 Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
 Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (*Bristol, S.*)
 Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*)
 Macdonald, John Cunningham
 MacIver, David (*Liverpool*)
 Maconochie, A. W.
 MacArthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Maxwell, Rt. Hn. Sir H. E. (*Wigt'n*)
 Maxwell, W. J. H. (*Dumfriesshire*)
 Milvain, Thomas
 Molesworth, Sir Lewis
 Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
 Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (*Hants.*)
 More, Robt. Jasper (*Shropshire*)
 Morgan, David J. (*Walthamstow*)
 Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
 Mount, William Arthur

Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (*Bute*)
 Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
 Myers, William Henry
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 O'Brien, Patrick (*Kilkenny*)
 Palmer, Walter (*Salisbury*)
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Remnant, James Farquharson
 Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
 Renwick, George
 Ridley, Hn. M. W. (*Stalybridge*)
 Ridley, S. F. (*Bethnal Green*)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
 Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*)
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
 Samuel, Harry S. (*Lincolnshire*)
 Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
 Seely, Chas. Hilton (*Lincoln*)
 Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*)
 Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, East*)
 Smith, James Parker (*Leamarks.*)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
 Spear, John Ward
 Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
 Stock, James Henry
 Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (*Oxford Univ.*)
 Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
 Thorburn, Sir Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. E. M.
 Tuftnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
 Tuke, Sir John Batty
 Valentia, Viscount
 Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir W. H.
 Welby, Lt. Col. A. C. E. (*Taunton*)
 Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Colonel R. (*Dorset*)
 Wilson John (*Glasgow*)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir Alexander Acland-
 Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

And, it being after Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House. Committee report Progress; to sit again this day.

THE TWELVE O'CLOCK RULE.

On the Motion for the adjournment of the House,

SIR A. ACLAND-HOOD (Somersetshire, Wellington) gave notice, on behalf of the Prime Minister, that to-day (Tuesday) he should move that the Twelve o'clock Rule be suspended in respect to the London Education Bill.

Adjourned at Twenty minutes
 after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 26th May, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with—

Ebbw Vale Water and Improvement; Crystal Palace District Gas; Leigh Corporation; Gas Light and Coke Company; Hampton Court Gas; Lancashire and Yorkshire and London and North-Western Railways (Steam Vessels).

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

Report from, That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Petitions for additional provisions in the following Bills ought to be dispensed with, and leave given to the Committees on the Bills to introduce the respective additional provisions—

Manchester Corporation [H.L.]; Bangor Corporation [H.L.]; Gosport, Fareham, and Cosham Tramways [H.L.].

That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Coventry Electric Tramways Bill, ought to be dispensed with, and the Bill allowed to proceed. Read, and agreed to.

North-Western Electricity and Power Gas Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Tramways Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Scottish-American Mortgage Company, Limited, Bill. Reported, with an Amendment.

Burgess Hill and St. John's Common Gas Bill; Sittingbourne District Gas Bill; Market Drayton Gas Bill; Scarborough Gas Bill. Reported, without Amendment.

Carmarthenshire Electric Power Bill [H.L.]; Liverpool University Bill [H.L.];

Barry Railway Bill [H.L.]; Didcot, Newbury, and Southampton Railway Bill [H.L.]; Winchester Water and Gas Bill. Reported, with Amendments.

Hastings Harbour District Railway Bill [H.L.]. The King's Consent signified; and Bill reported, with Amendments.

Fife Electric Power Bill [H.L.]. Reported, with Amendments.

Kip's Patents Bill [H.L.]. Read 2^a.

London United Tramways Bill; New Hunstanton Improvement Bill. Read 2^a, and committed. The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Gorleston and Southtown. Gas Bill. Read 2^a, and committed.

Poole and District Electric Traction Bill [H.L.]. Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Maryport Harbour Bill [H.L.]. Read 3^a; an Amendment made; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

Torquay Corporation Water Bill [H.L.]; Preston, Chorley, and Horwich Tramways Bill [H.L.]. Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

London and North-Western Railway Bill [H.L.]; London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Bill [H.L.]; Cardiff Railway Bill [H.L.]; Aston Manor Improvement Bill [H.L.]; King's College, London, Bill [H.L.]; St. Philip's Chapel (Regent Street) Bill [H.L.]; Port Talbot Railway and Docks Bill [H.L.]; British Gas Light Company (Norwich) Bill [H.L.]; Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation Bill [H.L.]; Tynemouth and District Tramways Bill [H.L.]. Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

North Middlesex Gas Bill. Read 3^a, and passed.

Bridgwater Gas Bill; Sutton District Water Bill. Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

London Hydraulic Power Bill. Read 3^a, with the Amendment, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (Housing of the Working Classes) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill. Brought from the Commons.

Cheshire Lines Committee Bill; East Ham Improvement Bill; Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Bill; London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill; London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway Bill. Brought from the Commons; read 1^a, and referred to the Examiners.

Wellingborough and District Tramroads Bill; West Cumberland Electric Tramways Bill; Highland and Invergarry and Fort Augustus Railway Companies Bill. Brought from the Commons; read 1^a, and referred to the Examiners.

Plymouth and Stonehouse Gas Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons amended; the said Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Chatham and District Light Railways Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Rochester Corporation Tramways and Improvements Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Select Committee with Amendments.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill (No. 83); Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill (No. 84); Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill (No. 85); Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas) Bill (No. 86); Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (Housing of the Working Classes) Bill (No. 87); Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4)

Bill (No. 88). Read 1^a; to be printed, and referred to the Examiners.

Private and Provisional Order Confirmation Bills—Ordered, That Standing Orders Nos. 92 and 93 be suspended; and that the time for depositing petitions praying to be heard against Private and Provisional Order Confirmation Bills, also the time for depositing Documents relating to any Order under The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, which would otherwise expire during the Adjournment of the House at Whitsuntide, be extended to the first day on which the House shall sit after the Recess.

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (East Ham, &c.) Bill [H.L.]; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]. Read 3^a (according to Order) and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; Read 3^a (according to Order), and passed.

North British Railway (General Powers) Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.]. Read 2^a (according to Order), and (pursuant to the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899), deemed to have been reported from the Committee.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill. Read 2^a (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Friday, the 12th of June next.

Local Government Provisional Order (Housing of the Working Classes) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; House in Committee (according to Order). Bills reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; and Bills to be read 3^a on Thursday the 11th of June next.

PETITIONS.

LICENSING ACT AMENDMENT
BILL [H.L.].

Petitions in favour of: of Doncaster and District Licensed Victuallers Wine and Beer Sellers Association; Aberdeen Excise License Holders Association; Berkshire Brewers' Union; Isle of Wight Licensed Victuallers Protection and Benevolent Society; Southampton and District Licensed Victuallers Association; Kendal, County of Westmorland, and District Licensed Victuallers Association; Ashton-under-Lyne and neighbourhood Licensed Victuallers Association; Campbelltown Distillers Association; Neath and District Licensed Victuallers Association; St. Helens, Widnes, and District Licensed Victuallers Association; Bolton Brewers Association; Aberystwyth Licensed Victuallers Association; Goole and District Licensed Victuallers Protection Association; Faversham Licensed Victuallers Association; Burton-on-Trent and District Licensed Victuallers Protection and Benevolent Association; Plymouth, Devonport, Stonehouse, and District Licensed Victuallers Society; Farnworth, Kearsley, Little Hutton, and Little Lever Beer and Wine Trade Defence Association; Ashford and District Licensed Victuallers Association; Boston and District Licensed Victuallers Association; Leith Wine, Spirit, and Beer Trade Association; Bristol and District Beer, Spirit and Wine Trade Protection and Benevolent Association; Crewe, Nantwich, and District Licensed Victuallers and Wine and Beer Sellers Association; Malton, Norton, and District Licensed Victuallers Association; Paisley and Renfrew Wine, Spirit, and Beer Trade Association; Newcastle and District Off Licence Holders Protection Association; Bristol Licensed Victuallers Protection Benevolent Association; Portsmouth and District Off Licence Holders Association; Oldham Brewers and Licensed Victuallers Association; Helensburgh and Gareloch Wine, Beer, and Spirit Trade Association; Cirencester and District Licensed Victuallers Association; City of Westminster and Borough of Chelsea Licensed Victuallers Association; North Staffordshire Licensed Victuallers Association; Ramsbottom Beer and Wine Trade Association; Largs Licensed Traders

Defence Association; Ilkeston and District Off Licence Holders Protection Association; Walsall and District Licensed Victuallers and Beer Retailers Friendly Society; Keighley Licensed Victuallers Association; Grays and District Licensed Victuallers Association; Bolton Off Licence Holders Association; South Wales Brewers Association; Chelmsford and District Licensed Victuallers Association; Whitstable and Seasalter Licensed Victuallers Protection Association; Eastbourne and District Licensed Victuallers and Beer Retailers Association; Mining Division of the County of Cornwall Licensed Victuallers Association; Bradford Licensed Victuallers Trade Protection Association; Preston and District Licensed Victuallers Association; The Wine and Spirit Association; Droitwich, Bromsgrove and District Licensed Victuallers and Beer Sellers Protection Association; Torquay and District Licensed Victuallers and Beer House Keepers Protection Association; Devon County Brewers Association; Wigan and District Off Licence Holders Association; Bury and District Wine and Beersellers Association; Maidenhead and District Licensed Victuallers and Beersellers Protection Association; Vale of Irvine Branch Wine, Spirit, and Beer Trade Defence Association; Bellshill and District Wine, Spirit, and Beer Trade Association; Devizes and District Licensed Victuallers and Beer Retailers Protection Association; Rochdale and District Wine and Beer Trade Association; Welshpool and District Licensed Victuallers Association; Gloucestershire Brewers Association; Stamford and District Licensed Victuallers Association; Chorley and District Licensed Victuallers and Beersellers Protection and Benevolent Association; Nuneaton, Atherstone and District Licensed Victuallers Association; Bridgend District Licensed Victuallers Association; Hull and District Licensed Victuallers Association; Dundalk Licensed Vintners Association; South East London Licensed Victuallers and Beersellers Trade Protection Society; Bolton Licensed Victuallers Association; Brighton and County Beer Retailers Protection Association; Carnarvonshire, Anglesey and Merioneth Licensed Victuallers Association; Southport, Birkdale, Ainsdale, Freshfield and

Formby Association of Licensed Victuallers; Vale of Leven Wine, Spirit and Beer Trade Association; Lawford's Gate (West Gloucester) Licensed Victuallers Protection Association; Solihull, King's Heath, and South Birmingham Licensed Victuallers and Brewers Protection Society; Canterbury Association of Licensed Victuallers; Bolton Beer and Wine Trade Protection Society; Stranraer Association of Licensed Victuallers; Gloucestershire Association of Licensed Victuallers; Harrogate Association of Licensed Victuallers; Biggleswade Association of Licensed Victuallers; Hartlepool Association of Licensed Victuallers; Bedford Association of Licensed Victuallers; Stockport, Heaton Norris and District Beer and Wine and Spirit Retailers Protection Association; Wolverhampton and District Incorporated Society of Licensed Victuallers; Cumberland Brewers and Wholesale Wine and Spirit Merchants Association; Burnley and District Beer and Wine Trade Association; Brierley Hill, Pensnett, Kingswinford and District Licensed Victuallers Association; Borough of Portsmouth, Gosport and District Licensed Victuallers Protection and Benevolent Association; Newport (Mon.) Licensed Victuallers and Beerhouse Keepers Association; Rochester, Chatham, Brompton, Gillingham and Vicinity Licensed Victuallers Protection Association; Gravesend, Northfleet and District Licensed Victuallers and Beerhouse Keepers Protection Association; National Trade Defence Northern District Association; Reigate and District Licensed Victuallers Protection Association; Sheffield, Rotherham, and Surrounding Districts Wine and Beer Trade Association; Southend and District Licensed Victuallers and Beer Sellers Protection Association; Bacup and Rossendale Beer and Wine Trade Association; Warrington and District Off Licence Protection Association; Sevenoaks and District Licensed Victuallers Protection Association; Rochdale and District Off Licence Holders Protection Association; North and South Shropshire Licensed Victuallers and Beersellers Association; Stourbridge, Lye and District Licensed Victuallers and Beer Retailers Protection Society; Wiltshire Brewers Association; Leeds and District Off Licence Holders Protection and Benevolent Association; Darwen and District Licensed Victuallers

and Beersellers Association; Harwich, Dovercourt and District Licensed Victuallers Trade Protection Association; Girvan and District Wine, Spirit, and Beer Trade Association; Dunoon and District Licensed Trade Defence Association; Belfast and Ulster Licensed Vintners Association; Metropolitan Beer and Wine Trade Protection Society; Coalville and District Licensed Victuallers Protection and Benevolent Association (Leicestershire); Peebles-shire Licensed Trade Defence Association; Somersetshire Brewers Association; Kirkcaldy and District Licensed Grocers Association; Northamptonshire Licensed Trades Association, Limited; North-West Wilts Licensed Victuallers and Beer Retailers Association; Hamilton and District Wine, Spirit, and Beer Trade Defence Association; East Lothian Licensed Trade Defence Association; Lincoln and Lincolnshire Licensed Victuallers, Beer Sellers, and Wine Dealers Association; Leicester and District Off Licence Association; Chesterfield and District Licensed Victuallers Association; Pontefract, Castleford, and District Licensed Victuallers and Wine and Beer Sellers Protection Association; West Hartlepool and District Licensed Victuallers and Wine Trade Protection Society; Bucks Brewers Association; Wisbech and District Licensed Victuallers Association; Shettleston, Tollcross, and District Licensed Trade Defence Association; Monmouthshire Brewers Association; Peterborough Licensed Victuallers Protection and Benevolent Association; Leek and District Licensed Victuallers and Wine and Beersellers Association; Liverpool and District Incorporated Brewers and Spirit Merchants Association; Crail, Anstruther, and District License Trade Defence Association; Hawick and District Licensed Victuallers Association; Buxton and District Licensed Victuallers and Wine and Beersellers Association; Bedfordshire Brewers Association; Nottinghamshire Brewers Association; Aberdeenshire Licensed Trade Defence Association; Manchester, Salford, and District Licensed Victuallers Association; Wakefield and District Licensed Victuallers Association; Pontypridd and Rhondda Valleys Licensed Victuallers Association; West Bromwich, Smethwick, and District Licensed Trade Association; Workington

and District Licensed Victuallers Association; Rye and District Licensed Victuallers Association; Southport and District Off License Holders Association; Barnsley and District Licensed Victuallers Association; Stockport and District Off License Holders Protection Association; Port Glasgow Wine, Spirit, and Beer Trade Association; Dorking District Licensed Victuallers Protection Society; Midlothian Licensed Trade Defence Association; Brechin and District Wine, Spirit, and Beer Trade Defence Association; Bridlington and District Licensed Victuallers Association; Dudley and District Licensed Victuallers Benevolent and Protection Society; Great Grimsby and Neighbourhood Brewers, Wine and Spirit Merchants, and Licensed Victuallers Association; Weston-super-Mare, East and Mid Somerset Licensed Victuallers Association; Barnet Licensed Victuallers Protection Association; Dewsbury and District Licensed Victuallers and Beer and Wine Sellers Association; Number Four District of the Licensed Victuallers National Defence League of England and Wales; Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge, and District Licensed Victuallers Association; East London Licensed Victuallers Protection Association; Exeter and District Off License Holders Association; Exeter and District Licensed Victuallers Protection Society; Falmouth, Penryn, and Flushing Licensed Victuallers Association; Brigg and District Licensed Victuallers Association; Blackburn and District Licensed Trade Association; Skipton and District Licensed Victuallers Association; Ashton-under-Lyne and District Beer, Spirit, and Wine Trade Association; Bradford and District Beer, Wine, and Spirit Trade Protection Association; Dundee Wine, Spirit and Beer Trade Protection Association; Stafford, Rugeley, and District Licensed Victuallers Protection Association; Falkirk and District Licensed Trade Defence Association; Penzance and Western Division Licensed Victuallers Trade Protection Society; Carlisle and District Licensed Victuallers Association; Scottish Licensed Trade Defence Association; West Suffolk Licensed Victuallers Protection Association; South-West London Licensed Victuallers Protection Association; Leicester and Leicestershire Licensed Victuallers Association; Fraserburgh and District Licensed Trade

Association; Partick and District Wine, Spirit, and Beer Trade Association; Peterhead and District Wine, Spirit, and Beer Trade Defence Association; Spilsby and District Licensed Trades Association; Bradford and District Off License Holders Association; Luton Licensed Victuallers Protection Association; Brighouse and District Licensed Victuallers Protection Association; Hammersmith and North Kensington Licensed Victuallers Protection Association; Leigh and District Licensed Victuallers Wine and Beer Retailers Association; Eccles Division Licensed Victuallers Defence Association; Manchester Brewers Central Association; Pollokshaws and District Wine, Spirit, and Beer Defence Association; Monmouth and District Licensed Victuallers Association; Birmingham and Midland Counties Wholesale Brewers Association. Read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

SHOPS (EARLY CLOSING) BILL [H.L.].

Petition in favour of; of Harbour Traders and Early Closing Association; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Statistical Tables relating to emigration and immigration from and into the United Kingdom in the year 1902, and Report to the Board of Trade thereon: Ordered to be laid before the House (*The Lord Wolverton*).

COLLEGE CHARTER ACT, 1871.

Applications received from the Owen's College, Manchester, and the University College, Liverpool, for the establishment of Universities in those cities, which were referred by His Majesty in Council for the consideration and Report of a Committee of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council; together with the Drafts of the Charters applied for: Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Statement of schemes for the formation of education committees, approved during the month of April, 1903, by the Board of Education, under Section 17 of the

Education Act of 1902 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper (Command No. 1564) of Session 1903) showing—Name of local authority; Number of the council; Number of members on the education committee; Number of members of the education committee who are necessarily members of the council; Number of women who are necessarily on the education committee; Forms of educational experience to be represented on the committee; Recommendations or nominations (if any).

NAVIGATION AND SHIPPING.

Annual Statement of Navigation and Shipping of the United Kingdom, for the year 1902. Presented [by Command] and ordered to lie on the Table.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Return respecting; Laid before the House (pursuant to Order of this day), and to be printed. (No. 94.)

PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN (AMENDMENT) BILL [H.L.].

Reported from the Standing Committee with further Amendments. The Report of the Amendments made in Committee of the Whole House, and by the Standing Committee, to be received and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 89.)

UNION OF BENEFICES ACT, 1860, AMENDMENT BILL [H.L.].

Reported from the Standing Committee with Amendments. The Report thereof to be received on Thursday, the 11th of June next; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 90.)

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY COUNCILS) BILL [H.L.]. (No. 91.)

POLLING ARRANGEMENTS (PARLIAMENTARY BOROUGH) BILL [H.L.]. (No. 92.)

Reported from the Standing Committee without further Amendment. The Report of the Amendment made to each Bill in Committee of the Whole House to be received on Thursday the 11th of June next; and Bills to be printed as amended.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING (LONDON) BILL [H.L.].

Amendments reported (according to Order): Then Standing Order No. XXXIX. considered (according to Order) and dispensed with. Bill read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

STATUTE LAW REVISION (SCOTLAND) BILL [H.L.].

House in Committee (according to Order). Bill reported without Amendment, and re-committed to the Standing Committee.

SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY BILL [H.L.].

A Bill to amend the Acts relating to Electric Lighting, was presented by the Lord Wolverton. Read 1^a, and to be printed. (No. 95.)

ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSIONERS BILL [H.L.].

Read 3^a (according to Order), and passed, and sent to the Commons.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE BILL [H.L.].

House in Committee (according to order). On the Motion of the Lord Chancellor, a new clause was inserted, providing that a solicitor may be appointed a Justice of the Peace for any county in England or Wales, but it shall not be lawful for any solicitor being a Justice to practice himself or by any partner directly or indirectly before any Court of summary jurisdiction or quarter sessions for that county.

Bill re-committed to the Standing Committee, and to be printed as amended. (No. 93.)

COAL MINES (CERTIFICATES) BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

THE EARL OF JERSEY: My Lords, the object of this Bill is to provide an alternative qualification for those who wish to become managers of mines. Under the Act of 1887 it is necessary before a person can get a certificate to manage a mine that he must have been engaged in work underground for five years. The object of this Bill is to afford an alternative qualification as regards part of those five years; that is to say, a man who desires to

obtain a certificate would have to have worked three years underground, but would have the option if he chose of going for two years to one of the mining colleges or Universities approved by the Secretary of State and obtaining their diploma. In this way it is hoped that managers who adopt this alternative may have a combination of scientific as well as factory knowledge. The Bill does not take away the right of anyone who chooses to come in under the present system. The measure is strongly supported by those interested in mining matters, and also by His Majesty's Inspectors. I may say also that in recent years the different University colleges of Wales and the mining colleges elsewhere have made important arrangements for giving scientific training in mining matters. In these circumstances, I hope your Lordships will consent to give the Bill a Second Reading.

Moved, that the Bill be now read 2^a.—
(*The Earl of Jersey.*)

LORD BELPER: My Lords, the Secretary of State for the Home Department quite approves of this Bill.

On Question, Bill read 2^a, and committed to a Committee of the whole House on Friday, the 12th of June next.

THE GROCERS' SCHOOL CADET CORPS.

*THE EARL OF MEATH: My Lords, I rise to ask the Under-Secretary of State for War when an answer may be expected to the application of the headmaster of the Grocers' Company's School for the recognition of his school battalion as a non-uniformed cadet corps, in accordance with a reply which the noble Earl gave to my question of 16th December last.† It may be in the recollection of some of your Lordships that on that day I asked the Under-Secretary several questions connected with cadets, and the noble Earl, in replying, professed great alarm, and said he would have to take his courage in both hands to reply to my most formidable list of questions. Why the noble Earl should have been so alarmed I cannot tell. One of those questions

was in the sense of the one I have just asked, which certainly is not very alarming; it simply appertains to the clothing of little boys. I think that perhaps the alarm that was professed by the noble Earl did not apply to this request, because, while in answering the other questions which I submitted, he laid great stress upon the fearful financial burdens they would involve, in replying to this particular question I was very glad to hear him say he admitted that the suggestion would have very little financial effect. He went on to say—

"I believe the only additional cost would be the charges for the instruction of such officers as might be granted commissions. If the noble Earl is convinced that a uniform is not required, and that boys would be induced to join these corps if they were allowed to do so without the wearing of uniform being obligatory, I see no reason why the Secretary of State should not grant the request."

The Secretary of State had already previously given expression to similar views. On November 25th a deputation from the Lads Drill Association waited on Mr. Brodrick. Amongst other matters they brought this question of non-uniformed cadet corps to his attention, and in his reply he stated that he could see no objection to the request being granted. In consequence of having these two replies, those who had attended the deputation to the right hon. Gentleman and those who supported me in this House seemed to think that the privilege had been granted, and so Mr. Gull, who is the headmaster of the Grocers' Company's School, and has taken very great interest indeed in all matters connected with cadets, and who, I may add, is the chairman of the Headmasters Association and chairman also of their Military Training Committee, and consequently the representative of a very large body of masters, addressed a letter to the Secretary of State for War drawing attention to the reply that had been made in this House by the noble Earl, and requesting that his corps might be authorised as a non-uniformed public school junior Volunteer corps. Up to this date there has been no reply, unless the reply has been sent since I placed this notice on the Paper, and I cannot make out why there should have been such delay. Have the War Office changed their mind or have they not? In

† See (4) *Debates*, cxvi., 1304.

the face of the reply which the Secretary of State for War gave to the deputation, and in face of the statement of the noble Earl the Under-Secretary, I hardly think they can have changed their mind. Why is it, then, there has been any delay in replying? It does not seem a formidable matter as to whether little boys are to be put into uniform or not, and the Under Secretary himself admits that it will involve no very large additional charge on the country. Can it be that the War Office are unable to find in the pigeon-holes of the Department any stereotyped reply—I know they are very fond of stereotyped replies—to give to Mr. Gull? If there is no stereotyped reply I shall be very glad indeed, because I think that in regard to this matter they should fall back upon their own intelligence and form a precedent.

I would like to draw your Lordships' attention to some remarks which were made by Mr. Gull at the deputation referred to, for I think he very clearly put before the Secretary of State the reasons why it was advisable that some schools should be permitted to allow their lads who wished to drill not to be in uniform. I want to make it perfectly clear to your Lordships that neither Mr. Gull nor anyone else desires to lay down any rule for others. He quite recognises that Eton, Harrow, Winchester and all the great schools where boys are sent from the upper and richer classes, are quite anxious and desirous that they should be put into uniform. The uniform is an attraction to the lads, but, on the other hand, there are a large number of schools filled by the sons of gentlemen of just as good birth, but whose purses are not so long as those of parents who send their sons to Eton and Harrow; and it is a matter of serious consideration to those parents when they are asked to supply a uniform for their sons to drill in. The result is that these lads are unable to learn the use of arms in early youth. I believe we ought to do all we can to train our young men from the ages of fourteen to eighteen in the use of arms. These young men, many of whom will afterwards, no doubt, enter the Army as officers, are unable in their early years to learn anything connected with the military profession. Quite irrespective

The Earl of Meath.

of that, the head masters of these schools believe that this constitutes a very excellent training for the lads in the way of discipline. Mr. Gull says—

“The aim of both the Head Masters Conference and the Head Masters Association—two bodies which together represent the whole of the public secondary schools—is that every boy, if in sufficient bodily health, in their schools should be trained in the use of arms. This object can never be attained by cadet corps, for the conditions laid down for them prevent universal enrolment.”

That is to say, they are obliged to have uniform, and as long as uniform is necessary the drill has to be carried on in play time, whereas if they were not required to have uniforms it could be carried on in school time as part of the curriculum of the school. Mr. Gull goes on to say—

“No school can make military service in a cadet corps part of its ordinary curriculum. The wearing of uniform is the real crux. So long as uniform is compulsory so long enrolment must be voluntary. I venture to submit that from the point of view of the national safety the important point is that all boys should be trained to shoot straight, to move at the word of command, and to be accustomed to obey the military signals. I look forward to the time, which I admit has not yet arrived, when no school shall be permitted to have a cadet corps which has not also universal military training.

I have heard a rumour—I hope it is not true—that the War Office, unable to find a stereotyped reply in their pigeon-holes, and undesirous of using their own intelligence in the matter, are going to throw the whole responsibility of deciding this question on to the Royal Commission on Militia and Volunteers. I hope it is not true. I cannot for one moment imagine that His Majesty's Government would do anything which to my mind would seem so utterly ridiculous. What we want is that the War Office should themselves take the responsibility of deciding this matter. We want to see these lads at work during this summer, and if we are to wait till a Royal Commission—a Royal Commission which has absolutely nothing to do with little boys, but has been appointed to decide questions with regard to the Militia and Volunteers—has reported, I do not know when we may get to work. The Grocers' Company's School has been giving sound military training for the last twenty-two years. The Head Masters Association has been recently taking active steps to encourage

military training in their schools. They have sent out a series of questions to all the schools under their authority, and have received answers with regard to those schools that have military training and those that have not. These show that 201 already give training in military drill, and 103 give instruction in shooting on Morris Tube targets. The present is the psychological moment. The public schools of the country are ready to undertake this duty. They ask only for cordial recognition and helpful sympathy; they do not ask for money grants. The application from the Grocers' Company's School is a test case. The only difference between this application and others is that uniforms should not be required; and the sole object of this change is to enable schools to train the whole of their boys in military drill and in shooting, as part of the school course under official supervision, which is impossible so long as the regulation with respect to uniforms is in force. There can be no question that this school training, adequately given, will greatly increase the military strength of the Empire, and I trust that the War Office will see their way to grant this request.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (THE EARL OF HARDWICKE): My Lords, the specific question asked is, What reply is going to be sent to Mr. Gull's application to allow a corps to be formed without the boys being compelled to wear uniform? and my answer is that Mr. Gull is already aware that the matter is going to be, among other questions, referred to the Royal Commission—not the specific question as regards the wearing of uniform, but a much larger question, which this application is involved in. I will deal with that in a moment. When the noble Earl feigned such innocence as to whether it was true that this matter was going before the Royal Commission it seemed to me a little unnecessary, inasmuch as I myself wrote to say that it was going to be so referred, and I understand that the noble Earl is aware that I wrote that letter.

*THE EARL OF MEATH: I may say that I have not seen the letter, nor have I heard of it.

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: Mr. Gull, at any rate, has received it. The noble Earl referred to remarks I made at the end of last year in replying to some questions he asked me, and he quoted, quite accurately, the statement I made with regard to the point in question. I certainly stated that I did not see any reason why the Secretary of State should not grant the request, but I also went on to point out that as regards the supply of arms, which is a very important matter, the difficulty was to know to what extent the War Office might be committed financially. The question whether a cadet corps wears a uniform or not I consider to be a very small one, but if the War Office sanction cadet corps without uniform it may result in a very large number of these cadet corps being formed. That would necessitate the War Office supplying to them 50 per cent. of serviceable arms and 50 per cent. of what are known as D.P. arms, and the War Office do not see their way to supply an unlimited amount of arms. At the present moment we have only 3,500 single-loading carbines available, and we require 9,000 for Volunteer non-commissioned officers and men and staff sergeants, and we have promised 5,400 rifles to uniformed cadet corps, so that even if we allowed this corps to be formed, at the present moment we could not possibly supply the arms, and if we are unable to supply arms it seems unnecessary to allow the cadet corps to be formed. The question that is going to be referred to the Royal Commission is, as I have said, a very much larger one. The question is, how far it is right that Army funds should be charged with the expenses of these cadet corps. We recently made an offer to cadet battalions of a bounty on each boy who joined the Regular Army, but that offer did not commend itself to the authorities concerned. They replied that they did not wish to be associated with the Army in any way, and that to let it be known that a bounty was given to any boy who joined the Regular forces would deter parents from allowing their boys to join these battalions.

In these circumstances I think the question arises, if it is merely physical drill that these boys require, whether it is right that Army funds should be charged with the expenses? And that is a question we propose to put before the Royal Commission. In the meantime, I am afraid we shall be unable to give any decision with regard to the various applications that come from time to time from cadet corps and cadet battalions.

*THE EARL OF MEATH: The remarks of the noble Earl as regards the bounty are confined to cadet battalions, which are filled with lads of very much lower status.

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: I meant to say battalions, not corps.

AN IMPERIAL YEOMANRY RESERVE.

LORD DENMAN: My Lords, I beg to ask His Majesty's Government whether in view of the fact that a new Militia Reserve has been recently established, it is their intention to create an Imperial Yeomanry Reserve; and, if so, whether they propose to afford an opportunity to yeomen who have served in South Africa to join such a force. I should like to make myself quite clear as to what is understood by the term Imperial Yeomanry Reserve. Last autumn the Secretary of State for War introduced into Parliament a Militia and Yeomanry Bill. That part which dealt with the Militia was duly passed, but owing to the opposition of certain enthusiastic politicians, who are by way of being supporters of His Majesty Government, the part of the Bill which dealt with the Yeomanry was allowed to drop. That portion of the Bill provided for a Reserve or special service section of 5,000 men drawn from the regular Yeomanry, who, in return for certain considerations, undertook a liability to serve abroad in time of war should they be required to do so. I do not propose to make any observations on the advantages or disadvantages of that scheme. I would merely mention that a Militia Reserve existed before the war under somewhat similar conditions, that during the South African War over 14,000 men were taken from this Militia Reserve, and drafted straight into the Line, and that the complaints of commanding officers of Militia were naturally

The Earl of Hardwicke.

so bitter on this point that the War Office has now decided to stop enlistment for this Militia Reserve and to let it gradually die out. Possibly the noble Earl, the Under-Secretary will be able to tell me whether it is proposed to re-introduce into Parliament that part of the measure which dealt with the Yeomanry Reserve or special service section. But whether this measure be enacted or not, I think there is a more urgent need for another class of Yeomanry Reserve.

And here I am obliged incidentally to touch upon the present constitution of the Yeomanry force. I will at once say that I do not wish to pass any criticism upon that force, and that in my humble judgment the success which has attended the raising of it does great credit to the authors of the scheme. There was, however, one defect—it may have been an inevitable defect—and that was that a comparatively small number of the yeomen who served in South Africa joined the force at home. I believe that in actual numbers less than 10 per cent. of men wearing the South African medal are now serving in the regular force of Imperial Yeomanry. Various causes, I think, contribute to this. Some of the men are tied down by their business affairs, others went out to the war at great personal inconvenience and think they have already made sufficient sacrifices, whilst there is a larger class of men who, while they would be perfectly willing and anxious to go wherever there is active service, either at home or abroad, yet are unwilling to undertake the comparative monotony of soldiering even for a very short time at home. There is another class of men—viz., the men who will shortly pass out of the present force of Yeomanry, and whose services will be altogether lost to the country. Now, I think it might be possible to form some Reserve which would attract both these classes of men.

I will endeavour very briefly to outline such a scheme. I think that at the headquarters of every regiment of Yeomanry a roll might be kept of men willing to join, that they should be men who have served in South Africa or who have served not less than three trainings with the Imperial Yeomanry under the new regulations. I would suggest that the only obligatory period in the year should be attendances on the range at

musketry for one or two days, or whatever was thought requisite, that the men should be invited to join the rifle club which exists in nearly every Yeomanry Corps at present, that they should be invited to attend all those social functions which are held in regiments at home, and that they should be treated, so to speak, as honorary members of the regiments to which they belong. On the question of pay there will, no doubt, be a diversity of opinion. For my own part, I believe that you could get a considerable number of men without any pay at all, but if it were necessary to give pay you might arrange to give the same scale of pay as you have given in the new Militia Reserve—that is, I believe, a bounty of £4 10s. for four years service. Lastly, I would touch briefly on the question of expense. I believe that there is a theory at the War Office at present that for every man you have on the Reserve strength you must keep in store for him a rifle, bandolier, a certain amount of ammunition, and uniform. For such a Reserve as I have endeavoured to outline I do not believe a uniform would be in the least necessary. In South Africa our uniforms were very often in rags, and men of my own squadron, instead of riding breeches had occasionally to wear a kilt made out of a sack. I do not think that with a good class of men the question of uniform affects them at all. With regard to officers, you would no doubt want officers for this Reserve. Naturally if you give these men no pay, or very small pay, they would only be liable for home defence; but I am convinced that in time of war, if you required them, a large number would be willing to serve either at home or abroad.

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: My Lords, the noble Lord at the commencement of his speech referred to the fact that a Bill was introduced by the Secretary of State for War last autumn to constitute a Militia and Yeomanry Reserve and also a special section of Yeomanry for service abroad. It has some bearing on the Question on the Paper, because, as the House will recollect, the proposal to form a special section of Yeomanry for service abroad did not meet with the general approval of Members of the House of Commons and consequently was withdrawn by

my right hon. friend the Secretary of State. The object of the Yeomanry Reserve for which the Bill provided—I may mention that we have the power now under that Bill to form a Yeomanry Reserve—really disappeared when the Secretary of State withdrew the proposal to form a special section, because it was intended that when the 5,000 men who formed the special section were called upon to serve abroad their places should have been filled by the Reserve that we proposed to constitute. As that part of the measure was withdrawn, for the present it was not considered necessary to take steps to form a Yeomanry Reserve, and more so in that at the present time, as the noble Lord is aware, the Yeomanry is not up to its full strength. It seems rather unnecessary to take steps to form a Yeomanry Reserve when your Yeomanry is not up to strength. We hope that in the course of a few months or a year, the Yeomanry will fill up to its full complement, and it is then the intention of the Secretary of State to see what can be done to form a Yeomanry Reserve. But I feel bound to mention to the noble Lord that all Yeomanry officers are not unanimous as to the desirability of forming a Yeomanry Reserve. There are some colonels who are very much opposed to it, and, therefore, the matter will want the very careful consideration of the military authorities before anything definite is done. At the same time I feel sure that the military authorities, and all concerned with the administration of the Army, would be sorry to lose any opportunity of having a lien on the services of those yeomen who have had experience in South Africa. Whether they will be prepared, as the noble Lord suggests, to serve without uniform in the same way as the cadet corps wish to serve, I am not prepared to say; but it certainly will be a novel idea to create a Reserve of Yeomanry without uniform, which, at the present time, is one of the attractions which induce men to join both Yeomanry and Volunteer regiments. The remarks which the noble Lord has made with reference to the scheme that is in his mind for the formation of a Yeomanry Reserve shall not be lost sight of when the time comes to consider the matter.

LORD WENLOCK: Can the noble Earl state what number the Yeomanry are short?

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: I cannot state definitely. A few months ago the Yeomanry were about 6,000 short of their full strength, but I think the number is very much less than that now.

LORD WENLOCK: That is, 6,000 short of 35,000?

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: No, 6,000 short of their full strength of 30,000.

LORD ROSMEAD: I understand that one of the reasons why it is not proposed to raise a Yeomanry Reserve is that the Yeomanry is not up to strength. May I ask if the Militia is up to strength? I understand there is a Militia Reserve.

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: The Militia is not up to standard and never has been.

THE MAHARAJAH OF PANNA.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: My Lords, I rise to ask His Majesty's Government whether there is any objection to laying before Parliament the proceedings and the evidence on which it was determined to remove the Maharajah of Panna from the chiefship and rule of the principality of that name; and, if not, whether any statement can be made giving some indication of the nature of the procedure adopted and evidence taken. I will, in two or three sentences, shortly state the facts so far as they have been brought to my knowledge, which have induced me to place this Question on the Paper. Panna is a native state in Central India in the Bundelkhand Agency. Its territory is about 2,500 square miles and its population nearly 240,000. In 1898 the then Maharajah died and was succeeded by his son Mahendra Mahara Sing, who is the subject of this Question. He was then a young man of about twenty-seven, and apparently soon after that became attached to a young native woman about whom considerable difficulty arose, especially as to the question of whether she was a person with whom the Maharajah could contract a lawful marriage. This seems to have given a

great deal of trouble, as these cases generally do, and in 1901 his uncle Rao Rajah Khuman Sing came to pay him a visit, apparently to deal with this question. At the palace of Raj Mandie Panna on June 24, 1901, he was suddenly taken ill and next day he died. Consequent on his death an inquiry took place by the political agent and other officers of the Indian Government there. Then two secret reports were sent by Capt. F. G. Beville to the Viceroy, who made an order that the Maharajah should be suspended, which order was enforced on September 13, 1901. On November 6 a Commission was appointed for inquiry and report. The Maharajah was represented by counsel at that inquiry and so had every opportunity of putting his case before them. The result of that inquiry and report was that five persons were charged with murder, of whom the Maharajah was not one, but the five persons so charged were ordered to be tried by the same two gentlemen who formed the Commission of Inquiry. The result of this trial was that on January 25, 1902, three of the suspects were acquitted and one was condemned to death and subsequently executed. The fifth man escaped and nothing more took place with regard to him, but the Commissioners further reported that the Maharajah was implicated. Consequently, by the order of the Viceroy, he was definitely removed from his Raj and banished to Bellary, in the Madras Presidency, where he now is. I do not enter on this question in an aggressive manner and do not wish to suggest that justice has not been done. I do not attempt to express an opinion as to whether the Commission were right or wrong in their report with regard to the Maharajah. My contention is this, that in a case where it is found necessary to deal in so strong a manner with a native prince it is desirable, and it is due to the native prince himself, that there should be no manner of doubt as to his guilt, and that there should be no secrecy at all with regard to it. In my own view the desirable thing would probably be that the evidence which caused the Commissioners to come to the conclusion which they did come to, should be made public and should be laid before Parliament. But I quite conceive there may be

reasons for not doing so. I do not therefore press that, but I do think it is right that the Government of India should distinctly state the reasons which have induced them to take this summary step, and I think it is for the advantage of the good government of India that such a statement should be made.

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: My Lords, the noble Lord, I think, made one mis-statement—inadvertently, I am sure—with regard to the proceedings, which perhaps I had better correct. He suggested that the Commission appointed by the Viceroy first of all had to enquire into the conduct of the Maharajah and afterwards tried the five persons charged.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: I said they had to enquire into the whole of the circumstances of the case, and they reported that five people ought to be tried and it was then laid upon them to try them.

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: The trial and the inquiry took place together. The five men and the Maharajah were tried at the same time, but the reference to the Commissioners was different as regards the Maharajah from that as regards the other prisoners. But what I was going to point out is that there is nothing special in the Report of the Commissioners appointed by the Viceroy, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, to try the Maharajah of Panna for being concerned in the murder of his uncle, Rao Raja Khuman Singh, that it would be undesirable to publish, but the Secretary of State for India has objection on general grounds to laying Papers, and I am therefore unable to assent to the first part of the question. I may mention that one very strong reason is that it would not be in the interests of the native State concerned that various details should be made public.

In the second part of his Question the noble Lord asks whether any statement can be made giving some indication of the nature of the procedure adopted and evidence taken. I am able to make a statement that I trust will satisfy the noble Lord that nothing irregular has taken place in connection with the pro-

ceedings brought about by the regrettable tragedy in question. The Government of India have kept the Secretary of State informed of everything that has transpired since suspicion attached to the Maharajah, and no step has been taken by the Government of India without the full concurrence of the Secretary of State for India. Raja Khuman Singh died suddenly on June 25, 1901. The deceased, on being taken ill, believed himself to have been poisoned, and wrote to this effect to the political agent and others living in the State. The political agent made an immediate enquiry, with the result that a plot to kill the Rao Raja was clearly shown to have existed, and also that there were grounds for thinking that his Highness the Maharajah was cognisant of the designs on his uncle's life. Thereupon an exhaustive police inquiry—that was the second inquiry—was instituted, which afterwards rendered necessary the trial of certain individuals on the capital charge. The Government of India decided, as “an act of State,” to constitute by resolution, which was subsequently published in the *Gazette of India* for general information, a special Commission of two Judges to deal with the case, and they sanctioned a sum of 30,000 rupees for the expenses of the defence of the Maharajah. It having been imputed to the Maharajah that the Rao Raja was poisoned at his instigation, the Commissioners were instructed, while trying the other five prisoners, to report to the Viceroy how far in their opinion the imputation against the Maharajah was true.

The Court sat at Panna, and the procedure was similar to that in an Indian Criminal Court. The following charges were presented:—Against Shambhu Panda, that he committed murder by causing the death of Rao Raja Khuman Singh; and against Haidari Yan, alias Rani Kamal Kuar, Achehe Lal, Lachmi Panhad, and Rasul Muhammad, that they engaged in a conspiracy to murder the Rao Raja, in pursuance of which he was murdered on or about June 25, 1901. Shambhu Panda was a cook employed in the Maharajah's kitchen. He absconded, and has not been brought to trial. It is believed that he actually administered the poison. Haidari Yan was the lady to whom the noble Lord referred, and she was acquitted, there being no evidence

against her, as was also Rasul Muhammad, the companion and friend of the Maharajah, who was acquitted on the same grounds. Lachmi Panhad was head of the Maharajah's kitchen. There was evidence against him, but it was not very conclusive, and he was given the benefit of the doubt. Achche Lal was secretary to the Maharajah, and the Commission found it impossible to explain the facts proved against him, except upon the hypothesis of his being guilty. The Commissioners found no extenuating circumstances in his case, and therefore sentenced him to be hanged. The sentence was duly carried out. With regard to the Maharajah, the evidence showed that the Rao Raja at his dinner complained of the taste of the meat, and within a very short time became giddy, and was obviously seriously ill. Symptoms of the illness were observed by various witnesses, which undoubtedly went to show that the cause of death was poisoning. I may mention that at the time of the incident the Rao Raja was by special invitation staying with the Maharajah in one of his royal palaces.

The course of the proceedings covered the actions and conduct of the Maharajah, both prior to and after the date of the murder. The Commissioners found that he had a motive—a very distinct motive—for getting rid of the Rao Raja, that his conduct at the time that the murder took place, and subsequently in the course of the police investigation, was inconsistent with any other hypothesis than that he was a member of the conspiracy.

The Report of the Commission was submitted to the Government of India who considered it and also a lengthy memorial from the counsel who represented the Maharajah, and they came to the conclusion that the Commission had arrived at a right judgment. The Viceroy therefore proposed to hold that the Maharajah had forfeited his right to the Panna State, that he must be deposed, that he should be interned under surveillance on a fixed allowance, and that steps should be taken to select his successor. The recommendations of the Viceroy with the proceedings of the Commission were then sent home to the Secretary of State, who, after careful and full consideration, approved of the decision of the Viceroy. I may add that

The Earl of Hardwicke.

subsequently the Government of India recommended that the eldest son of the deceased Rao Raja should be selected to succeed the deposed Maharajah, and their choice was approved by the Secretary of State and effect given to it. I hope the noble Lord will be satisfied that the course which has been adopted has been in every way justified.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: I must be satisfied with the statement of the noble Earl. My point is rather this—Is it not an extraordinary thing that the Commission should not have caused the Maharajah to be tried? The Commission reported that five people were to be tried for this murder.

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: There was first of all the inquiry by the political agent, which showed a *prima facie* case that a plot had existed. A searching inquiry was instituted, and that inquiry reported. Then the Government of India appointed two Commissioners to try five persons, and at the same time to report to them as to whether the imputation that had been made against the Maharajah was true or not. The Maharajah was therefore on his trial at the same time as the five other prisoners. He was represented by counsel, and the only difference as regards his treatment and that of the other prisoners was that his name was not included in the judgment, but the Commissioners wrote a report to the Viceroy as to the part they considered he had played in the conspiracy.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: My point is this—You have an inquiry into the circumstances of a certain case. As a result of that inquiry five persons are charged with and tried for murder; a sixth person is supposed to be implicated, but he is not put on his trial with the five persons charged with murder.

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: To all intents and purposes he was on his trial.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: If the noble Earl says he was on his trial that alters the whole situation. But surely if the Maharajah is implicated in

a grave murder case of this sort, he ought to be dealt with in a more severe manner than he has been. The course taken may have been a perfectly just one, but I think that the guilt of the sixth person should be established to the satisfaction of the general public both in this country and in India.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The Marquess of LANSDOWNE): My Lords, I understand that the procedure adopted was procedure of a kind which should satisfy public opinion both in this country and in India that justice has been done to the deposed Maharajah. I listened attentively to my noble friend's account of the series of events which led to the deposition of the Maharajah. There was, in the first place, the death under very suspicious circumstances of the Maharajah's uncle. Then a police investigation took place which reported the discovery of a plot in which a number of persons were implicated, and upon that the Government of India sent down two Judges to try the case. During the trial the Maharajah was represented by counsel, and had therefore an opportunity of making himself heard. The result of that was, I understand, that the Commission made a report which satisfied the Government of India that the Maharajah was in fact implicated in the murder. Thereupon the Government of India determined to remove him from his Raj. The whole of the proceedings were examined, first in India by the Viceroy in Council, and then in this country by the Secretary of State in Council, and both these distinguished bodies supported the decision of the Government of India. As for publicity, I hold in my hand an extract from a Resolution of the Government of India in the Foreign Department dated 6th November, 1901, setting forth the facts my noble friend described, and I am told by my noble friend that this Resolution was actually published in the *Gazette of India*, and therefore the condition to which the noble Lord rightly attaches so much importance seems to have been fulfilled.

House adjourned at twenty-minutes before Six o'clock, to Thursday, the 11th of June next, a quarter past Four o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 26th May, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL
BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz. :—

Somerset and District Electric Power Bill [Lords]; Scunthorpe Urban District Water Bill [Lords]; Dudley, Stourbridge, and District Tramways Bill [Lords]. Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO NOT COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have not been complied with, viz. :—

Hove, Worthing, and District Tramways Bill [Lords]. Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders.

Faversham Gas Bill [Lords]; Life Association of Scotland Bill [Lords]; North's Navigation Collieries Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

Highland and Invergarry and Fort Augustus Railway Companies Bill. As amended, considered. Ordered, That Standing Orders Nos. 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Mr. Caldwell*). Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed.

Lima Railways Bill [Lords] [Not amended] considered. To be read the third time.

Southampton Harbour Bill [Lords]. Read a second time, and committed.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill. Read a second time, and committed.

Naval Works Provisional Order Bill. Reported, without Amendment (Provisional Order confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table. Bill to be read the third time To-morrow.

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill. Reported, without Amendment (Provisional Orders confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table. Bill to be read the third time To-morrow.

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill. Reported, without Amendment (Provisional Orders confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table. Bill to be read the third time To-morrow.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11) Bill. Reported, without Amendment (Provisional Orders confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table. Bill to be read the third time To-morrow.

Wigan Corporation Tramways Bill; Grindelford, Baslow, and Bakewell Railway Bill. Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Knott End Railway (Extension of Time) Bill [Lords]. Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Cleveland and Durham County Electric Power Bill [Lords]. Reported, with an Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Milford Docks Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table.

Pelican and British Empire Life Office Bill [Lords]. Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time.

Harrow and Stanmore Gas Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

South Wales Mineral Railway Bill [Lords]. Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Bill [Lords]; Wellington (Salop) Gas Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

South Shields, Sunderland, and District Tramways Bill. Reported (Preamble not proved); Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP No. 5).

Sir LEWIS M'IVER reported from the Committee on Group No. 5 of Railway Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned until Tuesday, 9th June, at half-past Eleven of the clock. Report to lie upon the Table.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; North Middlesex Gas Bill, without Amendment.

London Hydraulic Power Bill, with an Amendment.

Bridgwater Gas Bill; Sutton District Water Bill, with Amendments.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to provide for the appointment of an additional Church Estates Commissioner." (Ecclesiastical Commissioners Bill [Lords]).

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to provide for the adjustment, in accordance with changes of boundary effected under the London Government Act, 1899, of the areas within which local authorities and companies are authorised to supply electricity." (Electric Lighting (London) Bill [Lords]).

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Education under the Elementary Education Acts, 1870 to 1900 to enable the School Boards for East Ham, Lower Michaelstone, Manchester, and Willesden to put in force the Land Clauses Acts." (Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (East Ham, etc.) Bill [Lords]).

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade, under the General Pier and Harbour Act, 1861, relating to Llandudno, Galway, and Scrabster." (Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill [Lords]).

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the construction of a new tramway in the urban district of Ravenshorpe and the electrical equipment and reconstruction of tramways in the boroughs of Dewsbury and Batley and the urban districts of Gomersal, Birkenshaw, Soothill Upper, and Birstal; and for other purposes." (Dewsbury, Batley, and Birstal Tramways Bill [Lords]).

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Chard to purchase the undertaking of the Chard Gas Company, and to supply gas and electricity within their borough and the neighbourhood thereof; and for other purposes." (Chard Corporation Gas and Electricity Bill [Lords]).

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to enable the South Eastern and Chatham Railway Companies Managing Committee to work the South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways by electrical power; and for other purposes." (South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill [Lords]).

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to empower the Hastings Tramways Company to construct extension tramways in the county borough of Hastings; and for other purposes." (Hastings Tramways (Extensions) Bill [Lords]).

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to empower the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the borough of Bournemouth to maintain and use the tramways authorised by the Bournemouth Corporation Tramways Order, 1900, and to make provision for the transfer of the undertaking of the Poole and District Electric Traction Company, Limited, and for other purposes." (Bournemouth Corporation Tramways Bill [Lords]).

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to extend the powers of the Jewish Colonisation Association; and for other purposes." (Jewish Colonisation Association Bill [Lords]).

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the South Lancashire Tramways Company to construct additional tramways and other works, and to extend the time for taking lands and for the construction and completion of certain authorised tramways and widenings; and for other purposes." (South Lancashire Tramways Bill [Lords]).

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to empower the Pontypridd Urban District Council to make a new street and other street works, to lay down a tramway, and to confer further powers upon the council with regard to their gas and electricity undertakings, and with regard to the good government and improvement of the district." (Pontypridd Urban District Council Bill [Lords]).

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to extend the time limited for the completion of and purchase of lands for the works authorised by the Christchurch and Bournemouth Tramways Act, 1900; and for other purposes." (Poole and District Electric Traction Bill [Lords]).

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to incorporate a Company and authorise them to acquire the undertaking of the Commissioners for the Harbour of Maryport, and to construct a dock, railways, and works at and near Maryport; and for other purposes." (Maryport Harbour Bill [Lords]).

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the Corporation of Torquay to construct additional waterworks; and for other purposes." (Torquay Corporation Water Bill [Lords]).

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to incorporate the Preston, Chorley, and Horwich Tramways Company, and to empower that company to make and maintain tramways and other works; and for other purposes." (Preston and Horwich Tramways Bill [Lords], now "Preston, Chorley, and Horwich Tramways Bill [Lords]").

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for conferring further powers upon the London and North Western Railway Company in relation to their own undertaking, and upon that Company and the Midland Railway Company in relation to their respective joint undertakings, and upon the Shropshire Union Railways and

Canal Company in relation to their undertaking; and for other purposes." (London and North Western Railway Bill [Lords]).

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confer further powers on the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Company; and for other purposes." (London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Bill [Lords]).

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for empowering the Cardiff Railway Company to construct a new railway and works, and to abandon the construction of portions of railways already authorised; for extending the time for the completion of certain railways and works; and for other purposes." (Cardiff Railway Bill [Lords]).

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to make further and better provision with regard to the electric light undertaking of the council, and for the improvement, health, local government, and finance of the district; and for other purposes." (Aston Manor Improvement Bill [Lords]).

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to amend King's College, London, Act, 1882." (King's College, London, Bill [Lords]).

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to provide for the sale and disposal of St. Philip's Chapel (Regent Street); and for other purposes." (St. Philip's Chapel (Regent Street) Bill [Lords]).

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the Port Talbot Railway and Docks Company to raise further moneys for the purposes of their undertaking." (Port Talbot Railway and Docks Bill [Lords]).

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for empowering the British Gas Light Company (Limited) to expend further capital at Norwich." (British Gas Light Company (Norwich) Bill [Lords]).

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confer further powers upon the Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation Company." (Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation Bill [Lords]).

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for authorising the Tynemouth and District Electric Traction Company, Limited, to use mechanical power upon their tramways; and for other purposes."

(Tynemouth and District Tramways Bill [Lords]).

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (East Ham, etc.) Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; Referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. (Bill 212.)

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. (Bill 213.)

Dewsbury, Batley, and Birstal Tramways Bill [Lords]; Chard Corporation Gas and Electricity Bill [Lords]; South-Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Bill [Lords]; Hastings Tramways (Extensions) Bill [Lords]; Bourne-mouth Corporation Tramways Bill [Lords]; Jewish Colonisation Association Bill [Lords]; South Lancashire Tramways Bill [Lords]; Pontypridd Urban District Council Bill [Lords]; Poole and District Electric Traction Bill [Lords]; Maryport Harbour Bill [Lords]; Torquay Corporation Water Bill [Lords]; Preston, Chorley, and Horwich Tramways Bill [Lords]; London and North-Western Railway Bill [Lords]; London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

Cardiff Railway Bill [Lords]; Aston Manor Improvement Bill [Lords]; King's College, London, Bill [Lords]; St. Philip's Chapel (Regent Street) Bill [Lords]; Port Talbot Railway and Docks Bill [Lords]; British Gas Light Company (Norwich) Bill [Lords]; Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation Bill [Lords]; Tynemouth and District Tramways Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

PETITIONS.

BURGH POLICE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions for alteration: from Partick; and Renfrew; to lie upon the Table.

COUNTY COUNCILS (BILLS IN PARLIAMENT) BILL.

Petition from Renfrew, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

COUNTY COURTS JURISDICTION
EXTENSION BILL.

Petitions in favour: from Eccles;
and Hanley; to lie upon the Table.

LICENCES RENEWAL AND TRANSFER
BILL.

Petitions against: from Helston; and
Morley; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING LAW (COMPENSATION FOR
NON-RENEWAL) BILL.

Petitions against: from Kilmarnock;
and Morley; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING LAW (COMPENSATION FOR
NON-RENEWAL) BILL, AND LICENCES
RENEWAL AND TRANSFER BILL.

Petitions against: from Manchester;
Oldham; and Bristol; to lie upon the
Table.

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMEND-
MENT BILL.

Petition from Linlithgow, in favour;
to lie upon the Table.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S
SISTER BILL.

* Petition from Headington, against;
to lie upon the Table.

PORT OF LONDON BILL.

Petitions against (praying to be heard
by Counsel): from County Council of
Essex; and Waterside Manufacturers
within the Port of London; to lie upon
the Table.

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL.

Petitions in favour: from Edinburgh;
Haltwhistle; Styal; Holyhead; Willes-
den; Falmouth; Kilbride; Auchinheath;
Paignton; Enderby; St. Cuthberts;
Dove Holes; Horbury; Walton; Derby;
Thrapston; Tyldesley; Brightside;
Swalwell; Blantyre; Lazonby; and
Lincoln; to lie upon the Table.

RATING OF MACHINERY BILL.

Petition from Dover, against; to lie
upon the Table.

SALE OF ADULTERATED BUTTER BILL.

Petition from Dover, against; to lie
upon the Table.

SHEEP SCAB BILL.

Petition from Fife, in favour; to lie
upon the Table.

SOLICITORS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Aberdeen, against; to
lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

NATIONAL DEBT ACT, 1883 (TERMIN-
ABLE ANNUITIES).

Paper (presented 12th May) to be
printed. (No. 178.)

NAVIGATION AND SHIPPING.

Copy presented, of Annual Statement
of Navigation and Shipping of the
United Kingdom for the year 1902 [by
Command]; to lie upon the Table.

FOOD SUPPLIES (IMPORTED).

Return presented, relative thereto
(ordered 4th March; *Mr. D. A. Thomas*);
to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.
(No. 179.)

BOARD OF EDUCATION (EDUCATION
COMMITTEES).

Copy presented, of Statement of
Schemes for the formation of Education
Committees, approved during the month
of April, 1903, by the Board of Education,
under Section 17 of the Education Act,
1902 [by Command]; to lie upon the
Table.

TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION ACT, 1889.

Copy presented, of Minute of the
Board of Education, dated 9th May,
1903, sanctioning the subjects to be
taught under Clause 8 of The Technical
Instruction Act, 1889, for the County
of Glamorgan (Thirteenth Minute) [by
Command]; to lie upon the Table.

COLLEGE CHARTER ACT, 1871 (OWEN'S
COLLEGE, MANCHESTER, AND UNI-
VERSITY COLLEGE, LIVERPOOL).

Copies presented, of Applications re-
ceived from Owen's College, Manchester,
and University College, Liverpool, for
the Establishment of Universities in
those cities, which were referred by
His Majesty in Council for the Con-
sideration and Report of a Committee of
His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy

Council; together with Copies of the Drafts of the Charters applied for [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

EXPERIMENTS ON LIVING ANIMALS.

Address for "Return, showing the number of Experiments performed on Living Animals during the year 1902, under Licences granted under the Act 39 & 40 Vic., cap. 77, distinguishing painless from painful Experiments (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 174, of Session 1902)."—(Mr. Cochrane.)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Inquiry into Duties and Functions of Board of Trade.

MR. LOUIS SINCLAIR (Essex, Romford): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he will state what further steps have been taken in reference to the Departmental Committee of Inquiry to be instituted with a view of rearranging the duties and functions of the Board of Trade and other offices.

(Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.) The matter is being proceeded with, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer has been in communication with various gentlemen with reference to their serving on the Committee.

Veterinary Examination of Stallions for Congested Districts Board.

MR. NICOL (Argyllshire): To ask the Lord Advocate whether the stallions that were bought or subsidised by the Congested Districts Board for the Highlands were examined by a veterinary surgeon; or was any certificate signed by a veterinary surgeon given when the stallions were selected and sent to the congested districts.

(Answered by Mr. A. Graham Murray.) All the stallions bought privately by the Congested Districts Board have been examined by a veterinary surgeon. There are greater difficulties in the cases where animals have been bought at a public sale and under the usual public sale conditions, but in the case of those and in the case of animals in respect of which a premium is given by the Board every

reasonable precaution is taken to ensure the soundness of those sent to the various districts.

London Streets—Permission to Excavate.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will state what steps he is taking to place the power to tear up the streets of London under some system or control.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas.) This is not a matter in which I can take any steps, pending the Report of the Royal Commission which is considering the whole question of street traffic in London.

Motor-Car Drivers and the Police.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the police inspector who was on duty at the crossing from Parliament Street to Palace Yard at 4.15 p.m. on Monday the 18th instant has yet reported the failure of the driver of a motor-car to obey the constable's signal to stop like other traffic; and whether he will say what steps he proposes to take to protect the public against the disregard of the orders of the police by motor-car drivers.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas.) The result of most careful inquiry is that the inspector on duty at the crossing from Parliament Street to Palace Yard on 4.15 on Monday the 18th instant reports that he remembers having some conversation on that day with a Member of Parliament, but has no recollection of any motor-car disregarding a constable's signal to stop like other traffic. The police have instructions to take proceedings against drivers of motor-cars equally with those of other vehicles who drive to the common danger.

Troops Delayed in Aden—Dublin Fusiliers.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE (Bristol, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for India, if he can say how long the additional troops will be detained at Aden; whether the frontier question is now settled; and whether, seeing that the battalion of Dublin Fusiliers now on the

frontier has had nineteen years' continuous foreign service, steps can be taken to bring it home.

(Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.) The delimitation of the Aden frontier, though progress has been made, is not yet settled, and I cannot say when it will be possible to withdraw the additional troops. In any case the passage through the Red Sea in the hot weather would be a risky undertaking for British troops.

Plague in India.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): To ask the Secretary of State for India, in view of the fact that plague has recurred with increasing virulence in India annually since 1896, so that during parts of March and April last the deaths from this cause averaged between 4,000 and 5,000 daily, what steps the Government intends to take to check the ravages of the disease in India, and the increasing risk of its dissemination to other countries.

(Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.) The Government of India and the several local governments are using every means in their power, due regard being had to the customs and prejudices of the people, to check the spread of the epidemic and to bring medical aid to the sufferers. Efforts have been and are being successfully made to induce the people to submit to inoculation, and a large staff of doctors has been sent out to India for this purpose. The people also are being encouraged to give early information of outbreaks, to evacuate infected dwellings, to isolate the sick, and to submit to disinfection, in accordance with the recommendations of the Plague Commission. To prevent the dissemination of plague to foreign countries stringent precautions are taken at the ports, and the provisions of the Venice Convention are strictly observed. The latest returns show a satisfactory decrease in mortality.

Children in Workhouses.

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton): To ask the President of the Local Government Board if he can state how many children are at present housed in the work-

houses of England and Wales, omitting those of the Metropolis; and how many of these are under three years of age.

(Answered by Mr. Walter Long.) There were, on 1st January last, 18,873 children under sixteen years of age in the workhouses and infirmaries of unions outside London. I am unable to state the number of these children under three years of age.

Corn Duty—Rebates.

MR. BATTY LANGLEY (Sheffield, Attercliffe): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in view of the shilling per quarter paid by millers under the Corn Tax, he will arrange that rebate shall be allowed upon all wheat the millers may have in stock, English and Foreign, on 30th June.

(Answered by Mr. Ritchie.) Rebate will be allowed on stocks of imported duty-paid wheat within the limits of the recent concession. Where stocks of imported duty-paid wheat are mixed with home-grown wheat, rebate will be allowed on the amount of the former present in the mixture. Duty has not been levied on home-grown wheat, and consequently no duty falls to be repaid in respect thereof.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his proposed rebate in respect of corn purchased by Irish millers for forward delivery up to 30th June will, as in the case of British merchants and millers, be allowed to the Irish merchant as well.

(Answered by Mr. Ritchie.) Corn purchased by millers for forward delivery up to 30th proximo, upon which the proper Customs duty has been paid, will be eligible for rebate within the terms of the recent concession. No distinction is made between British and Irish merchants or millers in this or any other matter connected with the proposed grant or rebate.

Post Office Stationery Contract.

MR. HENNIKER HEATON (Canterbury): To ask the Postmaster-General whether any remonstrance has been addressed to the contractors by the postal

authorities on the subject of the quality of the stationery, particularly the envelopes, supplied by them to the Post Office; and will he state what steps he proposes to take in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) Post cards, letter cards, embossed envelopes, etc., are obtained by the Post Office from the Inland Revenue Department, which Department made the contract with the firm supplying them. Whenever complaint is made to the Post Office as to the quality of any of the articles in question the matter is referred to the Inland Revenue Department, whence representations are addressed as may be considered necessary to the contractors. Such representations have recently been made to the contractors in regard to some embossed envelopes and cards supplied by them, and the hon. Member may rest assured that the subject will be kept under observation.

Delivery of Letters.

MR. FREEMAN THOMAS (Hastings): To ask the Postmaster-General whether Rule 56, in the Provincial Town Postmen's Rule Book, is meant as an instruction to postmen that letters for delivery may not be put under the door or laid inside the window of the house to which they are addressed, in case no person should happen to be in the house at the time of delivery.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) The intention of Rule 56 in the current issue of Provincial Town Postmen's Rule Book is, as stated in the hon. Member's Question, to prohibit the placing of letters for delivery under doors or through a window, when there is nobody there to receive them, even when previously requested by the owner to do so.

Erection of National Schools in Ireland.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, in view of the increased cost of labour and materials, he will hasten the adoption of the proposal to increase building estimates under plan 6a for the erection of National Schools in Ireland.

(*Answered by Mr. Arthur Elliot.*) I am not prepared to deal with this question apart from the more general questions

raised in the Report of the Committee on Building Grants, the decision on which will, as I stated on the 21st instant, † be deferred until the inquiry into the present educational system in Ireland is completed.

Lighting of the Red Sea.

SIR J. FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if any information has been received in regard to the lighting of the new lighthouses at the southern end of the Red Sea; and if he can state what is the cause of the delay.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) I have nothing to add to the answer returned to the Question asked by the hon. Member for Whitehaven on the 11th instant, ‡ in which the cause of delay was explained.

Congo Free State and Bahr-el-Ghazal.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS (Carnarvonshire, Eifion): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the proposal to give to the Congo Free State a part of the Bahr-el-Ghazal as compensation for the transfer to this country of the Lado enclave, and of the fact that the Bahr-el-Ghazal abounds in coal and iron and that its inhabitants are a comparatively civilised and industrial people and are expert workers in iron, he will state whether any, and, if so, what steps will be taken to ascertain their views before carrying out the proposal; whether he can lay Papers upon the Table showing the area and boundaries, the names of the tribes inhabiting the part proposed to be transferred and its estimated population; and whether this House will be given an opportunity of discussing the question before any decision is come to.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) The proposal to which the hon. Member refers is still under consideration, and I am not at present in a position to give information on the points raised in his Question.

Rotten Row.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): To ask the hon. Member for West Derby, as representing the First

† See page 1352.

‡ See page 288.

Commissioner of Works, whether it is intended to put more sand on Rotten Row, which at present is only covered with a thin coating of fine dust.

(Answered by Mr. Victor Cavendish.)

Instructions were given on Saturday last for additional sand to be put on where it is thin.

London Education Bill—Endowed Schools.

SIR JOSEPH DIMSDALE (City of London): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether the provisions of the London Education Bill as to appointment of managers and control by the local authority, would apply to the case of an endowed school which under its scheme of management has to be maintained as a public elementary school if the governors of such school elect not to accept a parliamentary grant.

(Answered by Sir William Anson.) The reply to the Question depends upon whether the trust deed requires the school to be conducted as a public elementary school or not. Particular cases will be dealt with by the Board when the proper time arrives.

Irish Land Bill—Repurchase.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid): To ask the Attorney-General for Ireland whether, under Clause 3 of the Irish Land Bill, it will be possible for the owner of an estate to repurchase his demesne, if at the time the estate was sold he was out of occupation, by reason of having let it for a period of, say, one or two years.

(Answered by Mr. Atkinson.) Under the provisions of the Bill, the advance can only be made to an owner for the purchase of land which is in his occupation at the date of the sale to the Land Commission.

Irish Congested Districts Board—Expenditure in Kiltimagh and Carna.

MR. HARRIS (Tynemouth): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the fact that one of the members of the Congested Districts Board for Ireland has been able

to secure the application of funds of the Board to the parish of Kiltimagh, County Mayo, in which he is locally interested, whilst in the poorer parish of Carna, County Galway, in which he is not so interested, the Board has spent little or nothing, he will state what has been the gross expenditure by the Board to the present date in each of these parishes.

(Answered by Mr. Wyndham.) The assertion of fact in this Question is presumably based on an erroneous statement to which, I am aware, some publicity has recently been given. I am much obliged to my hon. friend for the opportunity he has afforded me of pointing out that the statement, and more especially the inference sought to be drawn from it, are without foundation. The gross expenditure by the Congested Districts Board on schemes in the parish of Kiltimagh was £15,578 to the 31st March last, whilst in the parish of Carna the Board's expenditure to the same date amounted to £40,895.

Extra Police at Listry, County Kerry.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state the number of policemen stationed in the parish of Listry, County Kerry; the number employed protecting Mr. Edward Morragh Bernard, in the same parish; the cost of the same, respectively, and where chargeable to; and if, having regard to the crimelessness of this district, these policemen will now be removed.

(Answered by Mr. Wyndham.) Seven, of whom two, when not employed in protecting Mr. Bernard, are engaged on other police duties. The cost of the two men is about £162 a year, and is borne on the Constabulary Vote.

Irish Local Government Board Auditors and Public Contracts.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the fact that the Local Government Act of last session, binding public bodies to accept the lowest tender, provides for enforcement by the Local Government Board auditor, he will direct that the Local Government Board does not interfere in this branch of the auditor's business in future.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE: Is the strength of the mounted battalions maintained by drafts from England?

MR. BRODRICK: The drafts come from the battalions in the ordinary course.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL (Oldham): Are any mounted infantry recruits sent out from this country?

MR. BRODRICK: No, Sir.

146th Battery Royal Field Artillery.

MR. SEYMOUR ORMSBY-GORE (Lincolnshire, Gainsborough) had on the Paper the following question:—To ask the Secretary of State for War, whether his attention has been called to the fact that the officers and non-commissioned officers of the 146th Battery Royal Field Artillery, now stationed at Trowbridge, are mounted on horses originally intended for gun draught purposes; and if so, will he state when suitable chargers and troop horses will be provided for this battery.

On being called upon to put it by Mr. Speaker the hon. Member said—The wording of this Question has been so altered at the Table that I propose to postpone it.

Naval Gunnery.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty will the Admiralty consider the advisability of publishing annually a list of ships in His Majesty's fleet in their order of merit in gunnery efficiency either on the system of points per gun adopted on the China station, or on some other system; of altering the system of prize-money for heavy and light gun-firing so as to avoid the present method of allocating to each ship a total sum for prizes based solely on the complement and not on the gunnery efficiency of that ship; and of granting to the best heavy-gun marksmen badges for good shooting similar to those now granted to the best rifle marksmen.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): It is proposed at an early date to publish a list of ships in their order of merit as regards efficiency in gunnery.

This information will be given annually. There is no intention of making any alteration in the system of granting prize money for heavy and light gun-firing at present in force. The King, however, has approved of the bestowal of a medal upon the men who are returned as the best shots with each class of gun in each ship respectively, subject to their performance being up to a fixed standard of merit. A bonus will be given in connection with the medal. It is not proposed to grant marksmen's badges.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Will the Admiralty not consider the advisability of granting a badge instead of a medal as in the case of the rifle volunteers?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: A bonus will accompany the medal in the year it is granted.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Will the medal be a permanent gift?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Yes, Sir.

Chinese Labour in the Transvaal Mines.

MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that 2,000 or 3,000 Chinese labourers are being hired in America with a view to their transportation to South Africa to work in the Transvaal mines; and, if so, whether he can state what action the Transvaal Government will take in the matter.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): I have seen a report to this effect in the newspapers, but I have no reason for supposing that it has any foundation.

Plague at Hong Kong.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that 117 cases of plague, resulting in ninety-nine deaths, are reported to have occurred at Hong Kong in one week during the present month; and will he state when he proposes to lay upon the Table of the House the reports of the medical and sanitary experts, Professor Simpson and

Mr. Robert Chadwick, who visited Hong Kong last year in connection with the plague.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I am aware of the facts quoted by the hon. Member, which were reported to me by the Governor in a telegram which was communicated to the Press. I do not propose to lay the Reports referred to on the Table but I have caused copies to be placed in the Library.

South African Compensation Claims.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he will state the number of claims for compensation which have been lodged up to the 31st December last by the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies respectively; and the amount which they represent for each colony.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The information asked for is not available, and as it would be a long and expensive matter to collect it I am unable to give a return on the subject.

MR. WEIR: Will it be available six months hence?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Possibly. But I am afraid the matter will not be completed even within six months.

MR. WEIR: I will put the Question down for next year.

Free Trade in the Congo Free State.

MR. CHARLES M'ARTHUR (Liverpool, Exchange): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether His Majesty's Government, in communicating with the other signatories to the Act of Berlin, will endeavour to arrive at an agreement as to the effect of the clause stipulating for complete freedom of trade (Article 1), as well as of the clause prohibiting monopoly or favour in matters of trade (Article 5) in relation to the system of trade now prevailing in the Congo Free State, including the positions occupied by the Concessionaire Companies and by the State in respect of the *domaine privé*.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord CRANBORNE, Rochester): The communications with the signatories to the Act of Berlin will certainly cover the stipulation contained in Article 1, to which my hon. friend refers, as well as those in Article 5 and will apply to the *domaine privé* as well as to the area occupied by the Concessionaries.

Female Labour at Coal Pits.

MR. SULLIVAN (Westmeath, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will state the names of the coal collieries in Great Britain where female labour is employed at or about the pits.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (MR. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): I can only refer the hon. Member to Table 4 of Part I. of the Annual General Report on Mines and Quarries, which shows the total number of women employed aboveground at mines in each of the inspectors' districts. There are no women employed underground. Also in the list of mines which is published annually the number of persons employed at each colliery is given; but men and women are not distinguished in this Return, and, as at present advised, I do not see my way to making out the figures separately for each colliery.

Inquiry into Wages of Postal Servants.

MR. CORRIE GRANT (Warwickshire, Rugby): On behalf of the hon. Member for the Chesterfield Division of Derbyshire, I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether the members of the staff affected by the proposed Committee of Inquiry into the question of wages will be asked to give evidence on their behalf; and, if so, will he give instructions that the representatives of the men may have access to the official documents necessary to complete their case.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): It will be for the Committee to decide on its own procedure and on the method to be adopted in order to inform itself on the questions contained in the

reference. As regards the second part of the hon. Member's Question I cannot undertake to give the staff access to official documents other than those which are already open to them in Parliamentary Papers and the published instructions of the Department.

Liverpool Emigrant Lodging Houses.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that although Nos. 19 and 28, Great George Square, Liverpool, are common emigrant lodging houses, neither house is on the register; and will he ascertain the reason for this omission.

THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (MR. GRANT LAWSON, Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk): I have made inquiry as to this matter, and am informed that the houses referred to are not common emigrant lodging-houses and are therefore not registered as common lodging-houses. No. 19 is the residence of Mr. A. R. Paynter, Emigration Agent for the American Line. At the rear of the house there is a hall in which the majority of his emigrants have their dinner. The house, however, is reserved exclusively for 2nd class passengers. No. 28 is the residence of Mr. I. Heilbron, Emigration Agent for the Canadian Line. None but 2nd class passengers are received into this house.

George Square, Liverpool—Infectious Diseases.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will state the number of cases of infectious diseases removed from houses in Great George Square, Liverpool, during each year for the last three years, distinguishing smallpox, cholera, and typhus from other infectious diseases.

MR. GRANT LAWSON: During the period referred to there have been no cases of cholera or typhus in houses in Great George Square and only one case of smallpox. That case occurred this year. The number of cases of other infectious diseases which have occurred are as follows—twelve in 1900, seven in 1901, nine in 1902, and three in 1903.

Liverpool Smallpox Hospital—Escape of Patients.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that five patients recently escaped from their beds in the Liverpool Smallpox Hospital to the adjoining grounds, and that one of the patients subsequently found his way to a farmhouse where he saw the farmer and other inmates who were subsequently vaccinated at the suggestion of the hospital authorities; and will he consider the expediency of ordering some inquiry with a view to patients in this hospital being more carefully guarded.

MR. GRANT LAWSON: I am informed by the Town Clerk of Liverpool that he has caused inquiries to be made as to the statement that five patients had escaped from the hospital referred to. He finds that there is no foundation for this statement. I understand that the patient referred to in the answer that was given to the hon. Member last Thursday week,[†] found his way to the farm mentioned in the Question; but as was then stated the incident was not attended with any ill effects either to the man or anyone else, and I do not propose to take any steps in the matter.

MR. WEIR: I can only say that the information supplied to the hon. Gentleman is inaccurate.

Education Finance.

MR. MANSFIELD (Lincolnshire, Spalding): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education, whether, in view of the fact that within the areas of some education authorities, which will be obliged to ask for loans towards their first year's working expenses, there are voluntary school associations and voluntary school managers with credit balances in hand which have been derived from Government grants, the Board of Education will make an order that these balances shall be handed over to the local authorities for the purposes for which the education rate will be levied.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

[†] See page 689.

(Sir WILLIAM ANSON, Oxford University): The purposes for which any balances in the hands of voluntary school associations and voluntary school managers on the appointed day may be applied are definitely laid down by Schedule 2 (12) of the Education Act of 1902. The Board of Education have no power to make any such order as that suggested by the hon. Member.

Holland County Council—Education Scheme.

MR. MANSFIELD: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education, in view of the fact that the only objections to the scheme of the Holland County Council for the constitution of the Education Authority came from the Urban Councils of Spalding and Sutton Bridge, who did so in response to a letter from the Board of Education, and that these districts are handing over their Board schools to the authority to the value of £12,000, he will explain why the Councils representing these districts have not been given any representation on the authority, and why the scheme was sanctioned by the Education Department.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: The letter from the Board of Education referred to by the hon. Member appears to be a notice published by the County Council on behalf of the Board stating that any protests against the scheme for the formation of the Education Committee should be addressed to the Board within a fixed period of time. This notice is referred to in the petition against the scheme presented by the urban districts of Spalding and Sutton Bridge. After careful consideration of the petition the Board came to the conclusion that the requirements of the Act were fully complied with; and that therefore this was a question which might fairly be left to the discretion of the Council, who decided, after considering the petition (which was sent to the County Council by the Board of Education for their consideration), that it was not necessary to give the direct representation prayed for.

MR. MANSFIELD: Is the hon. Baronet aware that the Education Department asked the Spalding Urban Council if they approved the scheme, that the Spalding Council met and discussed the

question and asked for representation on the Education Authority; that the Board of Education replied they would decline to sanction the scheme until an explanation was given, but that on the same day that this reply was received by the Spalding Council, the County Council announced that their scheme had received the sanction of the Board: and further the Spalding Urban Council has received no explanation of this matter from the Board.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: The Spalding Council received through the County Council the notice which I have mentioned. On receiving a protest from the Spalding Council, dated 30th April, the Board of Education, on 2nd May, despatched a formal reply in the following terms: "Adverting to your letter dated 30th April, I am directed to state that, before approving the scheme proposed by the Lincoln (Holland) County Council for the establishment of an Education Committee, the Board of Education will communicate with the Council with regard to the representations made in your letter." And the protest was on the same day despatched to the County Council. On the 4th May, the Board of Education received an acknowledgment of the receipt of this with a request for the early confirmation of the scheme. The scheme was approved on 7th May.

Vaccination in Scotland—Human Lymph.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, in view of the fact that the use of human lymph by public vaccinators in England was discontinued on the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Vaccination, will he consider the advisability of introducing legislation prohibiting the use of human lymph by parochial vaccinators in Scotland.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Butehire): I am informed by the Local Government Board that the question of the supply of lymph in Scotland is under their consideration, but the Secretary for Scotland cannot at present come under any obligation as to legislation on the subject.

Irish Land Dispute—Case of Rev. Mr. Elliott.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to

the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, if he will state who supplied the information, and on what date, to the Land Commission that the Reverend Mr. Elliott had constituted one of his sub-tenants caretaker of her portion of the holding, and that the other two sub-tenants had surrendered their interests to Mr. Elliott; did the Land Commission, or their inspector, make any inquiry to ascertain if the conditions under which they held their portions had been correctly represented; and, if not, will they now do so, and cancel the sale should the representations prove to have been incorrect.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): The information on which the Land Commission acted in respect to the circumstances under which the Rev. Mr. Elliott became tenant of the holding was furnished by that gentleman to the Inspector of the Land Commission. The offer to purchase was made by the Land Judge to Mr. Elliot, as the tenant in occupation of the holding. The Land Commission state that nothing can be gained by making the further inquiries suggested, and that the sale under the circumstances cannot be cancelled.

In reply to another Question, Mr. Wyndham promised to make further inquiry into this case.

Antarctic Research—Relief of the "Discovery."

COLONEL ROYDS (Rochdale): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether his attention has been directed to representations from the Royal Geographical Society to the effect that in order to ensure the safety of the officers and men of the Antarctic ship "Discovery" it will be necessary to send the relief ship "Morning" to the Antarctic regions next December; and whether, seeing that thirty out of the thirty-seven officers and men of the "Discovery" are on the active list of the Royal Navy, he will state whether a grant from the Exchequer has been asked for; and, if so, what is the amount and what are the intentions of the Government.

The following Question also appeared on the Paper on the same subject:

*SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, having regard to the fact that until last year the British Government had contributed to every Polar relief expedition, he will state what steps he proposes to take to secure the safety of the officers and men of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, and others, now on board the "Discovery."

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): The Government are prepared to contribute to the relief of the officers and men on board the "Discovery," which is now ice-bound in the Antarctic Seas. The course taken by the two learned societies responsible for the expedition in respect to the contribution of money and men made by the Government is greatly to be regretted. I have always leaned towards the principle of extending the very limited aid which the British Government have been accustomed to give towards the furtherance of purely scientific research. But such action can only be justified so long as the Government are able to feel absolute confidence that the scientific bodies approaching them have placed before them all the information in their possession as to the estimated cost of their proposed action and the limits within which they intend to confine it. That confidence has been rudely shaken by the present case.

The Editing of Questions.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I wish to ask a Question on a point of order—

*MR. SPEAKER: Recently arising?

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Yes, Sir, I think so. In regard to Questions—

*MR. SPEAKER: I think the hon. Member had better speak to me personally. It is, as I understand, not a question of order immediately arising.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: With all respect, Sir, I have spoken to you. I told you I had a complaint to make with reference to a Question I handed in at the Table and which is not on the Paper. Am I not entitled to put the Question down?

*MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. Member will come to me I shall be very glad to give him my view whether or not the Question should appear on the Paper. This is not a question of order in the sense that it can be raised during the business of the House.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: For the convenience of hon. Members generally, I desire to ask whether in the event of a Question put in not being on the Paper an hon. Member has any remedy other than that of consulting you in the matter.

*MR. SPEAKER: No, I think not, under the procedure of the House. If the House is not content with that amount of control over the Questions it is open to it to make other rules.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: What particular rule or order is there dealing with the treatment of irregular Questions?

*MR. SPEAKER: I do not say there is any printed rule or order, but there has been a certain practice observed for many years.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I will speak to you later, Sir.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEE).

Mr. HALSEY reported from the Committee of Selection, That they had dis-

charged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure: Mr. Channing (added in respect of the Prevention of Corruption Bill [Lords]); and had appointed in substitution: Mr. Toulmin; Report to lie upon the Table.

NEW BILLS.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (1888) AMENDMENT BILL.

"To amend the Local Government Act, 1888," presented by Mr. Spear; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, June 16, and to be printed. (Bill 214.)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (1888) AMENDMENT (LONDON) BILL.

"To amend the Local Government Act, 1888," presented by Mr. Herbert Robertson; supported by Mr. Bousfield and Mr. Allhusen; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, June 9, and to be printed. (Bill 215.)

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE (EXEMPTION FROM THE STANDING ORDER).

Motion made, and Question put, "That the Proceedings on the London Educational Bill, if under discussion at Twelve o'clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Order (Sittings of the House)."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

The House divided—Ayes, 189; Noes, 81. (Division List, No. 102.)

AYES.

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Hy. Eden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bain, Col. James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (*Manch'r*)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch*)
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Col. H. F. (*Middlesex*)

Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brown, Sir Alex. H. (*Shropsh.*)
Campbell, John (*Armagh, S.*)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*)
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Chamberlain, Rt Hon J (*Birm*)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J A (*Worc.*)
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasgow*)
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Cranborne, Lord
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry

Cullinan, J.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Denny, Colonel
Dewar, Sir T. R. (*Tr. Ham'ts*)
Dickson, Charles Scott
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. *Akers*
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, E. B. (*Hants, W.*)
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellows, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (*Man'r*)
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose
Flower, Ernest

Forster, Henry William
 Fyler, John Arthur
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Garfit, William
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Gordon, Hn J. E. (*Elgin and N'r'n*)
 Gordon, Maj Evans (*Tr H'mlets*)
 Gore, Hn. S. F. Ormsby- (*Linc*)
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
 Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Gray, Ernest (*West Ham*)
 Greene, Sir E. W. (*Bury St. Ed.*)
 Greene, Hy. D. (*Shrewsbury*)
 Greene, W. Raymond. (*Camb's*)
 Grenfell, William Henry
 Hain, Edward
 Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
 Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (*Midd'x*)
 Harris, Frederick Leverton
 Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
 Healy, Timothy Michael
 Heath, James (*Staffords. N. W.*)
 Hoare, Sir Samuel
 Hobhouse, Rt Hn H. (*Somerset, E*)
 Hogg, Lindsay
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Howard, J. (*Midd., Tot'tham*)
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
 Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
 Johnstone, Heywood
 Kenmaway, Rt. Hon. Sir J. H.
 Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*)
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*)
 Kerr, John
 Keswick, William
 Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
 Lawson, John G. (*Yorks. N. R.*)
 Lee, Arthur H. (*Hants. Fare'h'm*)
 Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
 Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
 Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine

Long, Col. Charles W. (*Evesham*)
 Long, Rt. Hn. W. (*Bristol, S.*)
 Lowther, C. (*Cumb. Eskdale*)
 Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*)
 Macdon, John Cumming
 M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
 M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinbur'h, W*)
 M'Killop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)
 M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
 Manners, Lord Cecil
 Maxwell, W. J. H. (*Dumfriessh.*)
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Middlemore, Jn. Throgmorton
 Mitchell, William (*Burnley*)
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
 Mount, William Arthur
 Muntz, Sir Philip A.
 Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*)
 Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
 Myers, William Henry
 Nicol, Donald Nipian
 Nolan, Joseph (*Louth, S.*)
 O'Brien, Patrick (*Kilkenny*)
 O'Kelly, J. (*Roscommon, N.*)
 O'Malley, William
 O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
 Palmer, Walter (*Salisbury*)
 Parker, Sir Gilbert
 Pease, H. Pike (*Darlington*)
 Peel, Hn. Wm. R. Wellesley
 Pemberton, John S. G.
 Pilkington, Lt.-Col. Richard
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Rattigan, Sir William Henry
 Redmond, William (*Clare*)
 Remnant, Jas. Farquharson
 Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine

NOES.

Allen, Chas. P. (*Glouc., Stroud*)
 Asher, Alexander
 Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
 Black, Alexander William
 Bowles, T. Gibson (*Lynn Regis*)
 Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
 Brigg, John
 Brown, Geo. M. (*Edinburgh*)
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Burns, John
 Burt, Thomas
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Craig, Robert Hunter (*Lanark*)
 Crombie, John William
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
 Duncan, J. Hastings
 Edwards, Frank
 Ellis, John Edward
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert
 Ferguson, R. C. Munro (*Leith*)
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Foster, Sir Michl. (*Lond. Univ*)
 Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*)
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Grant, Corrie

Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
 Helme, Norval Watson
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
 Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristol, E*)
 Holland, Sir William Henry
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur J.
 Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (*Morley*)
 Jones, William (*Carnarvonsh.*)
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lambert, George
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Leng, Sir John
 Levy, Maurice
 Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
 M'Crae, George
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 Mansfield, Horace Rendall
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*)
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 Partington, Oswald
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Price, Robert John
 Priestley, Arthur
 Rea, Russell
 Reckitt, Harold James

Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
 Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
 Rolitt, Sir Albert Kaye
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Roys, Clement Molyneux
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
 Samuel, Harry S. (*Lincolns*)
 Seely, Chas. Hilton (*Lincoln*)
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
 Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, E.*)
 Smith, Jas. Parker (*Lanarks.*)
 Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
 Spear, John Ward
 Spencer, Sir E. (*W. Bromwich*)
 Stanley, Lord (*Lancashire*)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stock, James Henry
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (*Ox'rd Univ*)
 Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
 Thorburn, Sir Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. E. M.
 Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
 Valentia, Viscount
 Walrond, Rt. Hn Sir William H.
 Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (*Notts*)
 Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
 Williams, Rt Hn J. Powell (*Birm.*)
 Williams, Colonel R. (*Dorset*)
 Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*)
 Worsley-Taylor, Hry. Wilson
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES —
 Sir Alexander Acland-
 Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

Reid, Sir R. Threshie (*Dumfries*)
 Rigg, Richard
 Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
 Robertson, Edmund (*Dundee*)
 Rose, Charles Day
 Runciman, Walter
 Russell, T. W.
 Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
 Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, Sir A. (*Glamorgan, E*)
 Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
 Toulmin, George
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Wason, E. (*Clackmannan*)
 Weir, James Galloway
 White, George (*Norfolk*)
 White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
 Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
 Williams, O. (*Merioneth*)
 Wilson, H. J. (*York, W. R.*)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES.—
 Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
 Mr. William M'Arthur.

LONDON EDUCATION BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith), in the Chair.]

Clause 3.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The object of the first Amendment standing in the name of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Cambridge University is already provided for in the Bill. If the right hon. Gentleman will look at the first paragraph of Schedule 2, sub-paragraph *a*, he will see that there the Metropolitan Borough Councils are defined as the minor local authority, and, therefore, if this clause were cut out, the Metropolitan Borough Councils would have the power of adding two members to the board of managers for provided schools, and one to the board for non-provided schools.

*MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE (Somersetshire, E.) moved to leave out Sub-section 1 in order to insert "All public elementary schools provided by the local education authority shall have a body of managers consisting of a number of managers not exceeding eight appointed by the local education authority, together with a number not exceeding four appointed by the Council of the Metropolitan Borough within which the schools are situate. In the appointment of managers regard shall be had to the desirability of including a due proportion of women." He explained that his object in moving this was a purely educational one, his desire being to avoid any unnecessary disturbance of the present system of school management in London, and also any unnecessary risk of friction between two large local authorities. By general consent, he thought, the present work of school management was done exceedingly well. It might have been rather too centralised, but that could easily be rectified in the future. It was done by a very capable and devoted body of educated men and women coming from all parts of London, and working out of their own districts in order to assist the poorer districts, where there was not the same material. These educated men and women took a personal interest in the schools and exercised a great, an invaluable, influence both on

the teachers and the pupils. Such a body of workers, numbering not less than 1,700, deserved some consideration at the hands of the Government when they were recasting the whole educational system of London. It was almost impossible to conceive that under the Bill as it now stood any large proportion of these local managers were likely to retain their places. Under the scheme of last year which, broadly speaking, he desired to introduce into this Bill, there was every reason to believe that a substantial body of these managers would retain their places in the management of the schools, and he would like to know what educational reasons there were for departing from that scheme. The Government need not be surprised that some of their warmest supporters were among the severest critics of this particular provision. The Government proposal was to take the Borough Councils and to make them school managers. He did not wish to say a word to detract from the merit of the Borough Councils in respect of the duties they so ably performed; but some of their best friends had expressed grave doubts as to whether they would be good educational authorities and whether they could find the time to manage the number of schools in their districts. In the poorer districts, where there were a large number of schools—they were very unequally distributed—in Stepney, for example, there were no fewer than thirty-six schools with about 600 teachers. He could not believe that the borough councillors of Stepney would have time to attend to the duties involved in the management of these schools. They had to be visited during the day-time, during the hours in which the councillors were occupied with their own business. Then, again, the fact that there were no women on the Borough Councils rendered them to a large extent unsuitable bodies for the management of these elementary schools. Women, there was no doubt, were practically indispensable in this respect, and some provision must be made for securing the services of a considerable number of them.

The Committee had had some hint that the Government were thinking of a change in their proposals—that they were thinking of adopting a plan of school management, not by the Borough

Councils, but by committees appointed by those Councils. That, he thought, would be a change in the right direction. At the same time it was necessary to point out that, if the schools were to be managed by committees appointed by the Borough Councils, then the Borough Councils would become, in this regard, practically superfluous. They would be the fifth wheel of the coach, an unnecessary part of an already somewhat elaborate machine; and if they were to have local committees with borough councillors on them, it was far better to go back to the plan of last year, and to allow the Borough Councils to appoint a certain proportion of the members, and the local education authority the others. There would be a great advantage in that, as it would enable the schools to be properly visited. If they were to have a working scheme with these two bodies, the Borough Councils must be subordinate. They must be subject to the directions of the County Council, and those directions must be obeyed. If they were to have constant disputes between the two bodies, and if they were to be referred to the Secretary to the Board of Education, the work of the hon. Baronet would be more than he could undertake. He did not think it would be a very comfortable position. As a friend of the Borough Councils, he thought it would be far better that these directions should go, not to the Borough Council, but to the Committee of Management who might be expected to carry them out without friction and without claiming any rival authority.

Then of course there would be divided responsibility. If the appointment of the teacher was left to the Borough Council, as was proposed by the Amendment of the hon. Member for Chelsea, the local education authority would always be able to say that the education was so bad because the teacher was appointed not by them but by the local managing body. On the other hand, the Borough Council would escape all responsibility for the efficiency of education, because they would say they were bound to carry out the directions of the local education authority, and so the poor ratepayer would not know where the

real fault lay. There were one or two educational objections also, which he must mention. What was proposed would, in regard to the teaching staff, be extremely injurious certainly to the education of the poor. If they split up the educational staff into thirty sections the poorer districts would undoubtedly suffer. There would be great difficulty in connection with a special visiting staff free to circulate over the entire area. It was desirable that there should be members of the teaching staff who could assist wherever in London an emergency arose. There would also be considerable difficulty with regard to the organisation of the teaching of certain subjects—domestic subjects for example. It did not by any means follow that the groups of schools desiring these subjects would lie within the area of any particular borough. The same thing might be said with regard to higher elementary education. He conceived that under the plan of the hon. Member for Chelsea there would be a special agreement come to between the local education authority and each Borough Council as to the exact powers to be delegated. That might lead to extraordinary differences, and almost to administrative chaos. The truth was that the more they considered this question, the more it was evident that the interests of education in London ought to be treated as a whole. A great deal might be said as to the necessity of cutting up London for this purpose if London had been cut up before, but there had been for thirty-three years a centralised system, and although it had some disadvantages the advantages were overwhelming, and in introducing this great change they did not wish to make the educational work worse than it was. If the Borough Councils were adopted as managers of the schools there would be, to a large extent, chaos, friction, and divided responsibility. He strongly urged the Government to go back to the lines of the Bill of last year and give the Borough Councils the right to appoint a reasonable proportion of managers, but not to insist on their being managers themselves—a task for which he did not believe they would be found fit, and which would undoubtedly

bring them into very difficult and unsuitable connections with the central education authority. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 11, to leave out Sub-section (1) and insert the words 'All public elementary schools provided by the local education authority shall have a body of managers consisting of a number of managers, not exceeding eight, appointed by the local education authority, together with a number not exceeding four appointed by the Council of the Metropolitan Borough within which the schools are situate. In the appointment of managers regard shall be had to the desirability of including a due proportion of women.'"—(*Mr. Henry Hobhouse.*)

Question proposed, "That Sub-section (1) stand part of the clause."

*THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (SIR WILLIAM ANSON, Oxford University) said the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Somerset went back entirely on the proposal made by the Government, and he went back on the Act of last year. The Government had stated throughout that their desire was to effect some measure of decentralisation to relieve the central authority of such work as it could conveniently hand over to subordinate authorities, and to excite local interest more keenly than it had been excited hitherto in the management of the schools. The right hon. Gentleman's proposal would really create bodies of managers rather more numerous, but not different in character from the managers under the Act of 1902, or the managers of the existing School Board. Those managers were the mere creatures of the local authority. The local authority could give or withhold any power from them.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): Hear, hear!

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON: And as they knew in the case of the School Board managers their powers were reduced to something like those of a visiting committee of one of His Majesty's prisons.

DR. MACNAMARA: No, no!

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON: The Government wished the managers of the schools

to have some higher interest in the schools. They wished them, as he thought everyone must wish, to feel that they had some power, some authority, and some means of carrying out the objects which, he hoped they would have in view—the advancement of the children, not only during their school time but immediately after leaving school. He thought there had been a good deal of exaggeration as to the nature of this proposal of the Government. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Somerset spoke of the work of secondary education, but he had forgotten how very large a proportion of the work of the London County Council, when it took over the duty which this Bill proposed to throw upon it, would be the formulation of a great educational policy of secondary and higher elementary education and the co-ordination of the different forms and lines of education. The local education authority would have quite enough to do in formulating its policy in these large matters, and they would be glad to be relieved of such details of administration as repairs of schools and school furniture, the choice of books and the choice and promotion of teachers. They were dealing now with one department of the work of the local authority—the department of elementary education—and they were dealing with that part of elementary education which concerned the provided schools; and, therefore, they were touching but a small fragment of the work of the local authority, and yet they were touching a fragment of that work which was concerned with a variety of details, which had occupied too much of the time of the present members of the London School Board. What did the Government propose to do? They proposed that the powers of management should be delegated to the Borough Councils, and the amount of delegation was to be settled by scheme. His right hon. friend the President of the Local Government Board had stated that the Government were prepared to accept the Amendments of the hon. Member for Chelsea on this subject. The scheme would be settled, he hoped, by amicable agreement between the two Councils, and where there was any difference the Board of Education would be called in to decide between the parties what would be most convenient in the

interest of the education of London. Therefore, there would be no doubt or question as to what was delegated and what not.

How were the Borough Councils to carry out the functions delegated to them? The Government were prepared to make it compulsory that the Borough Councils should work through Committees appointed by schemes which should provide for the presence on the Committees not only of members of the Borough Councils but of those of whom the right hon. Gentleman spoke so warmly—but not too warmly—persons of experience in education and in the management of the schools. The Government were prepared to provide that there should also be women present in proper proportion—he meant due proportion having regard to the number of girls' schools and boys' schools in the district—and lastly, that the local education authority should be represented if it so desired. He thought, therefore, that they took every precaution that there should be no confusion or doubt as to what was delegated or not, and the Borough Councils should have every assistance provided for them in carrying out the duties proposed to be laid upon them. On the other hand the London County Council would have all the powers of the School Board under the Act of last year. It would have complete financial control, and it would be able to say what should be taught and what should be spent. An hon. Member had taxed him with saying that the curriculum might be relaxed at the instance of the Borough Councils. In his speech on that matter he thought he made his meaning clear. There were parts of London, where the children attending the schools were underfed and overworked out of school hours, and who, consequently, were not able to get over so much ground or so fast as the better fed children in the neighbouring schools where the same curriculum was imposed. What he said was that the boards of managers would be in a better position to suggest a relaxation of the curriculum in such cases, which would not interfere with the general educational system of London. It had never been suggested that the Borough Councils should be entitled to make an educational system for themselves. What powers

did the education authority delegate to the Borough Councils? They would, perhaps, be small at first, but he hoped that in time the County Council, immersed in great educational problems, would be willing to delegate larger and larger powers to these great municipalities, and that in that way mutual confidence between them would increase, and we might eventually find in our midst an authority solving or attempting to solve the educational questions which were now pressing upon us; while the Borough Councils would then have grown into a capacity for higher work than purely elementary education. He ventured to say that these were not dangerous proposals.

The hon. Member for Islington opposite had doubted the fitness of the Borough Councils to discharge this work. But he would have thought that such a borough as Islington, with a population of more than 300,000 and a rateable value of nearly £2,000,000, was capable of looking after the managerial part of elementary education, and hardly deserved the scorn which the hon. Member had poured upon him and upon it. In the course of his remarks the hon. Member said that he talked nonsense. He was very sorry, and he would apologise to the House—first for talking nonsense, and secondly for setting an example which unhappily had proved so contagious. To underrate these great boroughs and to say that they were incapable of performing the small duty which, in the first instance, the Government proposed to entrust to them was really to offer something like an impertinence to them. He was prepared to risk the friction which it was asserted would arise. His hon. and learned friend the Member for Stretford had said that he thought this policy was non-educational. Well, in a modest way, he set up to be an educationist himself, and he could assure his hon. friend that he had really thought out this matter carefully and thoroughly. He was fully aware that there were certain administrative risks, but he believed that great practical benefits were likely to result. Did his hon. friend suppose that he was careless in the matter, and that he would not welcome any short cut through this weary process of legislation which would

Sir William Anson.

enable him to approach the real business of the office upon which he had entered—business from which he had hitherto been deterred by this constant maze of legislative discussion—so that he might really approach some of the great problems of education and try to do something, at any rate, to settle them? He believed that the only royal road to the education of the people was through our local institutions; and he would not throw away the chance offered in this Bill of enlisting these great municipalities in the cause of the children of London and reminding them that it was the business of every Londoner to care for the future of the people about him.

SIR JOHN GORST (Cambridge University) assured the hon. Baronet that there was no Member of the House who was so capable as he of sympathising strongly with the aspirations he had expressed in his last sentences; and he quite agreed that, however preposterous were the conditions Parliament thought fit to insert in legislative measures, the good sense of the people of the country was so great that they somehow or other managed to make them work. He could assure the hon. Baronet that when their contention over this Bill was over, and when it had taken shape as an Act of Parliament, he would be able to address himself to the task which he set before him of doing something substantial for the benefit of the children of the poor in London, a task in which he would find both the County Council and the Borough Councils rising superior to the jealousies which might be excited by this Act, and ready to co-operate with him in the noble task he would endeavour to accomplish. But the House would not be doing its duty if it did not endeavour to create a scheme which would give the least possible occasion for friction, and would leave the hon. Baronet as much as possible of that leisure he desired for greater work. His object in rising was to do his best to help the Committee to elicit from the Government what was the precise scheme of administration which they intended to adopt. For he was obliged to say that having followed with the utmost attention and the utmost of his capacity the speeches of the hon. Baronet yesterday and to-day,

he was wholly unable to understand at the present moment what was the precise administration which the Government contemplated establishing. The schools in London were now administered by a great bureau situated on the Thames Embankment, with a body of trained officials carefully organised. If the Bill became law, would the London County Council be supreme in that office or not?

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON: Yes, certainly.

SIR JOHN GORST said that in that case—if they were to remain supreme, if they were to have all the clerks and all the officials, and to exercise all the functions which the School Board was now exercising—the management of the elementary schools by the Borough Councils became wholly unreal and visionary. The School Board had the whole control of the teachers, issued orders to them, and paid them—the teachers looked to them and them only for their promotion and their prospects—they also had surveyors who visited the schools to see what repairs and additions were needed; and they had an enormous number of stores out of which the school apparatus was issued; and, finally, they had inspectors who went round the schools to see that the orders of the Board were carried out. Which of these functions were to be taken over by the Borough Councils, and how were they to be taken over? If, for instance, the Borough of Islington wanted to take into its own hands the management of its school stores, how was it to do so? If the Borough Councils were to take upon themselves the real management of the Board Schools in the way in which it was now transacted by the London School Board, they must have separate establishments. Let the Committee consider what was meant by that. In the borough of Westminster, with only seven schools, and in the City of London, with only four schools, it might easily be done; but the Committee should remember that some of the London boroughs were bigger than Birmingham, or Manchester, or Liverpool, and had as many schools. There would have to be an establishment something like that of the Liverpool or Manchester

School Board, with paid officials and an organisation like that of any great School Board in the country. Had the Government contemplated that; had they allowed for it? Who was going to pay for it? There was no provision in the Bill which would enable the Borough of Islington to pay the cost of the organisation it would have to set up if it was to manage the Board schools in the borough. There was no getting out of one of two dilemmas. Either the Borough Council of Islington would have to go to the offices on the Thames Embankment and give orders independent of the County Council, or it must have a separate establishment of its own, for which expense would have to be incurred, but for which no provision was made in the Bill, or even thought of. Had the Government also considered that if the Borough Councils were really to be the managers, they would not only have to be provided with clerks, surveyors, and storekeepers, but also with inspectors of some kind or another. They might not be called inspectors, but people would have to be sent into the schools to see that the orders of the Borough Council were carried out. Had it ever occurred to the Government that those unfortunate Metropolitan Board schools must inevitably be subjected to inspection by three different sets of inspectors? First of all, there would be the inspector of the Board of Education, who would see that the schools were conducted in such a way as to warrant the payment of the Parliamentary grant; secondly, there would be the inspector of the local education authority, which paid all the money, and would wish to see whether that money was properly expended; and, thirdly, there would be the inspector of the Borough Council, who would have to see that the orders of the Borough Council were carried out. He could not understand how it could be possible that an elementary school subject to three sets of inspectors and three different kinds of orders could be successfully carried on. He hoped he had put the case to the Government in a temperate and fair manner. He only sought to know how this thing was going to be carried out. He did not for a moment say that the scheme of the Government was a dangerous one. What he would be inclined to say was that it

was a wholly impracticable one. All he was anxious for was that the Committee should ascertain what the scheme of the Government precisely was, and how it was to be carried out.

There was one matter which perhaps was not so much before the hon. Baronet now as it was before himself when he was at the Education Office, and that was the extremely important question as to what was going to be done with the higher grade schools. The hon. Baronet seemed to contemplate that all the higher grade schools would be transferred to the local education authority, and that the elementary schools would become elementary schools and nothing more. He wished to assure the hon. Baronet that any idea of that kind was purely visionary. The higher grade schools, which pervaded the whole country, and which had grown of their own accord into most creditable educational institutions in the course of a generation, could not be abolished. They were in accordance with the wants of the public, and the parents who sent their children to them liked them. Do what they would, no Government could put an end to the higher grade schools. But how were they going to be managed? Were they to be managed by the Borough Councils, or by the local education authority. If the local education authority was to manage them, a very large number of elementary schools would turn themselves into higher grade schools for the purpose of coming under the management of the local education authority. How could that be prevented? He had often explained that a higher grade school was a school in which the lower classes were elementary, and the higher classes secondary or scientific, the same teacher teaching the higher classes and the lower classes. He supposed that according to the scheme of the Government the teacher *quâ* teacher of the higher classes would obey the London County Council, and *quâ* teacher of the lower classes would obey the Borough Council. That would create confusion in such a school, which would render it practically impossible to manage it. There was a time when those schools were partly under the Education Department and partly under the Science and Art Department. The Science and Art Inspectors used to inspect the schools and shut their eyes to the existence

of the elementary classes. The inspectors of the Board of Education used to inspect the schools, and shut their eyes to the existence of the higher classes, although they were all officers of the same President of the Council. The confusion caused by this system of inspection was extremely mischievous and inconvenient, but under the system proposed in the clause they would not only have two officers of the same President of the Council, but they would also have two officers of two rival education authorities inspecting the same school—the inspector of the London County Council responsible for the higher part of the school, and the inspector of the Borough Council responsible for the lower part. He confessed he did not understand how it would be possible to organise a scheme of that kind so that the work of the school might be properly carried on. The Committee should remember that there would be the same impulsion on the part of the Borough Councils—as there was on the part of the London School Board to convert the elementary schools as much as they could into higher grade schools—to keep the elementary schools in their own hands. They had been talking for years of the co-ordination of education, and of one local authority which was to have every kind of education under its cognisance. He confessed that the wilful creation of a new anomaly of that kind, which was sure, judging by past experience, to produce most unfortunate educational results, proved to him how sadly the educational interests of the Metropolis were in danger of being overlooked in favour of political considerations.

DR. MACNAMARA said the late Vice-President's acknowledgment of the value of the higher grade schools was very refreshing indeed. It almost braced him up for an all-night sitting. It was, however, a very tardy acknowledgment. [Sir JOHN GORST dissented.] If it were not, the right hon. Gentleman's action belied his words, though he himself rejoiced gratefully over his acknowledgment. He would gratefully concede the claim of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education to be a keen educationist. He had given him personally and the House generally, plenty of

evidence of his desire to do the very best for education in this country; but the longer they were discussing the details of the London education problem the more he deplored the hon. Gentleman's lack of knowledge of the bearing of the question. All the hon. Gentleman's difficulties sprang from that. The hon. Gentleman said he would risk friction; but that risk was born of ignorance which was bliss. The hon. Gentleman said that there were many parts of London where the poor children were seriously handicapped. That was true enough. Then the hon. Gentleman went on to say that the School Board imposed on the poorer parts of London the same rigid curriculum that they imposed on the richer parts. Nothing could be farther from the facts. No school authority dealt with more elasticity with the poorer parts of London than did the London School Board. He wondered if the hon. Gentleman ever heard of "special difficulty schools." The London School Board had a special system under which it adjusted as nicely as it could the curriculum suited to schools in the poorer districts. Therefore he complained of the statement of the hon. Gentleman that the School Board was rigid in the application of its curriculum. Certainly no amount of devolution to the Borough Councils would make the curriculum better adapted to the children in the poorer parts than it was at present. The hon. Gentleman stated that the School Board had managers whose functions were confined to the functions of a visiting committee to one of His Majesty's prisons.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said that he stated that the functions were practically similar.

DR. MACNAMARA said he wished to ask the hon. Gentleman whether he had ever taken the trouble to look through the powers, duties, and functions of the managers of the London School Board. He held in his hand a volume setting forth the powers and duties of the managers; and although they might devolve to the Borough Councils until they were tired, they could not safely devolve more than the London

School Board devolved to its managers. According to the hon. Baronet the managers had nothing to do with the appointment of head teachers, but he found as a fact that the School Board saw the applicants and reduced them down to seven, and finally to three, and sent down those three to the managers to select from. The managers having made the final selection from the three sent the one back to the School Board, and so far as he was aware there had not been a single case where the School Board had not ratified that appointment. That was what the hon. Member for Somerset was entitled to ask for in his Amendment. In the case of assistant teachers they appointed the assistant teachers and sent them up to the School Board to have their appointments ratified, and the School Board always ratified their nomination. They appointed the pupil teachers and also the school keepers. More than that it would not be safe to devolve on the school managers. Therefore it was not correct to say, as had been said, that the School Board centralised these matters. The Amendment asked that authority should be given to the central authority to devolve what it liked to its local education committees. Anything less than that would result in friction, and such a suggestion was in harmony with the Act. The Central Education Committee should have full control over provided schools. The central authority could not be supreme if the managers appointed the teachers. The proposal to give the local authorities the management was based on a fallacy. The area for which representation should be given was not the municipal area but the area of child population, which was a very different thing. The municipality of Camberwell, for instance, would have 104 schools to look after, whilst on the other hand the municipality of Hampstead would have only twelve. If the municipal area was taken it was an area quite foreign to the educational areas of London. If this Amendment were accepted the County Council would be able to arrange its managers in accordance with the child population of a particular locality.

Another reason why the Amendment should be accepted was that the

County Council would then be able to avail itself of the thirty-four years experience of the existing managers, which was very valuable experience indeed. A quarter of those managers were the clergy and ministers of the various denominations, one quarter of them were women and a half were tradespeople, working people, and professional people generally. If the management of the schools was given to the local authorities all that experience would be lost. As a partisan he would like to see the Government continue in their course, because the County Council would then probably say—"You made us supreme on the Committee, but you set up twenty-nine rival and conflicting authorities against us, therefore we will not go on with the Bill. We will not take it up." They would have plenty of reason for saying so, and a great deal of pressure would be brought to bear on them to take that course, and that would mean the breakdown of the Act. But as he was anxious to get something done for education, although it was something like a self-denying ordinance so far as he was concerned, he appealed to the Government to accept the Amendment of the hon. Member for Somerset.

MR. ERNEST GRAY (West Ham, N.) said the sentences which had fallen from the hon. Gentleman the Secretary to the Board of Education must have gone straight to the heart of every hon. Member of the House. The hon. Baronet certainly desired to do his best for the education of the children of London, but after listening to the speeches that he had made, he (Mr. Gray) had been unable to get away from the conclusion that the hon. Baronet was speaking as a theorist and a visionary, and not as a man who was familiar with the working of the schools. He was certain that no man closely in touch with the schools would put forward such an absurd scheme. During the whole of the debate they had heard nothing but the ideal of securing the co-operation of the Borough Councils, without any evidence that the co-operation, if secured, would benefit the children. He knew something of popular education, he had worked in the schools for thirty-two years. He had never heard a single Borough Council

Dr. Macnamara.

claim that they should be constituted the authority for education, or that they should be set up as the managers of schools under the central authority for London. They were to be brought into this scheme, and they looked upon it as work being thrust upon them which they did not wish to undertake. They had quite enough to attend to as it was. Many of them held their meetings at night because they could not manage it during the day, and yet under the Government scheme they were to have managerial responsibility thrust upon them which they would not be able to exercise. What chance had the women under the scheme of the Government? He could not help thinking the girl and infant part of the schools were being persistently forgotten. They never thought of the girls; whenever they spoke of a higher school it was for boys. Who would have the control of the pupil teachers' centre under this fantastic scheme? Who would be responsible for its conduct, and make the payments by which to keep it going? The pupil teachers would be selected and appointed by the Borough Councils, but paid by the central authority. On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday they would be engaged in the elementary schools; on Tuesday and Thursday in the pupil teachers' centre, or three days a week under the control of the Borough Councils and two days under the control of the central authority. They would be taught the theory of their craft under the control of the central authority, but they would practise it under the direction of an entirely different staff, under totally different control, and in another set of schools. To carry on an establishment under such dual control was absolutely impossible. To all these practical difficulties the Government gave no reply except that it would be for the good of the children of London to secure the co-operation of the borough authorities. With that answer he was not content. He had spent his life doing the best he could for the education of the children of London, in the furtherance of which he would sacrifice party loyalty and everything else, and it was without the slightest hesitation he should vote for this Amendment and oppose to

the end the scheme the Government were bringing forward. The borough area was not the proper area for school management purposes, even if the child population were evenly distributed. The schools which presented the greatest difficulty amidst the poor population were schools which to-day were dependent under the School Board system on the sympathy and help, and frequently the voluntary contributions of money and goods, of managers brought from the wealthier portions of the Metropolis. How was that to be continued?

AN HON. MEMBER: They will be co-opted.

MR. ERNEST GRAY asked whether it was really thought that the Borough Councils would wander over London seeking people of whom they had never heard to co-opt. The excellence of the existing system was the result of thirty-two years careful study and steady growth, but it was to be wantonly thrown aside in favour of this vision of Borough Council co-operation. He would welcome the form of co-operation provided for in the Amendment, which had been secured in the rest of the country, and under which the Borough Councils would be entitled to appoint a certain number of representatives on each of these managerial committees. In that way interest might be gradually excited, but to suppose the Borough Councils would go searching all over London to find managers was absurd. The visionary and theoretical character of the hon. Baronet's statement could not have been more clearly exemplified than in his remark that some of the Borough Councils would desire to purchase their own furniture. Who would pay for this multiplication of offices, officials, and stores? The London ratepayer. He was not prepared to throw money away in organisation; he wanted all they had to reach the children. The London School Board, after many experiments, had come to the conclusion that it was cheapest and best to supply the whole of the apparatus for the schools from one central store and by one organisation, and for reasons of economy and efficiency most of the new authorities in the country were adopting a similar policy.

The whole scheme was thoroughly impracticable; it would break down in practice; it was visionary and needlessly expensive; and it failed to meet the fundamental principles laid down by the Prime Minister on more than one occasion, viz., that all grades of education should be co-ordinated under one authority, and that the control of the municipal authority should be effective even to the smallest detail. It was true the County Council was now to have control over its own Committee, but the moment the work passed from the Committee to the managerial bodies that control ceased, and there was no means of bringing a recalcitrant Borough Council to order except by the cumbrous method of obtaining from the Board of Education an order by which the central authority could resume its power. The words "decentralisation" and "delegation" were not interchangeable. "Delegation" implied a power on the part of the authority delegating to resume the power delegated whenever it thought fit, while "decentralisation" conveyed the idea of a devolution of duties which could not at any time be taken back. He was in favour of a wide delegation, but he was not in favour of decentralisation in that sense. It seemed to him that the Government were breaking down the principle of municipal control, and certainly they were destroying the prospect of co-ordination of education in London. The great trouble hitherto had been that when a child reached the age of thirteen or fourteen the responsibility of the School Board ceased, and before that of the Technical Committee began there was a hiatus of two or three years, during which hundreds of children, who, if carefully looked after, might serve the State to useful purpose, drifted away, and were to be found lounging at street corners; so that the schools, instead of being the feeders of the technical institutes were the feeders of the public-houses. That possibility was to be perpetuated by this scheme. Although he was convinced that the Government desired to do the best possible for education, he was afraid the machinery they were putting forward would fail in its object, and he begged them, before it was too late, to reconsider the whole scheme, and adopt, either in its present or some modified

Mr. Ernest Gray.

form, the Amendment before the Committee.

MR. W. F. D. SMITH (Strand, Westminster) who was indistinctly heard, said he wished to say something from the point of the clause as it would exist when amended. If the Amendments on the Paper were accepted by the Government the Borough Councils would not act as managers, but a Committee or Committees would be appointed, and they would be formed under a scheme. They ought to remember that these Committees were not appointed purely from the point of view of education, but they would have to act in other ways. There were many points upon which they would be well qualified to act, such as sanitation and repairs to the buildings. Even now the Borough Councils had certain powers in regard to the building of schools. If his hon. friend's Amendment was accepted these matters would be devolved upon the Borough Councils by a scheme which would have to receive the approval of the education authority. He could hardly imagine that the County Council would run its head into the difficulty mentioned by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Cambridge University. He did not think it would be necessary for the Borough Councils to have any inspectors at all, for that would be done by the central authority. Under those circumstances it seemed to him that the danger of giving these managerial powers to Committees appointed in the way he had suggested had been to a very large extent exaggerated. Therefore he could not support the Amendment of the right hon. Gentlemen the Member for Somerset.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) said the hon. Member who had just sat down was the only speaker who, so far, had said a word in favour of this clause. Even the hon. Member was not very sure about it, for he had stated that the clause would not do unless it was improved by very substantial Amendments. The clause was so absurd that it was incapable of Amendment, and it could only be amended in one way, and that was the way Clause 2 had been amended. The hon. Baronet who represented the

Board of Education made an eloquent appeal to be let out of this legislative maze. He had got the remedy in his own hands. It was a maze of his own construction, and let him get out of it. The thing was working all right before he set up this maze. What was the proposal? He challenged the hon. Member to point out any precedent in the history of local government for anything of this character. It was not a question of confidence in the Borough Councils. He had never criticised the Borough Councils at all, for he thought many borough councillors were very capable men, and he knew some of them. He thought they were quite capable of administering education, or anything else, but that was not the point. This was a question of dual control. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Cambridge University had completely damaged the whole position in his two speeches, and those speeches must have made the Prime Minister regret that he changed his caddy on this educational course. They were giving directions to officials appointed by another authority who were perfectly independent. It was perfectly true that the Borough Councils might, by arrangement, select the teachers, but the real authority ought to be vested in the County Councils. He remembered the Attorney-General saying that the crux of control was the appointment of the teachers. Of course it was, for that was the crux of control in any concern. The complaint last year was that they had no real control over the denominational schools, because the appointment of the teachers was in the hands of the managers. In that case they gave the right of dismissal to the central authority, but in this case neither the appointment nor the dismissal of the teachers was in the hands of the central body. He should like to know from the President of the Local Government Board, who understood something about horses, how he would like to select horses on the same principle which this Bill wanted the County Council to select their teachers. Under this scheme, he would be able to pay for them, and dictate the price, but he would have to leave the selection of them to the President of the Board of Education. In case of any

dispute, the matter would be referred to the Remount Department of the War Office. Really this was a perfectly preposterous clause, and ought to be left out. At present the selection of teachers was nobody's job, and it would not be well done. He knew that the Government were capable of being convinced, not altogether by argument, but they would find some strong arguments in the speeches that supporters of their own had addressed to them. Was it not possible that the Government should reconsider their position upon this matter.

This proposal was extending the very worst principle of last year's Bill. He knew that London on these matters was difficult to move, but he believed that it was moving. The Prime Minister stated yesterday that he had not heard of the demonstration in Hyde Park, but by the suspension of the Twelve o'clock Rule that day he showed that he had heard of another demonstration at Epsom tomorrow. Those demonstrations were what dictated the policy of the Prime Minister. It was all very well for the Secretary to the Board of Education to say that he had carefully thought this thing out. He did the same in regard to Clause 2, in fact he thought it out three times over in the presence of the House. Let him apply his mind again in the same way to Clause 3. It would prove an instruction in itself and a perfect educational process how to legislate for the benefit of the country. They should not let this be a worse Bill than that of last year, and they should let London have the chance of having a Bill just as bad as that of last year and not worse.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTSON (Hackney, S.) appealed to the Prime Minister to accept the Amendment which had been moved by the Member for Somerset. He had been considering how it would be possible to work this clause, and he could not see any sensible solution for the management of the schools of London under this clause. They were not considering the clause itself, because it was admitted that it was going to be altered, and it was difficult to see what the effect of the alteration would be. It appeared to him that the hon. Baronet desired that the Borough Councils should

have no authority except that which was given them by the scheme. He did not in the least mind the County Council devolving some of its duties on the Borough Councils in any way it thought fit. He thought that the Borough Councils were perfectly competent to do the whole work of education if it was thought advisable to place that work in their hands. He did not object to the Borough Councils having these powers because he thought them incompetent, but because he could not conceive any place they could possibly occupy with advantage in the scheme of education which they were now laying down for London. With reference to what his hon. friend the Member for North Camberwell had said, namely, that the School Board had delegated as much work as possible to the managers, in substance, he was right. If they were not going to dismiss the whole 1,700 or 2,000 teachers he could not see where they were going to bring in the Borough Councils. The proposal of the Government must of necessity very largely increase the cost. The majority of the Borough Councils had never expressed any opinion to the effect that they wished to have these powers, and the only representations he had received from the Borough of Hackney were distinctly against these powers being conferred on the Borough Councils. He would explain why these particular gentlemen came to him representing that the Borough Councils should not have these powers. It was because they were teachers themselves, and they would be turned off the Borough Council. In that way they would be damaging the Borough Councils, and in some of the poor districts of London it was not an easy thing to get good representatives. By this provision in the Bill they were going to declare that they must never select as a candidate for the Borough Council any person who was a teacher in a Board school. The whole body of teachers in London objected to the Borough Councils being brought in at all. He most earnestly hoped that the Government would reconsider the whole of this clause, and consent to place London, not for the sake of symmetry, but because it was the only

possible course that could be adopted, on the same footing as the County Councils of other counties. The hon. Member for the Strand had made the best case for the Bill, and he asked the Secretary to the Board of Education to consider what the strength of the present case was. The hon. Member was unable to suggest any educational advantage whatsoever by bringing in the Borough Councils. His sole object being to provide a really good system of education for London he hoped the Government would see their way to accept this Amendment.

CAPTAIN JESSEL (St. Pancras, S.) said that the Borough of St. Pancras, containing 250,000 inhabitants, had petitioned strongly in favour of this Bill. The City of Westminster was also strongly in favour of the measure. The City of London, the Borough of Kensington, and the Borough of Islington had also supported the measure. They had been asked what reason could be given in support of the proposals of the Government, or rather in support of the proposals of the Government together with the Amendments put down on the Paper. It had been universally admitted that in the past too much time was spent upon details, and upon small matters which might perfectly well have been left to the managers. This new Committee of the County Council would be engaged in thinking out the great problem of education, and it would not be necessary for that Committee to deal with all the small management details, and it would be able to devote itself more to matters of principle. They would work out what should be the relations between elementary, secondary, and technical education. They would draw up the code and settle the principles upon which education should be conducted. Somebody must carry out this work, and he did not think they could get a better body than the Borough Councils. If anything went wrong they would be held responsible. Their budget would show the amount of money required for repairs and so forth, and in that way they would be able to relieve the central body of matters of detail. He took it that under this proposal there would be

Mr. Herbert Robertson.

greater economy. At present the sanitary inspection of the schools was done by the sanitary officers of the School Board, but under the proposed management clauses this work could be done by the Borough Councils. The repairs to the buildings could be done by the boroughs in the same way as the other numerous buildings under their control. They had been told that this was false policy from an educational point of view. He imagined that the Borough Councils would be only too pleased to employ against the existing managers. He could not conceive why the present managers should not be just as willing to serve under the Borough Councils as under the School Board. He quite agreed that there should be some connecting link between the Borough Councils and the central authority. He did not believe that if the Borough Councillors were made managers they would neglect the work. His hon. friend had down an Amendment which proposed to place upon the Management Committee some representatives of the central authority. In that way the Committees would be placed in touch with the central authority. One would think from remarks sometimes made that the County Council and the Borough Councils were always at daggers drawn. He did not suppose that a week passed when correspondence did not take place between the County Council and the Borough Councils, and in the main they worked together admirably. Both the County Council and the Borough Councils did their best in carrying out their administrative duties for the benefit of the ratepayers. In the matter of education he believed the Borough Councils would do their best to prevent anything in the nature of extravagance. So far from being extravagant, it seemed to him that by utilising the existing municipal machinery a great gain would be made. He hoped the Government would not give way on this point but would, in spite of the many speeches directed against them, stick to the clause together with the Amendments of his hon. friend the Member for Chelsea. It seemed to him that in this matter they were led away by what had happened before. They had been told that there was a School Board in London, and they could not

get away from the idea that there must be a central body doing everything. It was not the Government who were wrong, but hon. Members who were so enamoured with the old idea. The Government had been true Progressives in this matter, and they were making a real development in local government in London. He hoped the House would not suppose, because many London Members had not spoken on the subject, that they were against the proposal of the Government. He thought the majority of London Members were thoroughly in favour of the proposal.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) said they seemed to be repeating the very process they went through last Tuesday. He would confine himself in what he had to say to the speeches made from the other side of the House. There had been five speeches from hon. Members who were usually supporters of the Government. The first three of these speeches—those by his right hon. friend the Member for East Somerset, the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Cambridge University, and the hon. Member for West Ham—were, he thought, among the most valuable speeches they had heard in the course of these education debates. They were eminently practical, and, coming from men who thoroughly understood the working of educational machinery, they put forward a large number of practical difficulties which the Government had to meet. They were followed by the hon. Member for South Hackney and the hon. Member for the Strand. The hon. Member for the Strand said he did not approve of the clause as it stood now, and he gave only the feeblest kind of support to the proposals and methods of the Government. The defence of the clause had been gallantly undertaken by the hon. Member for St. Pancras, but he did not meet the arguments put forward by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Cambridge University and the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Somerset. He said that a majority of the London Members were in favour of the Bill, but that they did not think it necessary to say so. The Committee wanted them to give reasons and arguments which would convince them that the

three hon. Members who had criticised the Bill were wrong, and that this was a practical scheme, and not, as they thought, an unpractical one. The gist and importance of the debate consisted in this, that all the arguments from practical men who understood the difficulties of the case had been directed against the clause, and in reply the Committee had had vague phrases and what he would call visionary aspirations. But nothing more than that. His hon. friend the Secretary to the Board of Education would pardon him for saying that he did not grapple with the case. The hon. Gentleman said it would be a good thing to interest the Borough Councils, but he did not show that the proposal of the Government would have that result, and least of all did he show that this was machinery which would work. What was the position? There had been a system at work in London for thirty years which, by common consent, had worked well. Let them take that as the point of departure in this discussion. That system had been most effective and nobody complained of it. The only censure that had been bestowed upon the working of the School Board system had been that it had tended to draw a little too much into its own hands, and had not sufficiently delegated functions to people on the spot. He was willing to admit that that might be well founded, but it could easily be cured by a little delegation on the part of the new authority, and those who expressed so much confidence in the County Council would, he thought, believe that the County Council would show good sense, especially as it would be overburdened with work, in delegating to people on the spot.

Let them take another point. There was no complaint by the Borough Councils. They had not asked for this education management. The hon. Member for South Hackney, who made such an impressive speech a few minutes ago, told them that he did not think the Borough Councils wanted it, and only half of them had expressed approval of the Bill. Surely that was a very material fact when they remembered that the tendency in a local authority was to seize and gladly welcome any addition to its powers. The answer of

the Secretary to the Board of Education was an incomplete answer. He had failed to show that the present system was working badly, or that there was any complaint against it. What vitiated the hon. Gentleman's own argument? There were two fallacies running through his argument. One was that delegation from an authority which had itself delegated power which it could resume when it pleased, was the same thing as statutory delegation. The delegation proposed by the Bill was not by the County Council or the County Council Committee. It was a gift of independent authority by Parliament to the subordinate bodies. They called them subordinate, but they were not really subordinate. They were made independent. The title to their powers was not derived from the so-called delegating authority. If the Bill said that the County Council or the County Council Committee should delegate from time to time certain powers to the Borough Councils which they could resume, there would be a great deal to be said for that, but the Borough Councils received a gift of power with which the County Council could not interfere, and any questions of difficulty that arose could only be dealt with by the interposition of the Board of Education. He submitted, therefore, that in calling this delegation there was a fundamental fallacy in supposing that power granted by a principal to an agent, and which the principal could properly supervise, would work well when granted independently to a person not responsible to the principal at all. The second fallacy was that they could draw a sharp line between legislative and executive power. The Government proposed by this Bill to give to the County Council power to issue general directions under which the Borough Councils were to act, but they denied the County Council the power to supervise that action. In other words, they wanted to make the County Council a legislative power, and to make the Borough Council an executive power. The Secretary to the Board of Education proposed that general rules should be laid down by the one, and that administrative action should be done by the other. They could not be sure that the regulations were duly and properly carried out unless they gave the superior authority

the power of supervising and seeing that they were carried out. That was what the Bill did not do. If a Government Department did not carry out the intentions of Parliament they could arraign it here by Question or debate, and, therefore, they could supervise all the powers they granted to the administrative Departments and call the parties to account. If the County Council were given power to step in and supervise the action of the Borough Councils he could understand that the scheme might work, but they were not to have that power. The Borough Councils were to go their own way, and if the County Council complained that they had transgressed they were to have recourse to the Board of Education. That was the reason why the opponents of the proposal expected so much friction. Suppose that the County Council gave an order as to how certain furniture was to be provided, the Borough Council might have its own views and act contrary to that order, and the only remedy was to go to the Board of Education. The Borough Council would appoint the masters and mistresses. The County Council might give directions to masters and mistresses, but suppose the Borough Council told them to take another view of the instruction given. Why! the master or mistress of course would obey the authority which had appointed and could dismiss, and would not obey the County Council, and the only remedy the County Council had was again to resort to the Board of Education. These were practical difficulties, and they were not got over by the use of the general phrases in which the Board of Education took refuge.

Let him enumerate some of the points on which the Government were bound to give a reply. There was the very practical and grave difficulty in regard to higher-grade schools. The same teacher would be at different times of the day an elementary teacher and a secondary teacher. Then there was a similar difficulty regarding the triple inspectorship. The London County Council, the Borough Councils, and the Board of Education would all have their inspectors, and Heaven have mercy on the unhappy masters and mistresses who had to deal with three separate inspectors! Moreover, the Borough Councils would have no staff, and no power to pay a staff. They

would have no motive for economy because the expenses were to be paid by a rate over the whole of London and not levied only on their own area. Again the teachers were to be appointed by the Borough Councils, but were to be responsible to the London County Council. Then, take the case of the pupil teachers; they were to be trained by the County Council in their own colleges, but places were to be found for them by the Borough Councils, who would know nothing of their record. Next, they would lose the invaluable services which the present managers had hitherto rendered. He wondered if any Member on the Front Treasury Bench—the Secretary to the Board of Education or the President of the Local Government Board—had ever been a school manager. He had not himself been one, but he had had the good fortune to be intimately connected with many school managers; and he wished to convey to the members of the Government how inestimable was the value to the poorer parts of London of the services of these school managers—especially the public-spirited ladies who took such a deep interest in the public schools. They got to know all the teachers, many of the children, entered into the feelings and needs of the teachers, and were the means of communication between them and the School Board. All that was to be sacrificed, because it was quite clear that the Borough Councils would not have the same motives in appointing their managers as the School Board had. Lastly, in the third Sub-section of this clause, there was a provision which took a very peculiar form. It set forth that—

“The Council of a Metropolitan Borough may, if they think fit, exercise any of their powers under this section, and also any powers which may be delegated to them by the local education authority under that Act, or which they have as minor local authority under that Act, through a Committee or Committees appointed by them consisting either wholly or partly of members of the Council.”

Notice the result of that plan. The County Council would not be in direct touch with these managing Committees and there would be a triple hierarchy—the County Council at the top, the Borough Council in the middle, and the Borough Councils' Committee at

the bottom, and if the Education Committee had reason to complain of any action of the Borough Council Managing Committee, it could not address that Committee direct but only the Borough Council. Therefore there would be the maximum of inconvenience. He could not conceive of a scheme more fraught not only with inconvenience but delay, than that of keeping the managers out of direct touch with the County Council Education Committee. These were points and practical difficulties on every one of which a reply was needed from the Government.

The most damaging part of the criticism which the clause had received showed that it completely destroyed any prospect of co-ordination. Last year's Bill was advocated on the ground of co-ordination. It did not carry out that promise; but this Bill was far worse in that respect. Here they had secondary education separated from elementary education by giving the control of the one to the County Council and of the other to the Borough Councils. The elementary teacher was to be responsible to the Borough Councils, and the secondary teacher to the County Council, and therefore if anything was to be done to make elementary lead up to secondary education, and bringing the two into relation with each other, that would be sacrificed by the Bill as it stood. Then the provided and the non-provided schools were put further from each other by this Bill than by the Bill of last year, which gave the County Council some control over both the provided and non-provided schools. By that Bill the same authority, the Borough Council or the county authority, had the full control over the secular instruction in both classes of schools; but by this Bill the control was divided. The county authority was to have control over the non-provided schools, but not the control over the provided schools, and therefore there was less co-ordination and less unity of management than under the scheme of last year. He put it to the Government that, looking to all these points they had a heavy case to answer, and they must give the Committee if this clause was to be passed a much more complete reply

Mr. Bryce.

to the criticisms bestowed upon it than they had vouchsafed. He believed if the First Lord of the Treasury and the Government would weigh the real practical difficulties brought before the Committee that afternoon by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Cambridge University and the hon. Member for West Ham, they would see how strong a case was made out against the present shape of the clause and against the shape of the Amendment on the Paper in the name of the hon. Member for Chelsea. They had had a parallel debate on the second clause; let them carry the parallel to this clause, and revert to the scheme of last year. That was very far from perfect, but it was very much better than the scheme of this clause. He submitted that the Government were bound to do one of two things: either to leave the Committee free to go back to the scheme of last year, or to give a carefully considered reply to every one of these practical objections to the clause as it stood—a clause which he believed was entirely incapable of being worked for the benefit of the education of the children of London.

*MR. PEEL (Manchester, S.) said he had an Amendment on the Paper which he understood would be cut out if the present Amendment were accepted. His Amendment was framed on somewhat the same lines, but in framing it he was anxious to go as far as he could in the direction of assisting the Government to give as large a share as possible of the management of education in the boroughs, if not to the Borough Councils as Borough Councils, yet to the members of the Councils. His Amendment provided that three-fourths of such body or bodies should be appointed by the Borough Councils and one-fourth by the local education authority. His idea was that provided these bodies of management were entirely under the authority of the central authority it really did not very much matter, from the point of view of control, whether the proportion that was appointed was a larger one by the Borough Council, and whether the smaller one should be by the central authority. He was anxious, first of all, to give as much to the Borough Councils as he could in the work of education,

and he wanted to establish a link between the central authority and the boards of managers. He had thought that one-fourth would be enough to secure that communication, but he understood that the view of a number of hon. Members on the Government side was that half and half would be a better arrangement. If the Government showed any readiness to meet them on the point, he would not stick obstinately to his own Amendment. He did not think he need say anything at that stage as to the general principle of the Amendment. It had been fully dealt with; and he himself was fully satisfied with the effect of the criticisms. Had he spoken earlier he would have insisted on the advantage which would follow from the acceptance of an Amendment of this kind.

MR. COHEN (Islington, E.) said he was not at all out of sympathy with the idea which his hon. friend who had just spoken, had in his mind; but his regard towards it was diminished by the prospect of its being still further diluted when it came to be considered. It appeared to him that the fallacy which underlay the speeches of his hon. friend for North West Ham and the hon. Member for North Camberwell was that, while they spoke of their experience of London schools, they had no practical experience of either the London County Council or the Borough Councils. They were trying to create a bogey as to friction between the London County Council and the Borough Councils. He had never had the honour of being a member of a Borough Council; but after twelve years experience in the London County Council—and he could not be accused of being invariably favourable to all the proposals of that august body—he believed that there was no body which could more easily adapt itself to machinery and administrative work than the London County Council. The hon. Member for Carnarvon Boroughs said some time ago that no business man would for a moment conceive such an arrangement as that proposed between the London County Council and the Borough Councils, in consequence of what he called dual authority. He would not pit his business experience against that of the hon. Member; but in his opinion one of the first rudiments of successful business

administration was a central body responsible for and busying itself with the control of the work for which it was responsible, but yet anxious to confide as much as it could to bodies in whom it had confidence. He hoped and believed that the opinion of the London County Council and the Borough Council of Islington would be very different to that expressed by the hon. Member for West Islington. [MR. LOUGH: Not at all.] He would not contradict the statement of his hon. friend that he had great respect for the Borough Council of Islington—his hon. friend was the best authority as to the bodies for whom he had respect or not—but if he himself had respect for a body he would have expressed the very opposite opinion to that expressed by his hon. friend; and if he had contempt for a body he would endeavour to emulate the eloquence of his hon. friend. That, however, was only a detail. His hon. friend said that the Borough Councils had no machinery, and that they would be incapable of managing education. His hon. friend said that because of his experience of the Borough Council of Islington. He agreed that the Borough Councils had no machinery; but he differed from his hon. friend that they were not qualified to manage education. On the contrary, he believed that the Borough Councils would be extremely capable and interested in the management of education within their own districts. With reference to machinery, they would have recourse for that to the vacated premises on the Thames Embankment.

The reason he was in favour of the proposal of the Government, as distinguished from the Amendment of his right hon. friend the Member for East Somerset, was because he thought his right hon. friend had not had sufficient regard to the difference between London and the country. His right hon. friend wanted to adapt the machinery of last year's Act to London; but that would mean comparing two things which differed in their most material characteristics. The Prime Minister had said that London was a unique problem, and required unique machinery. Therefore, there was no inconsistency in being

anxious to decentralise now where last year they sought to centralise. From what he knew of the aptitude of the London County Council and its desire to get through its business in an expeditious and efficient manner, it would be anxious and glad to frame the general lines on which elementary education within its area should be conducted; and he believed that the Borough Councils would have quite as much work as they could effectively discharge; and that with due regard to economy they would try and carry out in their own way, the education of their own area within the limits prescribed by the central authority. The hon. Member for North West Ham referred to the willingness of members of his own community to assist schools in the East End and other parts of London. So far as he was empowered to speak on their behalf, he believed the existing managers, whether members of the Jewish faith or not, would be as anxious to offer their assistance in the future as in the past; and that the Borough Councils would be most anxious to enlist it.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) said his hon. friend who had just spoken had not done justice to the opinion he had expressed on the previous night with regard to the Borough Council of Islington. He described the borough councillors as very patriotic men, and surely that ought to be sufficient. The criticisms he brought against the scheme of the Government were admitted to be true by his hon. friend. He stated that the Borough Councils had no machinery; and his hon. friend admitted that. He admitted that the Borough Councils could construct machinery; but that would mean setting up twenty-nine School Boards all over London. He did not wish to see dissension between the London County Council and the Borough Councils; and he rejoiced in the agreement between those bodies just as much as his hon. friend. But there was a danger that the proposal of the Government would destroy the present good feeling. The hon. Member for St. Pancras stated that the Borough Councils of St. Pancras and Westminster

had passed resolutions in favour of this scheme; but in both districts there was an appeal to the Mayor to call a town meeting to protest against the scheme being thrust on London. But ten boroughs, including Bethnal Green, Battersea, Camberwell, Poplar, Shore-ditch, Fulham, Woolwich, and Hackney, had all protested against the scheme of the Government. That was a notable expression of opinion against the scheme. The London County Council and the London School Board had also expressed a hostile opinion; the London Liberals, a small band, were unanimously united against it; and, finally, London gathered together at Hyde Park on Saturday and denounced it root and branch. The Secretary to the Board of Education said he had not read all the words of his speech on 28th April. Those explanations of the hon. Gentleman were of the greatest interest because they showed the source of this proposal. The words he omitted were—

“Another advantage of decentralisation would be that greater elasticity would be imparted to the curriculum of elementary schools; the School Board system had been too rigorous; it impressed on all teachers a certain uniformity; while it bore hardly on the poorer parts of London.”

The hon. Member for North Camberwell had since shown that there had been no rigorous system which pressed hardly on the poorer districts. He deprecated any such distinction being drawn with regard to the education of the poorest parts of London.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said he had no wish to disparage the education of these children, but it should be conducted in such a way that they should derive full benefit, and they should not be asked to learn more subjects than they could carry in their heads at the time.

MR. LOUGH said he could not see why there should be more elasticity and different curricula and a different system for the poor districts. According to the hon. Baronet the object of the Government was to transfer the burden of administration of small matters to the Borough Councils, but this was not a small matter. The Government here

were establishing a principle between legislation and administration. The idea of the Government was that the central authority should legislate and that the Borough Councils should carry out the commands of the County Council. That was an impossible system which could not be carried out. The House which made the rules was the best source from which those rules could be enforced. If the Borough Councils had to carry out the regulations which the County Council made there would be greater power in the County Council to modify or alter those regulations than in the Borough Councils to see them enforced. It had been suggested also that the repairs should be paid by the local authorities. The repairs last year amounted to a considerable sum, and it was suggested that the expenditure should be undertaken by twenty-nine authorities instead of one. The appointment of teachers, which had been found to be a very difficult matter to deal with by the School Board, was also to be handed over to the local authorities. Out of 1000 teachers appointed by the London School Board 700 had to be obtained from training colleges. How on earth would the Borough Councils be able to undertake duties which the central authority, the School Board, found so difficult to perform. These changes would not be for the benefit of London. If separate boards of management were set up in each locality they would have the separate districts communicating with the Board of Education. It would be most unreasonable to set up such a system. At present all communications passed through the School Board, and any change to be made should be an improvement on the present system. He thought the Government ought to allow the House to make some progress. Had not the debate now come to a point at which the hon. Baronet could give a definite answer. The hon. Member for South Manchester had made a suggestion. It must be remembered the Committee was supporting an Amendment moved by a most loyal supporter of the Government. He noticed the hon. Member for Chelsea was in consultation with the hon. Baronet. The hon. Member for Chelsea was the handy man of the Government on London matters, and whenever he held out a

signal of distress they ought to stop. He told the Government they would have to give way on Clause 2, twenty-four hours before they gave way, and he was making suggestions to the Government now. How long were they going to sit if the Government did not make a little progress. They did not object to the Borough Councils or a little local help being obtained by the central authority, but they did say the control of the central body should not be impaired, and that was why they supported the Amendment.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said the hon. Member had reproached him for not addressing the House sooner. He had been very much impressed with the difficulties likely to arise from the adoption of a proposal to define the powers of delegation as between the Borough Councils and the County Council. He was not prepared to admit that all the suggested difficulties were genuine. There had been a good deal of exaggeration and assumption that everybody would make things as difficult as possible, and that neither Borough Councils nor County Council would act fairly and pleasantly by one another, and there had been an almost inconceivable misinterpretation of the proposals underlying the Government scheme. But what impressed his mind was that in the event of difference of opinion between a borough and the County Council upon the delegation of powers, and in the event of a Borough Council having prepared a scheme asking for larger powers than the County Council was inclined to grant, the matter would come before the Board of Education, and the latter would be bound to decide in favour of the County Council as the paramount authority, and in that way a Borough Council would be less willing to join in the work. He was therefore disposed to look favourably upon the Amendment standing in the name of the hon. Member for South Manchester, which provided that the Borough Council should propose boards of management, the numbers of which the Board of Education should approve, three-fourths to be nominated by the Borough Council.

SIR GEORGE BARTLEY (Islington, N.): Are you going to withdraw this clause, too, then?

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said he was stating what his proposal was. It was not a pleasant thing to withdraw a proposal which he had placed before the Committee and supported in good faith and with some confidence that it would work well. But he knew the difficulties that might arise, he knew the divided feeling on his side of the House, he knew the almost unanimous feeling on the other side of the House; though it would probably be as undivided in respect to any scheme the Government might introduce. But he was not deterred by natural disinclination to withdraw what he had placed before the Committee with some confidence, from the endeavour to induce the Committee to accept an Amendment which he thought would make the educational work of London more smooth in the future by delegation of powers to the Borough Councils. If the hon. Member for Somerset would withdraw his Amendment, and his hon. friend the Member for South Manchester would move the Amendment of which he had given notice, he would be prepared to accept it on the part of the Government.

SIR GEORGE BARTLEY said the Committee were in a remarkable position. Either this Bill had been brought in without any consideration at all, or the Government were in a most extraordinary frame of mind. After a short discussion they had been induced again completely to change their proposals, to throw over the municipal bodies they had themselves created, and to do away with the clause which, when Clause 2 was under discussion, was said by them to safeguard the interests of the Borough Councils. He strongly protested against the decision. His only desire was to promote the interests of education, and he had been too long engaged in educational work for anyone to say he held retrograde views on the subject. One of the main features of the Act of last year was the promotion of municipal interest in education, but the corresponding feature of the present Bill was to be dropped in consequence of the speeches of hon. Members who were not concerned with London at all, but who were interfering in the question of London's education in a manner they would not tolerate in their own districts. What would the Colonial Secretary say if it was proposed to hand

over the education of Birmingham to the Council of the county and not to allow the municipality to have any voice in the management of affairs? The Borough Councils were not perfect, but they had the local knowledge which was essential for the management of the schools, and unless their interest was enlisted the scheme could not be efficiently administered. Islington was as large as many great cities, and yet she was not to be allowed to have any part in the management of the education of the district. It was a monstrous proposition. As one who had been engaged in the work of education for forty years he declared it to be a retrograde step to concentrate the whole of the work in one body. To talk of London as a whole was absurd. It was an enormous aggregation of different parts, and education could be made efficient only by recognising that fact, and allowing the various boroughs to take an important part in its management. The Bill had been so changed that its own parents would not recognise it. Londoners would resent the step the Government were now taking, and, what was more important, the efficiency of London education would be seriously impaired.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) agreed with the hon. Member for North Islington that the Committee were in an extraordinary position. The whole proceedings had been ludicrous, almost grotesque, and under the circumstances the Government would have done well to report Progress in order to consider the matter in the light of the debate which had taken place. This was the third change the clause had undergone. Nothing short of a clear majority of the central authority on the Management Committee would make the Bill workable, or give satisfaction to those who were to have charge of education in London. By their latest alteration the Government admitted that there must be a connecting link between the central authority and the local body, and in that connection he would like to refer to a speech made by the Prime Minister last year. A proposal was made to put the major authority in a minority on the board of managers, and the right hon. Gentleman then said that—

“The County Council was to be the supreme authority in all matters of education, and that

being so it was only reasonable to give them a majority on the board of managers. . . . It would be extremely foolish, after the Committee had decided that the County Council was to be the supreme authority in all matters of education, to hand over to the inferior body the appointment of a majority of the managers."

After that expression of opinion, he thought it ought not to be proposed to give the London County Council less than a majority on the local Committee. There was no objection to the Borough Councils being represented on the managing bodies provided the central authority was the only statutory body and had supreme control from top to bottom, and only under such conditions could the necessary decentralisation be properly carried out. The Opposition were not enamoured of the Act of last year. Why they urged it should be followed now was that the present Bill was much worse, and consequently they would prefer the Act of 1902 to the Bill of 1903. The Government had not attempted to meet the damaging criticisms of their own supporters. Instead of one authority there would be several authorities, and friction was certain to arise between the central and the local bodies. The Government proposed to place the two bodies in such a position that friction was absolutely inevitable. Instead of giving complete control to those who had to find the money, they were, under the proposals of the Government, only going to have certain powers. The hon. Baronet had himself said in the course of a previous debate that it was almost impossible to define what was management and what was control. On all those questions of teachers, sites, control of the buildings, higher grade schools, and so on, there would inevitably be friction between the two bodies, and that the Government had admitted by giving the ultimate arbitration to the Board of Education. Why not at once place them in the supreme authority of the County Council instead of raising friction and difficulties between these two bodies? They were in a difficult position with regard to this matter. He hoped it would be repudiated by the hon. Member for South Manchester, and that it would not be accepted by the hon. Member for Somersetshire. So far as they were concerned on that side of the House, they

should give it the most strenuous opposition.

*MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE was not surprised at the hon. Member declaring war against the proposals of the Government, because he was ready to do that against any proposals of the Government. The Secretary to the Board of Education had showed a very reasonable disposition, and considering that the Amendment embodied the principle of putting the schools under managing bodies rather than under Borough Councils, he was quite willing to accept this proposal. He would have preferred his own clause, but they could not have everything, and he was glad the Government had kept an open mind in the discussion.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland) expressed his extreme satisfaction with the Government for accepting the Amendment, and thus putting the Borough Councils in a thoroughly subordinate position to the County Council, and depriving the Borough Councils of that power of interference with the management of schools which had been so deprecated. He understood the hon. Member for South Manchester to say that he was quite willing to change the proportions of the management, and to make this body of managers consist of half and half instead of three-fourths to one-fourth. That he regarded as a great improvement, and he urged the Government to accept the amended Amendment. It would be desirable to allow the Amendment to be withdrawn, and they could then proceed with an open mind.

*SIR FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan) would not embark on a general discussion, but he wished to deprecate the observation which had been made with regard to the danger of friction arising in case the proposals of the Government had been accepted. He did not believe that friction would have arisen. On the contrary, he had found, from a long experience in public affairs of various kinds, that when gentlemen met together for a common purpose, any friction which might have arisen during the election contest entirely disappeared. He did not think there would be any danger of friction of such a character

as to endanger the good working of the schools. The question of uniform jurisdiction could not then be discussed, but he believed it was quite necessary to the good working of the educational system that there should be a different curriculum to suit different wants and different localities. He regarded as sound the arguments that had been advanced upon the questions of breaking up the staffs, the difficulty of the transfer of teachers and of domestic instruction. His sole purpose in rising was to express his great satisfaction with the Government for keeping an open mind upon the views which had been put forward. He certainly felt that the Bill had been greatly improved by this concession, and he was quite sure that the action of the Government would be heartily accepted by the country as a whole, because it embodied, in the strongest and most powerful manner, the principle of one central authority for each locality, and that the central authority should act through the whole area by delegation as the circumstances might demand.

DR. MACNAMARA was of opinion that bit by bit Clause 3 would be withdrawn. There were two matters they had to consider in regard to the question of management. One was its constitution and the other was its function. With regard to its constitution, he understood that the Government were prepared to accept and even go farther than the Amendment of the hon. Member for South Manchester. They would, however, resist the proposals for the proportions to be three-fourths borough councillors and one-fourth county councillors. He hoped the Amendment would be set up early so that it could be discussed. The function of the management was all important. Under the Bill the Borough Councils were to be set up as managers by statute. They objected to that in the beginning and they objected to it now. This Amendment set up the County Council entirely as the general controlling body for London. The function it proposed was absolutely and perfectly sound, for the Amendment carried them a long way along the line they wanted to go. He was entirely

Sir Francis Powell.

satisfied with the total revolution which had taken place in the functions of managers as compared with the function of the general authority for London.

LORD EDMUND FITZMAURICE (Wiltshire, Cricklade) quite agreed with what had been suggested, and he thought his hon. friend on that side of the House would also agree with it. They would allow the Amendment to be withdrawn and set up the other Amendment.

Amendment by leave, withdrawn.

*MR. PEEL thought there was no need to say anything on the Amendment he desired to move, but something had been said as to the proportions. The reason he gave a very large proportion to the Borough Councils was that he was anxious to meet the desire of the Government to associate if not the Borough Councils themselves, yet the *personnel* of the Borough Councils with the work of education. He considered that the one-fourth to be appointed by the central authority would be sufficient to secure the link between the central authority and the board of managers. Considering that these boards of managers would be entirely under the orders of the central authority the question of proportion was not to his view a matter of the greatest importance, and certainly so far as he was concerned if the Government were going to stand by three-fourths he should give them his support. He had said he would agree to half and half because he understood that a great number of hon. Members on that side of the House laid great stress on the proportions, and for the sake of agreement he was ready to go to that length. But he was so grateful to the Government for the line they had taken that he was ready to support them, and did not wish to do anything to embarrass them in this beneficial change. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 11, to leave out Sub-section (1), and insert the words, 'All public elementary provided schools within the area of each Metropolitan Borough shall have a body or bodies of managers whose number shall be determined by the Council of each borough

subject to the approval of the Board of Education. Provided that three-fourths of such body or bodies shall be appointed by the Borough Council, and one-fourth by the local education authority. Provided also that due regard shall be had to the inclusion of women on the said bodies of managers.”—(Mr. Peel.)

Question put, “That Sub-section (1) stand part of the clause.”

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 11; Noes, 349. (Division List No. 103.)

AYES.

Bousfield, William Robert
Cantley, Henry Strother
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph C.
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin and Nairn*)
Goulding, Edward Alfred

Graham, Henry Robert
Kimber, Henry
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Remnant, Jas. Farquharson
Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)

Thornton, Percy M.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES —
Sir George Bartley and
Mr. Burdett-Coutts.

NOES.

Abraham, W. (*Cork, N.E.*)
Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allen, Chas. P. (*Glos., Stroud*)
Allhusen, Aug. Henry Eden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Keynell
Anstruther, H. T.
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbt. Hy.
Atherley-Jones, L.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir H.
Austin, Sir John
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Manch'r.*)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (*Hornsey*)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch*)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barry, Sir Fras. T. (*Windsor*)
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Beckett, Ernest William
Bell, Richard
Bhowaggee, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Bill, Charles
Black, Alexander William
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Bond, Edward
Bowles, T. Gibson (*Lynn Regis*)
Brassey, Albert
Brigg, John
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bryce, Right Hon. James
Brymer, William Ernest
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Bull, William James
Burt, Thomas
Butcher, John George
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (*Armagh, S.*)
Carew, James Laurence
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Causton, Richard Knight

Cavendish, R. F. (*N. Lancs.*)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*)
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (*Birm*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A. (*Worc.*)
Channing, Francis Allston
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thomas H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Craig, Robert Hunter (*Lanark*)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cremer, William Randal
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan (*Cardign*)
Denny, Colonel
Dewar, John A. (*Inverness-sh.*)
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hn. Sir Charles
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duncan, J. Hastings
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Edwards, Frank
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Ellis, John Edward
Evans, Saml. T. (*Glamorgan*)
Faber, E. B. (*Hants, W.*)
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (*Manch'r*)
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose

Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Sir Michl. (*Lond. Univ.*)
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, J. M. F.
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (*City of Lond.*)
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gordon, Maj. Evans (*Tr'H m'ts*)
Gore, Hn. S. F. Ormsby- (*Linc*)
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
Grant, Corrie
Gray, Ernest (*West Ham*)
Greene, Sir E. W. (*Bury St. Ed.*)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E. (*Berwick*)
Groves, James Grimble
Gunter, Sir Robert
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hain, Edward
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Ld. G. (*Mid'x*)
Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashford*)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harnsworth, R. Leicester
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Harwood, George
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Havter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Healy, Timothy Michael
Heath James (*Staffords. N. W.*)
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristol, E*)
Holland, Sir William Henry
Horner, Frederick William
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.

Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (*Morley*)
 Hutton, John (*Yorks. N. R.*)
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
 Johnstone, Heywood
 Jones, Dav. Brynmor (*Swansea*)
 Jones, W. (*Carnarvonshire*)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir J. H.
 Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*)
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop.*)
 Kerr, John
 Kitson, Sir James
 Knowles, Lees
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lambert, George
 Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
 Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks. N. R.*)
 Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Leamy, Edmund
 Lee, Arthur H. (*Hants. Fareham*)
 Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
 Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
 Leng, Sir John
 Levy, Maurice
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Llewellyn, Evan Henry
 Lloyd-George, David
 Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (*Evesham*)
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S*)
 Lough, Thomas
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowther, C. (*Cumb. Eskdale*)
 Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*)
 Macdonna, John Cumming
 MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
 MacIver, David (*Liverpool*)
 Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
 Maconochie, A. W.
 M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
 M'Arthur William (*Cornwall*)
 M'Crae, George
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 M'Killop, James (*Stirlingshire*)
 M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
 Manners, Lord Cecil
 Mansfield, Horace Rendall
 Mappin, Sir Fredk. Thorpe
 Maxwell, Rt. Hn. Sir H. E. (*Wigt'n*)
 Maxwell, W. J. H. (*Dumfriessh.*)
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Middlemore, John Throgmorton
 Milvain, Thomas
 Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
 Moon, Edward Robert Percy
 More, Robt. Jasper (*Shropshire*)
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*)
 Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer

Moulton, John Fletcher
 Mount, William Arthur
 Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
 Muntz, Sir Philip A.
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (*Bute*)
 Murray, Chas. J. (*Coventry*)
 Murray, Col. W. (ndham) (*Bath*)
 Myers, William Henry
 Nolan, Joseph (*Louth, S.*)
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Brien, Patrick (*Kilkenny*)
 O'Connor, Jas. (*Wicklow, W.*)
 O'Connor, T. P. (*Liverpool*)
 O'Kelly, J. (*Roscommon, N.*)
 O'Malley, William
 Palmer, Sir C. M. (*Durham*)
 Palmer, Walter (*Salisbury*)
 Parker, Sir Gilbert
 Partington, Oswald
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pearson, Sir Westman D.
 Pease, H. Pike (*Darlington*)
 Pease, J. A. (*Saffron Walden*)
 Pemberton, John S. G.
 Perks, Robert William
 Pickard, Benjamin
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pretzman, Ernest George
 Price, Robert John
 Priestley, Arthur
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Rea, Russell
 Redmond, William (*Clare*)
 Reid, Sir R. Threshie (*Dumries*)
 Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
 Ridley, Hon. M. W. (*Stalybridge*)
 Ridley, S. Forde (*Bethnal Green*)
 Rigg, Richard
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
 Robinson, Brooke
 Robson, William Snowden
 Roe, Sir Thomas
 Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
 Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
 Rose, Charles Day
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Roys, Clement Molyneux
 Runciman, Walter
 Russell, T. W.
 Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*)
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
 Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
 Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Seton-Karr, Sir Henry

Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Shaw, Charles E. (*Stafford*)
 Shipman, Dr. John G.
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
 Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, E.*)
 Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks.*)
 Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Spencer, Sir E. (*W. Bromwich*)
 Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir Jn. M.
 Stock, James Henry
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Stroyan, John
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sullivan, Donal
 Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (*Oxford Univ*)
 Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, A. (*Carmarthen, E.*)
 Thomas, Sir A. (*Glam., E.*)
 Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
 Thorburn, Sir Walter
 Tomlinson, Sir. Wm. Edw. M.
 Toulmin, George
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
 Valencia, Vincent
 Walrand, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
 Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
 Wason, Eugene (*Clackmannan*)
 Wason, J. Cathcart (*Orkney*)
 Weir, James Galloway
 Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (*Notts.*)
 White, George (*Norfolk*)
 White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
 Whiteley, G. (*York, W. R.*)
 Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, O. (*Merioneth*)
 Williams, Colonel R. (*Dorset*)
 Wilson, A. S. (*York, E. R.*)
 Wilson, F. W. (*Norfolk, Mid*)
 Wilson, H. J. (*York, W. R.*)
 Wilson John (*Glasgow*)
 Wilson, J. W. (*Worcestersh., N.*)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (*Huddersf'd*)
 Worsley-Taylor, Hry. Wilson
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES —
 Mr. Henry Hobhouse and
 Mr. Peel.

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. ERNEST GRAY moved to leave out the words "or bodies" in line 2 of the Sub-section. He stated that his object in moving the Amendment was

to get an explanation of the words "or bodies." He rather thought that the mover intended that in each Metropolitan borough there should be a body or bodies of managers, but the reading of the Sub-section suggested that in all public elementary provided schools there

might be two bodies of managers for one school. He wished to get the point cleared up, and therefore he formally moved.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"To leave out the words 'or bodies.'"—(*Mr. Ernest Gray.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'or bodies' stand part of the proposed Amendment."

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said he could not help feeling that the words "a body or bodies" might be open to misconstruction. He thought, however, the words should remain.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorgan-shire, Mid) said the Amendment of the hon. Member for West Ham followed fairly closely the words of Section 6, Sub-section 1 of the Act of last year, where the words were "a body of managers." He did not think the words "or bodies" were necessary, and he agreed with the hon. Member that it would be better to omit them.

*MR. PEEL said the reason why he put in the words "a body or bodies of managers" was to allow for the fact that the number of schools in each borough varied. In Stepney, for example, there were thirty schools, and he wished to provide that they would have not one body of managers but several bodies of managers for the schools in that particular borough. He thought the words were necessary.

DR. MACNAMARA said that he hoped the words would be retained. His hon. friend had read Section 6 of the Act of last year, but did not read Section 12, which provided for the grouping of schools. If the words were dropped out, infinitely greater difficulties would be created.

SIR GEORGE BARTLEY said he thought the Committee was in a somewhat peculiar position.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): What has become of Coghill?

SIR GEORGE BARTLEY said that the Committee had no idea whether "body" or "bodies" were to be in this Bill. They had come to an extraordinary pass. Clause 2, on which they built, had been given away, and now on this clause the hon. Gentleman the Secretary to the Board of Education did not seem to understand whether the words ought or ought not to be in the clause. As time was going on, he thought it would be well if there was an hour and a half's adjournment, in order to enable the Minister in charge of the Bill to understand the Amendment. Many of them on that side of the House had supported the Bill. It was a Government Bill. They were loyal supporters of the Government. The Government had still got eleven strong supporters; and he really thought that the hon. Gentleman should reconsider his position till after the dinner hour and know where he actually was.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said he believed the words were altogether unnecessary.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid) said that the matter really admitted of no dispute. The "Interpretation of Terms Act" said that the singular should include the plural. If it was said that all public elementary schools should have a body or bodies of managers it did not mean that all the schools were to have one body of managers: it meant that each school was to have one body of managers. He was surprised that in a matter of this kind the Government had lost its head.

MR. ERNEST GRAY said he realised that if there was any vagueness in the wording of the clause it could be cleared up on the Report stage. His intervention was merely to make the clause clear and not to waste time. He asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CORRIE GRANT (Warwickshire, Rugby) said he had handed in an Amendment to the Chairman.

* THE CHAIRMAN : The hon. Gentleman's Amendment is to the same effect as that handed in by the hon. and learned Member for Mid Glamorgan, only it was in the wrong place.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS said that in drafting his Amendment, which he was bound to in a hurry, he might have put it in the wrong place. What he wanted to propose was to leave out the words "elementary provided schools" in order to insert the words "non-provided schools."

MR. CORRIE GRANT submitted that his Amendment, which was a drafting one, was necessary, viz., to add after the words "body or bodies," "as the local educational authority may determine."

* THE CHAIRMAN said that the Amendment of the hon. Gentleman would have the same effect as that of the hon. and learned Member for Mid Glamorgan-shire.

MR. BRYCE said that the hon. Member for Manchester might tell the Committee what he intended to mean by the words "whose number." The natural meaning of "whose number" would be the number of managers.

* MR. PEEL said that what he meant by the words was to give as much power as he possibly could to the Borough Councils. He therefore proposed to leave it to them to decide not only the number of the committees of managers in any borough, but also the number that should be in each particular group of managers.

SIR GEORGE BARTLEY asked what meaning the Government attached to the Amendment.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS said although he thought that the Government had now adopted the right principle, they should endeavour to extend it in order to make the Bill consistent throughout. The principle of the Bill was that the control should be in the local education authority, and it was obvious that it should extend to the determination of the body or bodies of managers or the number of managers. He did not think it necessary

to argue the point. It was quite true that the Borough Councils might know some of the local conditions better than the local education authority, but there was nothing to prevent the Borough Councils making representations to the local education authority; and if a Borough Council had any complaint, it could take it to the Board of Education. He hoped the Government would accept the Amendment seeing that it was quite consistent with the principle of the Bill.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"To leave out the words 'council of each borough,' and insert the words 'local education authority after consultation with the council of each borough.'"—(*Mr. Samuel Evans.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment."

* SIR WILLIAM ANSON said that the Government accepted the Amendment of the hon. Member for South Manchester in preference to that of the hon. Member for Somerset, because it gave a somewhat larger authority in respect of the management of their schools than was given to the ordinary minor local authorities throughout the country. It appeared to him that the Borough Councils, from the knowledge they possessed of the needs of their schools and the numbers available for the purpose of management, might properly determine how many bodies of managers there should be. They had a right to group their schools and also to say how many persons should be on the board of managers. It did not appear to him that the rights of the local authority or its powers were in any way interfered with by the arrangement proposed in respect of the Borough Councils, and he thought it would be proper for the Borough Councils to enjoy those rights. They would conduce to good management of the schools, and he was therefore unwilling to adopt any Amendment which would in any way alter the scheme of his hon. friend.

MR. BRYCE said he had heard the statement of the hon. Baronet with regret. They did not wish to look a gift horse too much in the mouth; and they were very sensible of the great improvement the Bill had received by

the last change of opinion on the part of the Government. But he could not help thinking that the local education authority, which would have a much wider experience, would be a better authority to determine the number of bodies of managers than the Borough Councils. It should be remembered that the central authority was not ignorant of London, and that its members would be drawn from the boroughs.

*MR. BOND (Nottingham, E.) said the way he looked at the matter was this— that the number of managers and their powers and duties should be determined by a scheme to be framed by the local education authority, and subject to the approval of the Board of Education. The details could be best considered between these two bodies, and he did not see any great reason for retaining any kind even of nominating power on the part of the Borough Councils. He supposed it had been thought that some shred of authority should be left to the Borough Councils as a kind of consolation for being deprived of the greater part of the powers which it was intended to devolve upon them. The present proposal would be like leaving in the stump of an aching tooth. He felt it was better to sweep the Borough Councils out altogether, not that he doubted the capacity of the Borough Councils to deal with this matter, but because to offer them these illusory functions would only lead to a certain amount of delay, and in the long run, to friction. It was always assumed that local authorities had a particular knowledge of the district they represented, but when one considered the ignorance of people living in London with regard to what was happening at practically their own door, it was not wise to use such an assumption as that as an argument. He thought the Bill would be a much better one if these powers and functions were left in the hands of the local education authority, subject to the approval of the Board of Education. The Board of Education attributed great importance to securing some delegation of functions, and if considerable functions were not delegated to the local managers, the strain

would break down the educational machine altogether. But if functions were to be delegated they would take a great step in insuring effective delegation, if they said it was delegation in which the Board of Education should have a voice. Although he believed the new education authority would be extremely desirous to cast on the local managers as much work as they could delegate to them, he thought there should be some assurance that it would be done under a scheme approved by the Board of Education.

DR. MACNAMARA said that from a practical point of view, he did not think they could leave the Borough Councils to determine the number of managers. They would need to go back to the Act of last year. What he desired to suggest was that they should be consulted on this matter, and therefore he suggested that the words "council for each borough" should be taken out, and then that the words "after consultation with the Borough Councils" should be added. That would leave the determining with the only persons who could determine this matter, namely, the education authority of the district.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS said he would adopt the words of the hon. Member, and, with permission, would move the Amendment in that form.

MR. LOUGH pointed out that one of the main reasons put forward by the Government for not accepting this Amendment had no substance in it, because it did not matter whether the Borough Council representation was eight or twelve. The Borough Council would have a three-fourths representation, and they would have just as much power whether they had eight or twelve representatives. The Government had already accepted the Amendment by which the local education authority should fix the number of its own authority, and it would be consistent with that Amendment if it was left to them to fix the number of the Management Committee. The hon. Member in charge of the Bill made one very great mistake when he said the local authorities had a knowledge of the schools in their district; they had no such knowledge at

all. The School Board had that knowledge. The hon. Member's acceptance of the Amendment would not diminish the authority of the Borough Councils, and would be quite consistent with the Bill as it now stood.

*COLONEL WILLIAMS (Dorsetshire, West) hoped that the Government would stick to the Amendment. They had heard it said that the County Councils would know all the schools of the districts, but all the county councillors were not resident in London, and were not likely to know the schools so well as those who resided there. The one defect of the London School Board was over-centralisation, and the London School Board did not know all its own schools, so that the argument that the London School Board or the London County Council were aware of all the schools fell to the ground. It seemed to him that the people who sat on the Borough Councils were the people who would know, and ought to know, the schools.

MR. ERNEST GRAY pointed out that cases would probably arise in which it would be desirable to group a number of schools, some of which were in one borough and some in another. The boundaries of groups of schools were determined rather by main roads, along which there was much traffic, than by the provisions of Local Government Acts. In such cases, if the central authority had the right to determine how many groups of managers there should be in a given area, they could consult the Borough Councils concerned, and suggest some arrangement agreeable to both. That was possible under the amended but not under the original form of the proposal. It was not a matter of vital importance, but it was one of great practical convenience, and he commended it to the Government.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 210; Noes, 119. (Division List No. 104.)

AYES.

Abraham, W. (*Cork, N.E.*)
 Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
 Althusen Augustus Henry Eden
 Allsopp, Hon. George
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Arkwright, John Stanhope
 Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
 Arrol, Sir William
 Atkinson, Right Hon. John
 Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
 Austin, Sir John
 Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
 Bain, Colonel James Robert
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Man'r*)
 Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch*)
 Banbury, Sir Frederick George
 Bartley, Sir George C. T.
 Bignold, Arthur
 Bill, Charles
 Boland, John
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Butcher, John George
 Campbell, John (*Armagh, S.*)
 Carew, James Laurence
 Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
 Cautley, Henry Strother
 Cavendish, R. F. (*N. Lancs.*)
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*)
 Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (*Birm*)
 Chaplin, Right Hon. Henry
 Chapman, Edward
 Charrington, Spencer
 Churchill, Winston Spencer

Clive, Captain Percy A.
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
 Cox, Irwin Edwd. Bainbridge
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Crossley, Sir Savile
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Dickinson, Robert Edmond
 Dickson, Charles Scott
 Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir J. E.
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
 Doxford, Sir William Theodore
 Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
 Duke, Henry Edward
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellows, Hon. Ailwyn Ed.
 Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose
 Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
 Flower, Ernest
 Forster Henry William
 Fyler, John Arthur
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Gardner, Ernest
 Garfit, William

Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (*City of Lond.*)
 Gordon Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nairn*)
 Gordon, Maj Evans (*Tr. Hm'ts*)
 Gore, Hn. S. F. Ormsby- (*Line*)
 Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Greene, Sir E. W. (*Bury St. Ed.*)
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Groves, James Grimble
 Gunter, Sir Robert
 Hain, Edward
 Hall, Edward Marshall
 Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
 Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Ld. G. (*Midx*)
 Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashfd*)
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Harris, Frederick Leverton
 Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
 Healy, Timothy Michael
 Heath, James (*Staffs. N. W.*)
 Helder, Augustus
 Henderson, Sir Alexander
 Hickman, Sir Alfred
 Hoare, Sir Samuel
 Horner, Frederick William
 Hudson, George Bickersteth
 Hutton, John (*Yorks, N.R.*)
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred.
 Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
 Johnstone, Heywood
 Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
 Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*)
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*)
 Kerr, John

Mr. Lough.

Knowles, Lees

Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
 Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks, N.R.*)
 Lee, A. H. (*Hants., Fareham*)
 Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
 Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Chas. W. (*Evesham*)
 Long, Rt.Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S.*)
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Macdon, John Cumming
 MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
 MacIver, David (*Liverpool*)
 Maconochie, A. W.
 M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
 M'Killop, James (*Stirlingshire*)
 M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
 Manners, Lord Cecil
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Maxwell, Rt.Hn.Sir H.E. (*Wigt'n*)
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Middlemore, Jn.Throgmorton
 Milvain, Thomas
 Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 More, Robt. Jasper (*Shropshire*)
 Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
 Mount, William Arthur
 Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
 Muntz, Sir Philip A.
 Murphy, John
 Murray, Rt.Hn.A. Graham (*Bute*)
 Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
 Nicol, Donald Ninian

Nolan, Joseph (Louth, S.)

O'Brien, Patrick (*Kilkenny*)
 O'Connor, Jas. (*Wicklow, W.*)
 O'Connor, T. P. (*Liverpool*)
 O'Kelly, J. (*Roscommon, N.*)
 O'Malley, William
 Palmer, Walter (*Salisbury*)
 Parker, Sir Gilbert
 Pease, H. Pike (*Darlington*)
 Peel, Hn.Wm.Robt. Wellesley
 Pemberton, John S. G.
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Redmond, William (*Clare*)
 Renshaw, Sir Charles Biaz
 Ridley, Hon.M.W. (*Stalybridge*)
 Ridley, S. F. (*Bethnal Green*)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
 Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
 Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
 Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*)
 Samuel, Harry S. (*Linchouse*)
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
 Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)

Skewes-Cox, Thomas

Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, E.*)
 Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks.*)
 Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
 Spencer, Sir E. (*W.Bromwich*)
 Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir Jn. M.
 Stock, James Henry
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
 Talbot, Rt.Hn.J.G. (*Oxford Univ.*)
 Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
 Thorburn, Sir Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
 Valentia, Viscount
 Walker, Col. William Hall
 Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir W. H.
 Warde, Colonel C. E.
 Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (*Nofts.*)
 Whiteley, H. (*Ashton und. Lyne*)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Colonel R. (*Dorset*)
 Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*)
 Worsley-Taylor, Hry. Wilson
 Wortley, Rt. Hn. C.B. Stuart
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir Alexander Acland-
 Hood and Mr. Austruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (*Rhondda*)
 Asher, Alexander
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbt. Hy.
 Balfour, Capt. C. B. (*Hornsey*)
 Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Bell, Richard
 Bhownagree, Sir M. M.
 Black, Alexander William
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Bond, Edward
 Bowles, T. Gibson (*Lynn Regis*)
 Brigg, John
 Brown, Geo. M. (*Edinburgh*)
 Bryce, Right Hon. James
 Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
 Burt, Thomas
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Robert
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Craig, Robert Hunter (*Lanark*)
 Cremer, William Randal
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davies, M. Vaughan (*Cardign*)
 Denny, Colonel
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Edwards, Frank
 Ellis, John Edward
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert
 Ferguson, R. C. Munro (*Leith*)
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Foster, Sir Michl. (*Lond. Univ*)

Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*)
 Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Fuller, J. M. F.
 Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
 Grant, Corrie
 Gray, Ernest (*West Ham*)
 Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E. (*Berwick*)
 Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
 Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
 Harmsworth, R. Leicester
 Harwood, George
 Hay, Hon. Claude George
 Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale
 Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
 Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristol, E*)
 Holland, Sir William Henry
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (*Morley*)
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Jones, David Brynmor (*Swansea*)
 Jones, William (*Carnarvonshire*)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kitson, Sir James
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lambert, George
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Leamy, Edmund
 Leese, Sir Jos. F. (*Accrington*)
 Leng, Sir John
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lough, Thomas

Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
 M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*)
 M'Crae, George
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 Mansfield, Horace Rendall
 Morgan, J. Ll. yd (*Carmarthen*)
 Norman, Henry
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Palmer, Sir C. M. (*Durham*)
 Partington, Oswald
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
 Pease, J. A. (*Saffron Walden*)
 Pickard, Benjamin
 Price, Robert John
 Priestley, Arthur
 Rea, Russell
 Reid, Sir R. Threshie (*Dumfries*)
 Rigg, Richard
 Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Roe, Sir Thomas
 Rose, Charles Day
 Runciman, Walter
 Russell, T. W.
 Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (*Stafford*)
 Shipman, Dr. John G.
 Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, A. (*Carmarthen, E.*)
 Thomson, F. W. (*York, W.R.*)
 Walton, J. Lawson (*Leeds, S.*)

Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (*Clackmannan*)
Wason, J. Cathcart (*Orkney*)
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (*Norfolk*)
White, Luke (*York, E.R.*)

Whiteley, G. (*York, W. R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Williams, O. (*Merioneth*)
Wilson, F. W. (*Norfolk, Mid*)
Wilson, H. J. (*York, W. R.*)
Wilson, J. W. (*Worcester., N.*)

Woodhouse Sir J. T. *Huddersfield*
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Samuel Evans and
Mr. Trevelyan.

* MR. CORRIE GRANT said he wished to move an Amendment to the Amendment of the hon. Member for South Manchester as follows—

“In line 4, leave out the words ‘Board of Education’ and insert ‘local education authority.’”

He submitted that this was a reasonable Amendment which did not affect any great question of principle.

* THE CHAIRMAN: This seems to be a similar Amendment to the one which has just been decided. It seems to raise exactly the same point as that upon which the Committee has just pronounced an opinion.

* MR. CORRIE GRANT argued that what the Committee had just decided was that the number of the body should be determined by the Council of each Borough, and the last Amendment suggested that it should be determined by the local education authority after consultation with the Council of the Borough. His Amendment, he submitted, dealt with an entirely different matter, for it left the approval of the whole thing to the local education authority, instead of leaving it to the Board of Education.

* THE CHAIRMAN: I do not think the hon. Member's Amendment goes as far as he thinks. The Committee have decided that the decision shall be with the Council of each Borough.

MR. YOXALL (*Nottingham, W.*) said the Amendment he wished to move was in line with what had been done already. They had agreed, after much debate and argument, that the local management of the schools must be left very largely under the control of the local education authority for London. The Amendment he proposed to put before the Committee carried out the idea in the proposal submitted by the hon. Member for South Manchester, that three-fourths of the body should be appointed by the Borough Council and one-

fourth by the local education authority. He (Mr. Yoxall) proposed to substitute for the words three-fourths the words one-fourth, and the Amendment would then read, “Provided that one-fourth of such body or bodies shall be appointed by the Borough Council and three-fourths by the local education authority.” This Amendment was placed on the Paper only the day before, and it had now been affirmed most emphatically that the London County Council were to be supreme in the matter of education in London. It followed naturally, and ought to follow practically, that the London County Council should appoint the major number of members on the Managing Committee. So long as it was proposed that the Borough Councils were to be managerial bodies by statute, it was in keeping that they should appoint three-fourths of the Managing Committee of a school or a group of schools, but now that had gone by the board, the larger proportion should go with it. Since the debate of that afternoon and the decision to reverse the idea and to pronounce the London education authority as the governing body, it followed that the London education authority ought to appoint the majority of the Managing Committees. Although he moved one-fourth in place of three-fourths as the ideal number, he thought something was to be said for the proportion of last year, viz., two-thirds and one-third. The right hon. Member for Somerset did not commit himself to the number laid down in last year's Act, and the Amendment did not restrict the number of managers on the Committee to six. For that reason he departed from last year's proposal and suggested that three-fourths should be appointed by the local education authority and one-fourth by the Borough Council. This question came up last year in relation to provided schools within the area of administrative government. They were now dealing with provided schools in the area of the County of London. The hon. Member for Flint last year made the proposal that the proportion should be reversed, and that instead of

the County Council in an administrative county, appointing two-thirds and the minor authority one-third, the latter should appoint two-thirds and the major authority the other third. The scattered nature of the district justified the Amendment in last year's case, but the argument then put forward by the Prime Minister overruled every consideration. The Prime Minister said—

"The County Council is to be the supreme authority in all matters of education."

That was the point which had been decided that afternoon. The Committee had said that the County Council should be the supreme authority within the London County area in all matters of education. They might delegate their powers as they pleased but they ought to be the supreme authority in all matters of education. The Prime Minister further went on to say—

"It was only reasonable to give them the majority upon the Managing Committee of a school or group of schools."

That consideration weighed with the House in the Act of 1902 and on it he begged to found his argument in the present case. Since the London County Council was to be supreme in all matters of education in this area it would be in consonance that they should appoint the majority upon the Managing Committee. If they did not do that they would have that proposal getting across the main drift and line of the Bill.

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again this evening.

----- EVENING SITTING.

LONDON EDUCATION BILL.

'Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 3:—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 11, to leave out Sub-section (1), and insert the words, 'All public elemen-

tary provided schools within the area of each Metropolitan borough shall have a body or bodies of managers whose number shall be determined by the Council of each Borough subject to the approval of the Board of Education. Provided that three-fourths of such body or bodies shall be appointed by the Borough Council, and one-fourth by the local education authority. Provided also that due regard shall be had to the inclusion of women on the said bodies of managers.'"
(*Mr. Peel.*)

Question again proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. YOXALL said at the interruption of business he was arguing in favour of an Amendment to the Amendment whereby the proportion to be appointed on the Committee of provided schools or groups of provided schools, should be reversed—that was to say, that the Borough Councils should appoint one-fourth instead of three-fourths, and that three-fourths should be appointed by the local education authority instead of one-fourth. It had been held throughout the debate that the essential thing to produce an absence of friction, and simplicity and smoothness of working, was that the minor local authorities should be clearly made to understand that the London County Council was supreme. If the Amendment as it now stood was permitted to pass into law, it might have a most disastrous effect. The Borough Councils might resent what had taken place this afternoon, and they might determine to appoint a Committee so large as to include thirty or forty members of the Borough Councils. Under the three-fourths arrangement as it existed now, the Borough Council would appoint thirty members, while only ten would be appointed by the London County Council, and the result would be that they might have thirty of the members of the Education Committee who, representing what had taken place this afternoon, declined to act on the instructions of the London County Council as the supreme central body, and these thirty members would speak against and vote down the ten appointed by the London County Council. If the London County Council was to be the supreme central body, it must be supreme in every department, otherwise it would not have

the fighting power to carry out its will. To avoid friction and keep up the symmetry of this Bill he asked the Committee to accept this Amendment. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

“To leave out the word ‘three-fourths,’ and insert the word ‘one-fourth.’—(*Mr. Yocall.*)

Question proposed, “That the word ‘three-fourths’ stand part of the proposed Amendment.”

MR. J. H. LEWIS (Flint Boroughs) said he should be greatly surprised if the hon. Baronet did not accept the Amendment which had just been moved by his hon. friend, if only for this one reason—that when the Act of last year was under consideration he himself proposed an Amendment to the effect that the proportion of representation should be reversed and that the larger representation should be given to the minor authority. That suggestion, however, was met by the First Lord of the Treasury by the statement that if the Amendment were accepted it would impair the control of the County Council and lead to considerable friction between the County Council, the major authority, and the minor local authority. The right hon. Gentleman had persuaded the House to agree with him in that conclusion, and therefore he could not understand how the Government could accept the Amendment of the hon. Member for South Manchester as it stood, because it distinctly reversed the principle laid down by the right hon. Gentleman last year.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTSON (Hackney, S.) said the idea of the Government was to give the London County Council complete control, and he thought under this clause the County Council had that control. There was a very great distinction between the London boroughs and the county boroughs. In the latter the local authorities undoubtedly had a greater local knowledge, and there was no difficulty in finding persons who were suitable to act as managers. In the London boroughs there was considerable difficulty. He thought the London County Council would be really helped by the information which the local authority would be

able to supply in that respect. Headminded the proportions set out in this Amendment were not exactly the same as those adopted in the Education Act of last year. He saw no reason why there should be any greater amount of direct control, and much as he disapproved of the Borough Councils themselves being managers he thought they were the right and proper persons to appoint the managers. The managers were persons who were distinctly under the control of the local education authority. They could not go outside the code of rules which was drawn up by that authority. The code of rules might not be exactly the same code as that of the School Board. There might be some difference in it, but he ventured to think that they would not be able to draw up a code which in any material way would be better than that of the London School Board. The managers were in a very restricted position; they could not run counter to the wishes of the School Board, and in the future would not be able to run counter to the wishes of the central authority. Another reason why these minor authorities ought to come in was that it would give the boroughs a certain amount of interest in the education of the neighbourhood. That was a distinct advantage. He would have been greatly pleased to have seen these Borough Councils brought into this scheme if he could have seen a way in which it could have been done, and for that reason he was pleased to see this particular Amendment brought in enabling them to assist in the appointment of local managers. They must not, of course, lose sight of the outside element. They had been told that many of the schools in the East End were managed by ladies and gentlemen who came from a long distance away to the great benefit of the schools, and it might be said that in giving the Borough Councils a proportion of three-fourths there would be a tendency to exclude that outside element, but that argument would not hold because there was the one-fourth which was to be appointed by the London County Council, who would, if they thought it was desirable to strengthen the local representation, appoint people living at a distance. Under the circumstances he

Mr. Yocall.

thought the Government ought not to accept this Amendment—that in this matter they had surrendered quite enough.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.) said he was in favour of local government in relation to education as to other matters. The very principle of local government depended on local knowledge, experience, and observation, and he was quite satisfied that a system of centralisation in the appointment of local committees would fail in these respects. In the case of the School Board, the work of which was beyond all praise, there was a disposition to too much centralisation. He thought that the existence of these checks locally would, on the whole, tend to the formation of the best committees. He thought the balance of power was best placed in the manner in which it was proposed in the Amendment of his hon. friend the Member for South Manchester.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) said that the point now was how far they could make this Bill a workable one in its final particulars. This Bill was now much more likely to be of practical value, inasmuch as the County Council would have supreme control whatever might be the majority on the board of management. He thought the Government, however, would have been well-advised, under the circumstances, to have made a complete job of the matter, and to have withdrawn the Borough Councils altogether from the question of management. Everyone desired that local patriotism should be evoked, but such local patriotism would hardly be evoked by an authority nominating a certain number of managers in the schools. It would be less likely to lead to friction if the Borough Councils disappeared entirely from the scheme. The particular Amendment they were discussing was as to whether the major or the minor authority should have the majority of

nomination of managers. If they were to carry out that which the Government always contended should be, namely, that the County Council, the local authority, should have the complete control, and if they were to base this Bill on the Act of last year, the local education authority ought to have a majority on these Committees of Management. If they gave the nomination of the majority of managers to the Borough Councils, he thought it would be necessary to introduce in the Bill some definition of "management" and "control." If the majority of the Board of Managers were not elected by the London County Council but by the Borough Council, unless there was some such definition given, there would be great difficulty in dealing with this matter. That was his principal reason for supporting the proposals of his hon. friend. He drew attention to the fact also that the clause as it stood would require some further definition as to what was to be the position of women who were to be nominated as managers. He supported very strongly the Amendment of his hon. friend, because he thought they had come to the conclusion that the local authority should be supreme in this matter, and that there should not be any friction between the boroughs and the County Council. The only way in which that could be attained would be by giving the local education authority not only supreme control, but also the majority in the appointment of the managers.

*THE CHAIRMAN was about to put the question when,

MR. YOXALL said he thought the Amendment before the Committee was of such an important nature as to justify an answer being given by the hon. Baronet.

Question put.

The Committee divided: Ayes, 83; Noes. 40, (Division List No. 105.)

AYES.

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Aug. Henry Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Right Hon. John

Austin, Sir John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (*Man'r*)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Burke, E. Haviland
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)

Cavendish, V.C.W. (*Derbyshire*)
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cullinan, J.
Davies, Sir H. D. (*Chatham*)

Denny, Colonel
 Dickson, Charles Scott
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
 Doxford, Sir William Theodore
 Duke, Henry Edward
 Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose
 Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
 Flower, Ernest
 Forster, Henry William
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (*City of Lond.*)
 Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nrn*)
 Gore, Hn. S. F. Ormsby- (*Linc*)
 Groves, James Grimbale
 Healy, Timothy Michael
 Hickman, Sir Alfred
 Hoare, Sir Samuel
 Hudson, George Bickersteth

Hutton, John (*Yorks. N. R.*)
 Jeob, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*)
 Kerr, John
 Lawson, J. Grant, (*Yorks. N. R.*)
 Leamy, Edmund
 Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S*)
 Macdona, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (*Liverpool*)
 McKillop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)
 More, Robt. Jasper (*Shropshire*)
 Mowbray, Sir Robt. Gray C.
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (*Bute*)
 Nolan, Joseph (*Louth, S.*)
 O'Brien, Patrick (*Kilkenny*)
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Purvis, Robert
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Redmond, William (*Clare*)
 Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson

Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
 Robertson, H. (*Hackney*)
 Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
 Rutherford, W. W. (*Liverpool*)
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
 Spencer, Sir E. (*W. Bromwich*)
 Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
 Stock, James Henry
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
 Thorburn, Sir Walter
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Valentia, Viscount
 Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
 Williams, Colonel R. (*Dorset*)
 Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)
 Worsley-Taylor, Hry. Wilson

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir Alexander Acland-
 Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (*Rhondda*)
 Bell, Richard
 Black, Alexander William
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Brigg, John
 Burns, John
 Burt, Thomas
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Robert
 Cawley, Frederick
 Cremer, William Randal
 Edwards, Frank
 Foster, Sir Michl. (*Lond. Univ*)
 Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*)

Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
 Grant, Corrie
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
 Jones, William (*Carmarvonsh.*)
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
 M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*)
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*)
 Norman, Henry
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Perks, Robert William

Russell, T. W.
 Samuel Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
 Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Wason, John Cathcart (*Orkney*)
 White, George (*Norfolk*)
 White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
 Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
 Wilson, F. W. (*Norfolk, Mid*)
 Wilson, H. J. (*York, W. R.*)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Yoxall and Sir
 Brampton Gurdon.

MR. GEORGE WHITE (*Norfolk, N.W.*) said he begged to move that in line 7 all the words after "that" should be struck out, in order to insert the words "one-fourth of such body or bodies shall be women." He moved this Amendment so that there should be a recognised body of women to serve on these Boards. All educationalists recognised that women had played a most important part as managers of the schools throughout the length and breadth of the land. He was perfectly sure that the principle was a sound one, and the only difference between what he proposed and the Amendment as it stood upon the Paper was that he did not propose to leave the number of women to be appointed to the discretion of the authority, but to prescribe that they should have a statutory position on these Committees. Without detaining the Committee further, he begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"In line 7 to leave out all the words after 'that' in order to insert the words 'one fourth of such body or bodies shall be women.'"
 (*Mr. George White.*)

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said that, while fully alive to the advantage of securing the presence of women on these bodies, he must resist the Amendment on the ground that he must resist any Amendment of this sort which placed a fixed number of women on any Committee. It was not desirable that the number of women should be fixed for every Committee. In the case of girls' schools, one-fourth might be an inadequate proportion of women, while in other cases it might be unduly large. It was much better to leave the number quite open. Therefore, he should only accept the Amendment in the terms of the hon. Member for South Manchester.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said at last they had been able to extract a definite opinion from the hon. Baronet. This matter was to be left to the choice of the Borough Councils and County Council. He was quite prepared to agree to that if the clause gave any guarantee that women would be properly represented. He suggested that his hon. friend might withdraw the Amendment if the hon. Baronet would give an undertaking that between now and the Report stage he would consider the best method of obtaining statutory powers for the proper representation of women. Under the circumstances, he did not wish to press this particular proposal at the present moment if the hon. Baronet would give an undertaking that between now and the Report stage he would consider the best method of obtaining some statutory powers for the proper representation of women on the Boards of management.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said that he would undertake to carefully consider the matter before the Report stage.

MR. BRYCE said he hoped from what the hon. Baronet had said that some provision would be introduced which would make it quite certain that there would be a substantial proportion of women as managers, for nothing else would meet the case. Experience had shown that it was very dangerous to leave these things to the mere discretion and benevolent sympathy of bodies composed entirely of men. They made a provision last year that women were to be on these boards of management, yet, in one case, there were only two women out of eighty members. Any one who had followed these Education Acts knew how much less than justice had been done to women both as to a share in endowments and in the management. In the work of school management women were especially invaluable; they were the only people who could get into the confidence of the female teachers. He hoped it was to be distinctly understood that the representation of women on the boards of management would be large and substantial.

MR. GEORGE WHITE asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. J. H. LEWIS moved to add at the end of the section—

“Provided also that the local education authority shall not appoint managers until the Borough Council has made its appointment.”

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON thought it would be exceedingly undesirable to adopt off-hand that arrangement. It was impossible to forecast the inconveniences which might arise from the hurried adoption of such an Amendment. It would be very unwise to lay down hard and fast rules.

MR. J. H. LEWIS said he felt sure that the hon. Baronet would give the matter due consideration between now and the Report stage, and he would withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Question, “That those words be there inserted,” put and agreed to.

DR. MACNAMARA said that by Sub-section 2 of Clause 3, the Borough Councils would have the determination of the sites on which the schools were to be erected, subject to certain limitations as to price. What he said was that the local education authority, having determined that a school was necessary, should go to the Borough Council and ask their advice as to where the school should be placed, stating at the same time that every consideration would be given to the advice, but that they must keep in their own hands the final determination of the site. On this question of selection of sites he spoke from a long experience, and he insisted that it was not desirable to leave it to the Borough Councils to determine the sites of schools, first of all because many of the sites were now selected by private treaty, and the result was that they were secured more cheaply than by open public treaty and negotiation. If the County Council and the Borough Council were in open communication as to a site for the school, every likely spot in the area would immediately go up in price. Again, under the scheme set forth in the Bill, a Provisional Order would be necessary, and there would be a delay of twelve months. He had a list of 147 sites, which the School Board had chosen in London by private treaty, and, at a moderate estimate, a saving of £100,000 had been effected compared

with what these sites would have cost by public selection. Then, if the matter were left to the Borough Councils absolutely, the best site might not be selected for the purpose. A Borough Council which had an insanitary area to clear would naturally urge the Education Committee to build a school upon it, the result of which would be that the area would be cleared, and whatever rehousing was necessary would be done at the cost of the whole rates of the County of London, instead of out of the rates of the particular borough. That had actually been proposed by Stepney. All he asked was that the general authority responsible for putting a school on the best site should have complete control. A Borough Council might otherwise suggest that a school should be put in the front of a noisy thoroughfare in order that it might prove an adornment to the street. He thought he had made out a strong case for giving the County Council a veto on the site suggested by the Borough Council. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In Clause 3, page 2, line 1, to leave out Sub-section (2), and insert the words, 'It shall be the duty of the local education authority to consult the Borough Council in respect to the site to be chosen for the erection of any new public elementary school within the area of such Borough Council.'"

Question proposed, "That Sub-section 2 stand part of the clause."

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said there was no doubt that the change made on the first part of the clause must have some effect on the succeeding part. There were two Amendments on the Paper which he thought would cover the ground. The first was the Amendment just moved by the hon. Member for Camberwell, and the second was that which stood in the name of the hon. Member for Wiltshire. They had to deal with two sets of circumstances, the acquisition of sites by private treaty, and by compulsory purchase. He thought that he might accept the Amendment of the hon. Member for Camberwell in the following slightly altered form: "The site of any new public elementary school to be provided

by the local education authority shall not be determined upon until after consultation with the Council of the Metropolitan borough in which the proposed site is situated."

DR. MACNAMARA said he would agree to the form of the Amendment suggested by the hon. Baronet, and he asked leave to withdraw his own.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON formally moved the altered Amendment, which was agreed to.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON moved to add—

"And in case of compulsory purchase, if the Council of the Metropolitan Borough does not concur in the proposed compulsory acquisition, the Board of Education shall be empowered, as a condition of its approval of the Provisional Order, to require, if it thinks fit, the substitution in the Order of any other site proposed by the Council of the Metropolitan Borough for that inserted by the local education authority."

MR. BRYCE asked what was the existing practice. His impression was that under the existing system the Board of Education had power similar to that proposed, and that it did not interfere in such cases.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said the Board had such control over sites and prices.

Amendment agreed to, Sub-section 3 omitted from the clause.

Motion made and Question proposed, that Clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON thought it was necessary, in view of the position in which they were now placed, that a final appeal should be made to the Secretary to the Education Department to cut out the interposition of the Borough Councils and to leave the Bill a simple measure on the lines of the Act of last year. The great drawback which they still found in the Clause was that it contained, in a modified way, provision for the representation of the Borough Councils. He thought the proposal in the clause as it now stood might lead to friction. The Government

had given way in regard to the appointment of teachers, and on the question of sites. He hoped they would now consider whether it was worth while retaining the proposal with reference to the Borough Councils. He congratulated the hon. Baronet on having kept an open mind so that he was able to listen to the arguments on both sides. The result was that they had an Education Bill infinitely better than the one which had been introduced to the House.

*SIR MICHAEL FOSTER (London University) said he could only express his great satisfaction at the changes which had been made in the Bill in Committee. He ventured to say, on the Second Reading, that he dreaded plunging into the unknown, and that he did not understand the principle of the Bill. He was very glad to learn that in all fundamental features the principle of this Bill was the same as the principle of the Bill of last year. His experience of the last two days would encourage him on other occasions to plunge with courage into the unknown, hoping that the result would be as favourable as it had been on this occasion. He hoped that the Government would make the transformation complete by making the scheme for managers the same as in the principal Act.

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY (Yorkshire, W. R., Pudsey) said he desired to endorse what had been said with regard to the great improvements embodied in the Bill. He was certain that instead of being an unworkable measure, it would, in its transformed state, be a measure which bade fair to be satisfactory to all classes. He only regretted that the changes had not gone farther than they had in regard to the representation of the Metropolitan Borough Councils and the London County Council. It seemed to him if the hon. Baronet had been able to adopt the principle of half and half, which had been suggested from this side of the House, the compromise would have been satisfactory to all sections of opinion. He and others could have desired that the whole control of the work of education had been placed in the hands of the County Council. He hoped that when they reached the Report stage the hon. Baronet would see

his way to accept the proportion of half and half.

MR. BRYCE said after the changes which had been made, he thought it would be contrary to the general wish if they insisted on a division on the clause; but in saying that, he must not be understood to say that their objections to the proportion of managers to the new authority were at all removed. It would be their duty on the Report stage to give the House an opportunity of expressing their opinion on the question which had been raised.

Clause 3 agreed to.

Clause 4 (Modification of Principal Act) and Clause 5 (Commencement, repeal, and short title), the last clause of the Bill, were agreed to without discussion, the former with a verbal Amendment.

New clauses.

*THE CHAIRMAN said: In regard to the new clauses it appears to me that some are modifications and should go into the schedule and some are already provided for. Some are neither extensions nor adaptations of the Act of last year to London. Any alterations of the Act of 1902 which are not extensions or adaptations would be beyond the scope of this Bill. Therefore, as far as I can see, none of the new clauses would be in order, except, possibly, that standing in the name of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Aberdeen with respect to the inspection of books and documents.

MR. BRYCE moved the following new clause—

“(1) Every ratepayer in London may at any reasonable time, without payment, inspect and take copies of and extracts from all minutes of proceedings of the Education Committee or any Subcommittee thereof. (2) Any person who hinders a ratepayer from exercising any of his rights under this section, or demands a fee for allowing him to do so, shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a penalty not exceeding £5 for each such offence.”

He hoped the Government would have no difficulty in accepting this clause. It was obvious that a provision of this kind was necessary and only fair in the interest of the ratepayers. The section was similar to that in the Act of 1870. It was obvious that a provision of that kind was necessary. It was only fair in the interests of the London ratepayers that they should have an opportunity of ascertaining what was going on. Section 87 of the Act of 1870 provided that a ratepayer in any school district might at all reasonable times, without payment, inspect the books and copy extracts from documents, etc., and surely it was only right that the same privilege should be extended in this case.

New clause.

"(1) Every ratepayer in London may at any reasonable time, without payment, inspect and take copies of and extracts from all minutes of proceedings of the Education Committee or any sub-Committee thereof. (2) Any person who hinders a ratepayer from exercising any of his rights under this section, or demands a fee for allowing him to do so, shall be liable on summary conviction to a penalty not exceeding £5 for each such offence."—(*Mr. Bryce.*)

Brought up and read the first time.

Motion made and Question proposed,
"That the clause be read a second time."

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT quite agreed that the ratepayers should be protected by having this opportunity of getting information, but he saw a distinct danger in the words "or any Sub-committee thereof." For instance, a Sub-committee might be engaged on the purchase of sites, and it was most important that their proceedings should not be made public. In that respect, the words of this new clause differed from the Act of 1870, and he should, therefore, move the omission of these words.

*THE CHAIRMAN: That cannot be moved until the clause has been read a second time.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (MR. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.) also pointed out that the new clause varied from the Act of 1870, and he reminded

Mr. Bryce.

the Committee that this section was expressly excluded from the Act of last year, because it had been found inconvenient in practice. It would, if carried, throw an additional burden on the new authority, which, in his opinion, it ought not to be called upon to bear. He therefore hoped the Committee would not accept the clause.

MR. BRYCE said he quite understood the objection raised by the hon Member for South Islington, and would be prepared to assent to the omission of the words as suggested. He still held, however, that the ratepayers were entitled to know what was being done by the Education Committee, and to take extracts from the minutes of the proceedings.

*COLONEL WILLIAMS (Dorsetshire, West) asked whether it was at present open to any ratepayer to inspect the documents of any County Council on any subject. He did not see why there should be this right in regard to education if it did not exist in regard to county roads and so forth, and it seemed to him that if this right was given with respect to the Education Committee it must be extended to all the other County Council Committees—and that could not be desired.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS submitted that the proposal of his right hon. friend was absolutely sound; he had taken very nearly the words of the Act of 1870, only the words of that Act were more extensive. He quite agreed, however, that the proceedings of Sub-committees should not be open to everybody. Otherwise there was no object in appointing such Committees.

MR. YOXALL said nobody knew of a case where a County Council sat *in camera*. The proposal would be a safeguard to the ratepayers, although he did not think it ought to be extended to Sub-committees. He pointed out that the London Technical Education Board, which was to be replaced by the authority created by the Bill, had hitherto sat in private, and they had no guarantee at present that the new Education Committee would sit in public.

MR. CRIPPS (Lancashire, Stretford) thought it would be detrimental in many cases to have a power of this kind. After all, this Committee would not deal with local political questions.

MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe) said that in proportion as the Education Committees started with the wish to conceal nothing, the desire on the part of the ratepayers to exercise this power would diminish. He supported the new clause. Nothing had aroused more public interest in recent times than the education question, and he believed the Education Committee would best consult the feelings of those they represented by making their meetings entirely open. He heartily hoped the Government would accept the clause.

LORD EDMUND FITZMAURICE pointed out that it was only the minutes, and not the accounts and books, in respect of which this power was proposed. The clause would not give a ratepayer the right to overhaul the books of the authority at any moment he chose. He would only be entitled to see the minutes and take a copy of them if he desired. Most County Councils printed and circulated their minutes, so that this provision would probably be but seldom required, because the information was generally available. If it were a proposal to enable ratepayers to make a disturbance and overhaul the books in the manner suggested by the hon. Member for Dorset, he would strongly oppose it, but it was nothing of the kind. It simply provided that, where the minutes were not circulated, ratepayers should be able to go and make themselves acquainted with what was being done.

*MR. BULL (Hammersmith) said hon. Members opposite seemed very disinclined to trust the County Council. It was within his personal knowledge when Chairman on more than one Committee of that body, that the public interest on several specific occasions would have suffered by the proceedings becoming known before they were reported to the Council itself.

MR. M'KENNA (Monmouthshire, N.): reminded the hon. Member that the Education Committee would be

totally different from the existing Committees of the County Council. It would, in reality, be the School Board, and ought to be treated exactly as the School Board, was under the Act of 1870. The schedule of the Act of last year provided that minutes of the proceedings of the Education Committees should be kept in a book provided for the purpose, and all that this proposed new clause asked was that those minutes should be open to the inspection of the ratepayers. No one suggested that the public should have a right to inquire into the actions of an ordinary Committee of the County Council; it would be absurd to do so. But this proposal was a perfectly reasonable one, and ought to be accepted in the interests of the smooth working of the Bill.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS thought it strange the Government should object to this clause after their repeated assertions of the importance of the public taking an interest in the proceedings of the various Education Committees throughout the country. There was no suggestion here of the introduction of the Press, or anything of that sort. Unless the Government were prepared to say the proceedings ought not to be public at all—which would be tantamount to saying they wished to discourage the curiosity of the public in the matter—the clause ought to be read a second time. It would afterwards have to be considered in Committee, and if it was necessary to limit the right of the public in this respect the requisite Amendments could then be made. The Government ought really to make some statement on the matter.

MR. WALTER LONG said the right hon. and learned Gentleman was not justified in attacking the Government for not replying upon the Amendment. He had already stated they were not able or willing to accept this new clause, but there was no foundation for the allegation that that refusal meant that the Government were prepared to acquiesce in the proceedings of the local education authorities being transacted in private. Hon. Members opposite had frequently stated that they desired this Bill to be similar to the Act of 1902. That Act repealed the section of the 1870 Statute to which reference had been made, and expressly provided that

minutes should be kept. The London County Council was now the education authority under the Bill, with absolute power to direct and override the action of its Committee. Surely if hon. Members opposite could trust the London County Council with the whole educational administration they could trust them in this matter, as they had already trusted the local education authorities all over the country. He submitted that there was no justification for any departure from the Act of 1902, and he hoped the Committee would reject the clause.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton), who said he rose for the first time to support the right hon. Gentleman, could not conceive on what grounds the supporters of this proposal based their demand for the publication of the proceedings of the Committee. Everybody with any experience of such work knew that if the labours of a Committee were to be of any value they must be private.

DR. MACNAMARA said the section of the Act of 1870 which it was desired

to set up in this clause was repealed by a schedule to the Act of last year, which the Committee had no opportunity of discussing, and to which the strongest objection was taken. That being so, where was the force of throwing the Committee back on the Act of 1902? These bodies could not be considered as mere committees. If there were questions which in the public interest it was not desirable to publish, they could be considered privately, as was done now by sub-committees of the School Board. As this authority would have to deal with an expenditure of £4,000,000 of public money, and 20,000 public servants, it was essential that its proceedings should be open to the investigation of the ratepayers — particularly as the County Council, although able to do so, would not have the time to supervise the doings of the Committee.

Question put

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 103; Noes, 180. (Division List No. 106.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (*Rhondda*)
Allen, Chas. P. (*Glos., Stroud*)
Asher, Alexander
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbt. Hy.
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Black, Alexander William
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Brown, George M. (*Edinburgh*)
Byce, Right Hon. James
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Davies, M. Vaughan (*Cardig'n*)
Duncan, J. Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Ellis, John Edward
Evans, Sir F. H. (*Maidstone*)
Evans, Saml. T. (*Glamorgan*)
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*)
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton

Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard. B.
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristol, E.*)
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Hutton, Alfred E. (*Morley*)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, William (*Carmarvonsh.*)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (*Mon'm*)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (*Accrington*)
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
McCrae, George
McKenna, Reginald
McLaren, Sir Charles Benj.
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Morgan, J. Lloyd, (*Carmarthen*)
Morley, Charles (*Breconshire*)

Moss, Samuel
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (*Saffron Walden*)
Perks, Robert William
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Rigg, Richard
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
Schwann, Charles E.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (*Stafford*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Stevenson, Francis S.
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, David Alfred (*Merthyr*)
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Walton, J. Lawson (*Leeds, S.*)
Wason, Eugene (*Clackmannan*)

Mr. Walter Long.

Wason, John Cathcart (*Orkney*)
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
White, Patrick (*Meath, North*)
Whiteley, G. (*York, W. R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)

Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, O. (*Merioneth*)
Wilson, F. W. (*Norfolk, Mid*)
Wilson, H. J. (*York, W. R.*)
Wilson, J. W. (*Worcester, N.*)
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (*Huddersf d*)

Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AVES—Mr.
Herbert Gladstone and
Mr. William M'Arthur.

NOES.

Abraham, William (*Cork N. E.*)
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Ailhusen, Aug. Henry Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Right Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Austin, Sir John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Manch'r*)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (*Hornsey*)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch*)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Bill, Charles
Bond, Edward
Bowles, Col. H. F. (*Middlesex*)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brymer, William Ernest
Bull, William James
Burke, E. Haviland
Butcher, John George
Campbell, John (*Armagh, S.*)
Carlile, William Walter
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, R. F. (*N. Lancs.*)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*)
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (*Birm*)
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Colomb, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasgow*)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Lord
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davies, Sir H. D. (*Chatham*)
Denny, Colonel
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph C.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, Edmund B. (*Hants, W.*)
Faber, George Denison (*York*)

Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (*Manch'r*)
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Fyler, John Arthur
Garth, William
Gibbs, Hon. AGH (*City of Lond'n*)
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nairn*)
Gordon, Maj. Evans (*Tr. Hm'ts*)
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby (*Lincol*)
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
Gray, Ernest (*West Ham*)
Greene, Sir E. W. (*Bury St. Ed.*)
Greene, Hy. D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Grenfell, William Henry
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord G. (*Midd'x*)
Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashfd*)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Levertton
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, James (*Staffords, N. W.*)
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hobhouse, Rt. Hn. H. (*Somerset, E*)
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred
Johnstone, Heywood
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (*Denbigh*)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*)
Kerr, John
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks. N.R*)
Leamy, Edmund
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Lockwood, Lieut. -Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Chas. W. (*Evesham*)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S.*)
Lowe, Francis William
Macdonald, John Cumming
MacIver, David (*Liverpool*)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Killop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)
Malcolm, Ian
Maxwell, W. J. H. (*Dumfriesshire*)
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Milvain, Thomas

Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (*Hants.*)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robt. Jasper (*Shropshire*)
Morgan, David J. (*Walthamst'w*)
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (*Bute*)
Murray, Chas. J. (*Coventry*)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Nolan, Joseph (*Louth, S.*)
O'Brien, Patrick (*Kilkenny*)
O'Malley, William
O'Shee, James John
Pease, H. Pike (*Darlington*)
Peel, Hn. Wm. R. Wellesley
Pretymann, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Redmond, William (*Clare*)
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, W. W. (*Liverpool*)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
Seely, Chas. Hilton (*Lincoln*)
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford East*)
Smith, Jas. Parker (*Lanarks.*)
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Spencer, Sir E. (*W. Bromwich*)
Stanley, Hon. A. (*Ormskirk*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stock, James Henry
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (*Oxf'd Univ.*)
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tufnell, Lieut. -Col. Edward
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-und-Lyne*)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (*Dorset*)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir
Alexander Acland - Hood
and Mr. Anstruther.

MR. LOUGH moved the following
new clause, "That Sub-section 3 of Section
5 of the London Government Act of 1899

shall not apply to proceedings under
this Act." That sub-section enabled the
London County Council, with the consent

of the majority of the Borough Councils, to transfer all the duties which were conferred on them to the Borough Councils, with the approval of the Local Government Board. He thought such a power should not apply to the London County Council as the education authority of London. He asked the Secretary to the Board of Education whether, if this Sub-section were not repealed in the present Act, such a transfer as he had mentioned might take place. Perhaps the reply would be that the transfer might take place but the Local Government Board would first consult the Board of Education. That was not a satisfactory way of dealing with this great question of education. It was never contemplated when the Act was passed that this would apply to all the duties of the County Council. He begged to move.

New Clause—

"That Sub-section 3 of Section 5 of the London Government Act of 1899 shall not apply to proceedings under this Act."—
(*Mr. Lough.*)

Brought up and read the first time.

Motion made and Question proposed,
"That the Clause be read a second time."

MR. WALTER LONG said there was no serious risk that the London County Council would transfer their powers as the education authority to the Borough Councils. It was a fact that the County Council must first make the application, the majority of the boroughs must approve, and the Local Government Board can only carry out the transfer by a Provisional Order, to which the consent of Parliament must be given. At the same time, he would rather accept the Amendment than have any prolonged discussion about it.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said it would be necessary after what the right hon. Gentleman had said to discuss this question at short length, at any rate to discuss it sufficiently long to make the right hon. Gentleman give way.

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause read a second time.

Mr. Lough.

LORD EDMUND FITZMAURICE moved the following new clause standing in the name of the hon. Member for East Nottingham:—

New Clause—

"The local education authority shall, in accordance with a scheme or schemes made by such authority and approved by the Board of Education, appoint for all schools for blind, deaf, and defective children, and for central schools for drawing, manual training, and domestic subjects, provided by them, a body of managers, and shall delegate to such managers such powers and duties as may by such scheme or schemes be determined."—
(*Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice.*)

Brought up and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed,
"That the clause be read a second time."

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON was understood to say that schools for the blind, deaf, and defective children, would be placed in no different position than they were before, and he did not think the noble Lord's proposal was necessary.

MR. BRYCE thought it would be better if this point was settled in such a way as to leave no question about it. The Amendment of the hon. Member for South Manchester which had been accepted ran:—

"All public elementary provided schools within the area of each Metropolitan borough." The schools referred to were provided in schools within the area of some Metropolitan borough, and it appeared to him that those schools would fall within the provisions of Clause 3. Apparently there was a direction in the Bill that every school within the area of a Metropolitan borough should have its managers appointed in a particular way. The Government ought to make it plain that these special schools did not fall within Clause 3.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON appealed to the noble Lord not to press his Motion, and he would undertake to look into the matter and see what could be done on the Report stage.

LORD EDMUND FITZMAURICE said he thought that was a perfectly reasonable offer, and he would ask leave to withdraw his Motion.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS reminded the hon. Baronet that he had stated earlier in the evening that these schools required special treatment, and there was no doubt about the matter. Many of them were special schools, and it was plain that they were not contained within any particular borough, and should not be governed by any particular body of managers.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Schedule 1 omitted from the Bill.

Schedule 2.

*THE CHAIRMAN ruled out of order nearly three pages of Amendments, on the ground that taken together they would certainly not be modifications of the Act of 1902 specially applicable to London. They raised rather questions of principle. The Amendment of the hon. Member for Morley, which stood first, suggested that Section 1 should not apply. That would be quite contrary to Clause 1, which had already been agreed to. All the Amendments down to page 29 were out of order, because they raised questions which could not fairly be called modifications, and were really matters of principle.

MR. LOUGH said he hardly thought the Chairman's ruling could apply to line 31. Owing to the changes which had been made, he did not think that line was now either necessary or in order.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 31, omit paragraph A."—
(*Mr. Lough.*)

Motion made, and Question proposed,
"That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said it would be a most unfortunate thing if those words were left out, for they constituted a very useful power which could be very properly employed by the London County Council.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

* SIR WILLIAM ANSON moved as an Amendment to line 32 to insert the word "and" in order to strike it out in line 33.

Amendment proposed—

"To insert the word 'and' after the word 'council' in line 32 in order to strike it out in line 33."

Motion made and Question proposed,
"That the word be there inserted."

MR. SAMUEL EVANS said this seemed a very simple Amendment, but he would have understood it equally well if the word "or" had been substituted for the word "and." In a Court of law it had been held that the one word meant the other, a fact with which the hon. Baronet was doubtless familiar. They were in doubt on the matter and desired some further explanation. He believed that it would be found that out of the whole Bill not four lines of the original Bill then existed. In order to facilitate matters he suggested that Progress should be reported. He noticed a Scotch Member opposite who was apparently willing to sit, although he did not understand the Amendment. If the hon. Member would tell the Committee the exact effect of the insertion of the word "and" it might bring the matter to a conclusion.

COLONEL DENNY (Kilmarnock Burghs) retorted that he was waiting for the hon. Member to enlighten the Committee on the point.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS thought the hon. Baronet ought to give them some enlightenment. There had been so many modifications made in the Bill that they were in a most helpless condition. It would be very much better for the Government to discuss the schedule among themselves in order to see what principal parts of it were applicable to the Bill as it then stood. There would be nothing to do on the morrow, and he suggested that further consideration should be postponed.

MR. WALTER LONG observed that the suggestion was not altogether a reasonable one. The Amendment was

made upon the responsibility of the Minister in charge of the Bill as a consequential Amendment following the alterations made earlier in the day. His hon. friend had gone carefully through that part of the schedule with the draftsman, and this Amendment was proposed with a view to carrying out the Resolutions of the Committee.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS asked the right hon. Gentleman to explain the meaning of the Amendment to the Committee.

MR. WALTER LONG said if the hon. Member would give him notice, he would be pleased to explain the meaning.

MR. McKENNA found that the hon. Baronet's Amendment had nothing to do with the Amendment of the hon. Member for South Manchester. It was an afterthought which had been put on the Paper. The schedule provided that any persons who were, at the time of the passing of the Act, members liable to become disqualified, should not be disqualified within a certain time.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON pointed out that now the Borough Councils no longer appointed the teachers, the provision relating to disqualification was no longer necessary.

Amendment to insert "and" in line 32 agreed to.

*THE CHAIRMAN put the Amendment to strike out the word, "and" in line 33.

Amendment agreed to.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Morley) said he had an Amendment which had to deal with the clause relating to secondary education. He understood that with regard to the rate to be used for the purposes of secondary education county boroughs and the ordinary administrative counties were placed on a different basis. The county boroughs had escaped the statutory limit, but the administrative counties were limited to the twopenny rate except where, after consultation with the Board of Education, they received permission to levy a rate in excess of twopence. He

Mr. Walter Long.

believed the County Council of London came under the same characteristics as the ordinary administrative county and not as one of the county boroughs, and in regard to this limit for the rate for secondary education they were actually under the limit of the administrative county and had not the privileges accorded to a county borough. He had put down this Amendment in order that the County of London might have the privileges that had been extended to Liverpool, Leeds, Birmingham, and other towns which were regarded as sufficiently powerful to be allowed to have a free hand in regard to the application of their rate for secondary education. Those privileges ought to be accorded to London, which city ought not to have to go to the Board of Education to get permission to obtain the few hundreds or thousands of pounds that might be required in excess of the twopenny rate. He hoped the hon. Baronet would put London on the same line as the county boroughs. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 5, after the word 'to,' to insert the words 'consultation with the Board of Education and as to.'"—(*Mr. Alfred Hutton.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said the words of the Amendment referred to consultation with the Board of Education, but the hon. Member's speech was directed to the limit of the rate. That limit was removed in the case of the London County Council, which was placed in the position of a county borough.

MR. BRYCE thought the hon. Member was labouring under a misapprehension. This proposal was in no way a slur on the London County Council. His recollection of the history of the words "consultation with the Board of Education" was that they were intended as a stimulant to apply money for the purpose of education and not in any way as a restriction. If that were the case he did not see why the Board of Education should be struck out. It did not limit the power of the local authority, but merely gave the Board of Education an opportunity of expressing its views.

Amendment by leave, withdrawn.

*SIR JOSEPH DIMSDALE (London) said the object of the Amendment he desired to move was to make it quite clear that the schools in the city of London under the control of the Corporation and the Livery Guilds were to be left entirely untouched by the clauses of this Bill. It was considered possible that the Bill might enable the education authority to intervene with regard to these schools should inefficiency be alleged, and it would be possibly difficult for the governors to resist such an application. It was true that they had received assurances that the intention of this Bill was not to touch in any degree whatever, schools under the control either of the Corporation or the Livery Guilds, but those assurances could not be regarded with any amount of confidence, as past legislation has shewn—The City of London, when the Endowed Schools Act of 1869 was before Parliament, feared that Christ's Hospital might be affected by that Act, and they very strongly expressed their apprehension. They were assured by Mr. Forster that the Bill was not framed for the good schools—which were known and acknowledged to have been well managed—and that those schools had nothing to fear from the operation of the Bill, which had for its object the furtherance of good management. In spite of that explicit assurance, however, Christ's Hospital was dealt with under the Bill. Then, again, in the case of the Land Transfer Act of 1897, that Bill was opposed by the Corporation with a view to giving them a right of veto in the case of compulsion. In the House of Lords the Lord Chancellor said he was sure that the City of London must know extremely well that he should not be a party to any order affecting the Corporation without first consulting them and considering their wishes on the matter. Notwithstanding that assurance, the order was made applying the Land Transfer Act to the City of London, and that in direct opposition to their expressed views. It was obvious, therefore, that if there was the slightest shadow of doubt, they could not allow this Bill to pass without a protest. Inasmuch as the Bill contained hardly a line of the original measure, it was not asking too much for the Govern-

ment to back their assurance with a clause that would render beyond doubt the safety of those schools which were supported without rate aid, and were not in any way affected by party motives. These were some of the best schools in the Kingdom, and he wanted the Government, by accepting the Amendment, to back the assurance they had already given. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 6, at end, to insert the words 'the provisions of that section shall not be construed so as to enable the local education authority to compel the acceptance of the aid in that section referred to.'"—(*Sir Joseph Dimsdale.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON saw no reason for the hon. Member's anxiety, but if it would be satisfactory to make assurance doubly sure, he would not object to the Amendment.

MR. LOUGH, on a point of order, inquired whether this Sub-section was not a modification of the principle of the Act. The Chairman had ruled, with regard to certain new clauses submitted from that side of the House, that they could not advance as new clauses any modification of the principle of the Act. If the Government were now to entertain any new clauses he thought progress should be reported and an opportunity given to those desirous of putting down Amendments to the Schedule.

*THE CHAIRMAN said this Amendment did not appear to be any modification of the principle of the Act, or any extension of it, but only related to certain special schools belonging to the City of London.

MR. BRYCE pointed out that there was nothing in the Amendment particularly relating to schools in the City of London. He did not think they gathered from the hon. Baronet's speech to what particular schools he was afraid the Act would apply. Mention had been made of the Skinners' Schools and Christ's Hospital, but the former was at Tunbridge Wells and the latter was no longer domiciled in the City of London.

*SIR JOSEPH DIMSDALE explained that he only quoted two out of many schools under the jurisdiction and control of the City of London, and Livery Guilds which were subsidised from their funds. He only asked the House to put beyond all dispute the safety of those schools which were unaided by rates and which were supported by the Corporation or the City and Guilds of London.

MR. BRYCE said he was still in great darkness as to the meaning of the proposal. It appeared to him that the object was to prevent these schools getting the benefit they might otherwise get. Why it should be the object of the right hon. Gentleman or the City that that should be done he could not understand.

MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE said another serious objection to the insertion of these words was that they would throw considerable doubt on the interpretation of the original Act. The inference would be that without these words a local authority could compel acceptance of aid.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said he was under a misapprehension, thinking the hon. Member referred to elementary schools. It appeared, however, that he was referring to secondary schools, and his Amendment was quite unnecessary, because the power of a local authority would only extend so far as it conferred benefits, and acceptance of the benefit could not be compelled.

MR. CROOKS (Woolwich) said if the right hon. Baronet would tell the Committee exactly what schools the City wanted to include and exclude they might know where they were.

*SIR J. DIMSDALE said his Amendment included all schools that received no rate aid.

MR. CROOKS hoped the Committee would refuse to concede this point altogether. It appeared to him to be quite unreasonable.

MR. ALBAN GIBBS (London) said the hon. Baronet who was in charge of the Bill, and others, had stated that the Bill

already did what the Amendment asked, but the City was informed by its law advisers that it was not clear that it did so. The object of the Amendment was to make clear what was the expressed intention of the Government.

Amendment negatived.

MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.) moved to leave out lines 7 to 13 of Schedule 2, inclusive. He did not think there could be any doubt of the wisdom of incorporating in this Bill Sub-section 1 of Section 12 of last year's Act. The effect of that would be that the London County Council would have it in its power to group their schools according to what seemed to them wise. As he understood the changes in the Bill which had been introduced in the course of to-day's debate, the position of the managers in London would be precisely similar to the managers under the Act of last year. Therefore he opined that the provisions of Sub-head B of the first schedule of the Act of last year ought to apply to these managers. He hoped the Government would accept this Amendment because it was really consequential, except in one point, upon the changes made in the course of the debate. He asked the Secretary to the Board of Education to accept his Amendment so far as it related, at any rate, to grouping on the part of the Council. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed---

"In page 4 to leave out lines 7 to 13 inclusive."—(Mr. Channing.)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the schedule."

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said it was impossible to accept the Amendment as it stood. He suggested that the hon. Member should withdraw it in the meantime, and accept from him a promise that the matter of grouping would be carefully considered by him before the Report stage.

MR. BRYCE said he thought it would be better that this question should be left over till to-morrow.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON that he could not undertake to provide by to-morrow a scheme for grouping all the London schools. It would be better to wait until the Report stage.

MR. CHANNING asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CHANNING moved to omit from the Second Schedule lines 12 and 13—
“The provisions in the division headed B of the first Schedules to the principal Act shall not apply to the Council of a metropolitan borough.”

Amendment proposed—

“In page 4, to leave out lines 12 and 13.”

Amendment agreed to.

*SIR MICHAEL FOSTER moved: “In Schedule 2, page 4, line 14, at beginning, insert. ‘The provisions of the principal Act as to endowments shall be modified so as to provide that, where under the trusts or other provisions affecting any endowment the income thereof must be applied in whole or in part to educational purposes, it shall be the duty of the local education authority to prepare a scheme for the application of any income so applicable to educational purposes adapted to the needs of the parish or district concerned, and to submit such scheme for the approval of the Board of Education.’”

He wished to point out that, owing to the differences of rating in London, Clause 13 of the principal Act could not be applied as intended by that Act. Hence without some Amendment very large sums of money derived from endowments would be used in reducing the general rating instead of being employed with the greatest possible advantage in secondary and elementary education, in the foundation of scholarships, and the providing of special instruction. His suggestion was that the endowments should not be thrown into the general fund, so as to lower the ordinary cost of education, but should be retained for the special advantage of the particular classes for which the endowments were intended. In that way very material assistance would be afforded to

the educational development of London. He begged to move.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I think the hon. Member ought to put in some words limiting the Amendment to London. Otherwise it will be applicable to the whole country.

*SIR MICHAEL FOSTER said he would insert the words “in London” after “endowments.”

Amendment proposed.

“In page 4, line 14, at beginning, to insert the words ‘The provisions of the principal Act as to endowments in London shall be so modified as to provide that, where under the trusts or other provisions affecting any endowment the income thereof must be applied in whole or in part to educational purpose, it shall be the duty of the local education authority to prepare a scheme for the application of any income so applicable to educational purposes adapted to the needs of the parish or district concerned, and to submit such scheme for the approval of the Board of Education.’”
—(Sir M. Foster.)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

SIR WILLIAM ANSON said he thought the Committee would be ill-advised to modify the endowment clause. He quite appreciated the difficulty of applying the money in London to a particular parish. No doubt the endowments so far as they were applicable to the maintenance of elementary schools would be lost in the general fund for education in London; but if the endowment clause remained as it was the purposes of the charity would be adequately served. The money would be applied primarily to the maintenance of the school; and what was not required for that purpose would go to purposes desired by the hon. Gentleman. He thought it would be inadvisable to recast the endowment clause in the manner proposed, especially as the endowment clause of last year's Act was working, on the whole, more satisfactorily than hon. Members supposed.

MR. ERNEST GRAY said he thought his hon. friend was not accurate in his reading of the endowment clause. Was it not a fact that the portion of the endowment paid to the County Council was credited to the district in relief of

the poor rate? The change proposed would be a very important change indeed; because, instead of that portion of the endowment being lost in relief of the general rate of London, it would be available for educational purposes. The Amendment was an exceedingly important one, and he did not think that the answer of his hon. friend met the claim put forward. There was no need for diverting educational endowments in London to the relief of the local rates; and he therefore hoped the matter would receive the very close attention of the Government in order that the money might be earmarked for special scholarships and the dozen and one purposes for which the County Council could use it with advantage.

MR. BRYCE said that the subject was one of the greatest importance. Indeed, he did not know any question connected with the Bill of greater importance to the people of London. The endowments were numerous, and in some cases were very valuable; and there was the greatest need for their application to various educational purposes for the benefit of the people of London. For instance, they might be used for giving secondary instruction to promising boys from the Board Schools. The Secretary to the Board of Education had admitted that there was a *prima facie* case for dealing with the matter, and that the case of London was peculiar. The local education authority would be the authority for the whole of London; and would, therefore, be in a position to use the money for the purposes for which the pious founders intended it should be used. Otherwise the destination of the money would be the relief of the ratepayers; and he thought the pious founders never intended the endowment to benefit ratepayers both rich and poor. If the Secretary to the Board of Education thought it was too late that night to recast the clause, he suggested it should be left over until to-morrow. The opportunity of conferring a great benefit on education in London should not be lost, and he hoped the Government would take a more benevolent view of his hon. friend's Amendment, and carry out his admirable intention.

Mr. Ernest Gray.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said the matter required careful consideration, more, he thought, than would be available between then and the following afternoon; He suggested, therefore, that they should wait until the Report stage, when he would deal with it.

SIR MICHAEL FOSTER said on that understanding he would ask leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON formally moved—"In Schedule 2, page 4, line 14, to leave out paragraph 4."

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 14, to leave out paragraph 4."—(*Sir William Anson.*)

MR. SAMUEL EVANS asked if the constitution of the Education Committee was to be precisely the same as under Section 17 of the Act of last year.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON was understood to assent.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS said it would be found that the section would require a great deal of revision, and that some of its provisions would have to be struck out.

Amendment agreed to.

*MR. HALDANE proposed, as an Amendment, the addition of words at the end of line 39 to the effect that "where governors or managers were appointed by the local education authority on the governing body of an institution aided by grant from the local education authority, the qualifications required by the scheme or trust deed of the institution should not apply to such governors or managers." He thought it right that where the education authority appointed representatives on the Boards of Management of institutions aided from public funds, those representatives should not be subject like the other governors to the qualifications required by the trust deeds. The necessity for this had come under his notice in practice in several cases recently, and he hoped that the Government would be prepared to accept the Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 39, at end to add the words, 'Where governors or managers are appointed by the local education authority on the governing body of any institution aided by grant from the local education authority, the qualifications required by the scheme or trust deed of the institution shall not apply to such governors or managers.'"

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said he had some hesitation in accepting the Amendment, but he would do so subject to reconsideration on Report if the Government found it necessary to modify them.

Question put and agreed to.

DR. MACNAMARA moved to add at the end of the schedule a provision that there should always be at least six women on the Education Committee. He pointed out that this matter came up when the constitution of the Committee was under debate, and it was decided to leave it over until the schedule was reached. Although the Secretary to the Board of Education had been able to quote one case in the country where four women had been elected on the Education Committee, the fact remained that in the great bulk of the cases only one, or at the most two, had been appointed even on very large Education Committees. There was a general feeling on all sides of the House that there should be security for a due representation of women on the London education authority. He begged therefore to move.

Amendment proposed, after the last Amendment to add the words—

"There shall always be at least six women upon the Education Committee of the local education authority."—(*Dr. Macnamara.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said he felt it would not be desirable to fetter the discretion of the education authority, or to lead them in any way to think that Parliament doubted their ability to discharge the duties imposed upon them. He therefore hoped the hon. Gentleman would not press his Amendment.

MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE said that last year he moved an Amendment, which was accepted almost unanimously,

to secure the inclusion of women on every Education Committee. It was understood that woman would be interpreted in the plural, but the Secretary to the Board of Education had given a most restricted reading to it, and accepted it as only meaning one woman. That, no doubt, would be the interpretation put on it in the future, and the Board of Education would no doubt be content with insisting on a single woman—or rather one woman member—on the London education authority, unless this Amendment was carried. In his opinion they ought to secure that women had a substantial representation on the authority.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS pointed out that Education Committees throughout the country had not on them any considerable number of women. He held it was very important that they should have their place on the management of schools, but he thought that that could be secured by giving the Education Committee power to appoint them as managers; and it was not necessary that they should be on the Education Committee itself. It would be well to leave this matter in the discretion of the Education Committee.

*MR. CORRIE GRANT said they all were aware of the views of the last speaker in regard to the participation of women in politics generally, but he thought the arguments in favour of this Amendment were exceptionally strong. There were nine women serving on the London School Board, in addition to a very large number acting as managers of schools, many of whom would no doubt be willing to go forward on the Education Committee. As the electors themselves had chosen nine women, the Amendment would only be carrying out their expressed wishes. Education Committees throughout the country, by reason of the pressure put upon them to find places for men, had kept down the number of women members to the lowest possible point, and in view of the great necessity for the co-operation of women in the work of London education, he hoped the House would insist on the small minimum indicated in the Amendment, so as to secure that women

should have their fair and proper part in this great work.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton) said they had been endeavouring to make the new Education Committee as representative as possible of the people of London, and why should they not leave it to the Committee to say how many women should serve. At any rate, it might be left to the discretion of the Education Committee of the London County Council. The Committee ought not to interfere with the County Council in this matter. They might as well say that no man should be elected to that body unless he had six wives. He should oppose the Amendment as being contrary to all they had been fighting for up to the present.

MR. LOUGH thought that, as the Committee had admitted the principle that women should be appointed, some such Amendment as this ought to be accepted. There was a very strong case for the proposal with regard to London. In the interests of the large body of women teachers who would be controlled by the new authority, and of the immense number of girls who were taught subjects with which men had a very remote acquaintance, it was essential that the appointment of an adequate number of women should be secured.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 61; Noes, 124. (Division List No.107).

AYES.

Allen, Chas. P. (*Glos., Stroud*)
Allhusen, Aug. Henry Eden
Asher, Alexander
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (*Hornsey*)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch*)
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Bryce, Right Hon. James
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cremer, William Randal
Denny, Colonel
Ellis, John Edward
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gray, Ernest (*West Ham*)
Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E. (*Berwick*)
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harwood, George

Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hobhouse, Rt.HnH (*Somrst E*)
Holland, Sir William Henry.
Hutchinson, Dr. Chas. Fredk.
Jones, William; (*Carmarvonsh.*)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Levy, Maurice
Lough, Thomas
M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*)
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benj.
Mausfield, Horace Rendall
Morley, Charles (*Breconshire*)
Moss, Samuel
Pease, H. Pike (*Darlington*)
Pease, J. A. (*Saffron Walden*)
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Rigg, Richard

Roe, Sir Thomas
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
Shaw, Charles Edw. (*Stafford*)
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (*West of Unv*)
Thomas, A. (*Carmarthen, E.*)
Thomas, David Alfred (*Merthyr*)
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
Toulmin, George
Wason, J. Cathcart (*Orkney*)
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (*Norfolk*)
White, Luke, (*York, E. R.*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, F. W. (*Norfolk, Mid*)
Wilson, H. J. (*York, W. R.*)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Dr. Macnamara and Mr.
Corrie Grant.

NOES.

Abraham, W. (*Cork, N.E.*)
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Manch'r*)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bignold, Arthur
Black, Alexander William
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brymer, William Ernest
Burke, E. Haviland
Campbell, John (*Armagh, S.*)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*)
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Chamberlain, Rt Hon J (*Birm*)
Chamberlain, Rt.Hn J.A. (*Worc*)
Chapman, Edward
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.

Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Crossley, Sir Savile
Cullinan, J.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dickson, Charles Scott
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon A. Ralph Douglas
Evans, Samuel T. (*Glamorgan*)
Faber, E. B. (*Hants, W.*)
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
Forster, Henry William
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, Hn J E (*Elgin and N'n*)
Gordon, Maj Evans (*T'n H'mlet*)
Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim

Greene, W. Raymond (*Cambs.*)
Grenfell, William Henry
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hamilton, Rt Hn Ld.G. (*Midz*)
Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashf'd*)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, James (*Staffords. N. W.*)
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Kerr, John
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks. NR*)
Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S*)
Lowe, Francis William
Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*)
Macdona, John Cumming

Mr. Corrie Grant.

M'Killop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)
 Manners, Lord Cecil
 Markham, Arthur Basil
 Maxwell, W. J. H. (*Dumfriesshire*)
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
 More, Robt. Jasper (*Shropshire*)
 Morgan, David J. (*Walthamstow*)
 Mount, William Arthur
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (*Bute*)
 Murray, Chas. J. (*Coventry*)
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Nolan, Joseph (*Louth, S.*)
 O'Brien, Patrick (*Kilkenny*)
 O'Shee, James John
 Peel, Hn. Wm. R. Wellesley
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp

Pretymann, Ernest George
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Remnant, James Farquharson
 Ridley, Hn. M. W. (*Stalybridge*)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*)
 Rutherford, W. W. (*Liverpool*)
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
 Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
 Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, East*)
 Smith, James Parker (*Linarks.*)
 Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
 Stanley, Hon. A. (*Ormskirk*)
 Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
 Stock, James Henry

Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
 Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
 Valentia, Viscount
 Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
 Warde, Colonel C. E.
 Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
 Williams, Colonel R. (*Dorset*)
 Wilson, A. Stanley (*York, E. R.*)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir Alexander Acland-
 Hoodland Mr. Anstruther.

DR. MACNAMARA moved to add the proviso "The Education Committee of the local education authority should transact all its ordinary business in public." He could not leave this matter to the County Council, because it was not the practice of that body even to admit the Press to the meetings of the Technical Education Board. Under the Act of 1870 the ratepayers had a right to inspect documents and so forth. That right having been taken away by the Act of last year, the least they could do was to say that all the ordinary business of the Committee should be transacted in public. It might be said that so many personal and other delicate matters would have to be dealt with that it was inadvisable to pass the Amendment. His Amendment dealt with the conduct of all ordinary business. As they had taken away from the ratepayer the right to inspect documents, and as £4,000,000 was involved, the least they could do in London was to admit the Press and the public to the ordinary business of the Education Committee. If the argument was that

the reports of the Education Committee would all come before the County Council, when they could be revised in public, his reply would be that this work was so great that such reports could only come formally before the County Council, and could not form any real part of the debates. He begged to move the Amendment standing in his name.

Amendment proposed, after the last Amendment to add the words—

"The Education Committee of the local education authority shall transact all its ordinary business in public." — (*Dr. Macnamara.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

* SIR WILLIAM ANSON said that as the law stood at present every County Council could conduct its proceedings in public or in private as it pleased. He saw no reason why Parliament should give an instruction to the London County Council which it did not give to any other County Council.

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes 57; Noes 117. (Division List No. 108).

AYES.

Allen, Charles P. (*Glouc., Stroud*)
 Asher, Alexander
 Barran, Rowland Hirst
 Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
 Black, Alexander William
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Bryce, Right Hon. James
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Cremer, William Randal
 Ellis, John Edward
 Evans, Saml. T. (*Glamorgan*)
 Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Gray, Ernest (*West Ham*)
 Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
 Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
 Harwood, George

Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
 Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
 Helme, Norval Watson
 Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
 Jones, Wm. (*Carnarvonshire*)
 Lambert, George
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Levy, Maurice
 Lough, Thomas
 M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*)
 M'Crae, George
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 M'Laren, Sir Charles Benj.
 Mansfield, Horace Rendall
 Markham, Arthur Basil
 Morley, Charles (*Breconshire*)
 Moss, Samuel
 Pease, J. A. (*Saffron Walden*)
 Priestley, Arthur
 Rea, Russell

Remnant, James Farquharson
 Rigg, Richard
 Roe, Sir Thomas
 Russell, T. W.
 Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (*Stafford*)
 Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
 Thomas, A. (*Carmarthen, E.*)
 Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
 Toulmin, George
 Wason, J. Cathcart (*Orkney*)
 Weir, James Galloway
 White, George (*Norfolk*)
 White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Wilson, F. W. (*Norfolk, Mid*)
 Wilson, H. J. (*York, W. R.*)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Dr. Macnamara and Mr.
 Corrie Grant.

NOES.

Abraham, W. (*Cork, N.E.*)
 Allhusen, Augustus Henry Eden
 Anson, Sir William Keynell
 Arkwright, John Stanhope
 Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
 Arrol, Sir William
 Atkinson, Rt. Hn. John
 Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
 Bain, Colonel James Robert
 Baird, John George Alexander
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (*Manchester*)
 Balfour, Capt. C. B. (*Hornsey*)
 Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christchurch*)
 Banbury, Sir Frederick George
 Bignold, Arthur
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brymer, William Ernest
 Burke, E. Haviland
 Campbell, John (*Armagh, S.*)
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*)
 Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (*Birmingham*)
 Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A. (*Worcester*)
 Chapman, Edward
 Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Crossley, Sir Savile
 Dalkeith, Earl of
 Denny, Colonel
 Dickson, Charles Scott
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
 Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
 Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Faber, E. B. (*Hants, W.*)
 Fellowes, Hn. Ailwyn Edward
 Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes

Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
 Forster, Henry William
 Fyler, John Arthur
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
 Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin and Nairn*)
 Gordon, Maj Evans (*Tr. Hmcts*)
 Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
 Greene, W. Raymond (*Cambs*)
 Grenfell, William Henry
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Guthrie, Walter Murray
 Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Ld. G. (*Midx*)
 Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashfd*)
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Harris, Frederick Leverton
 Hay, Hon. Claude George
 Heath, James (*Staffs., N. W.*)
 Hobhouse, Rt. Hn. H. (*Somerset*)
 Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
 Kerr, John
 Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
 Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks. NR*)
 Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
 Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S.*)
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*)
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 McKillop, James (*Stirlingshire*)
 Manners, Lord Cecil
 Maxwell, W. J. H. (*Dumfriesshire*)
 Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
 More, Robt. Jasper (*Shropshire*)
 Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
 Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
 Mount, William Arthur
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (*Bute*)
 Murray, Chas. J. (*Coventry*)
 Nicol, Donald Ninian

Nolan, Joseph (*Louth, S.*)
 O'Brien, Patrick (*Kilkenny*)
 O'Shea, James John
 Peel, Hn. Wm. R. Wellesley
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Ridley, Hon. M. W. (*Stalybridge*)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
 Robertson, H. (*Hackney*)
 Roys, Clement Molyneux
 Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*)
 Rutherford, W. W. (*Liverpool*)
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
 Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
 Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, E.*)
 Smith, Jas. Parker (*Lanark.*)
 Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
 Stanley, Hon. A. (*Ormskirk*)
 Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
 Stock, James Henry
 Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
 Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
 Valentia, Viscount
 Walrand, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
 Warde, Colonel C. E.
 Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
 Williams, Colonel R. (*Dorset*)
 Wilson, A. Stanley (*York, E.R.*)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir Alexander Acland-
 Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Bill reported; as amended, to be considered upon Monday, 8th June, and to be printed. (Bill 216.)

MR. SAMUEL EVANS asked the Government if the Bill as it now stood would be printed. He thought as so many alterations had been made that this was necessary.

No reply was given.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. BRYCE enquired if it would be convenient for the First Lord of the Treasury to state the business to be taken on the morrow.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.) said he pro-

posed to take as the first business the Committee stage of the London Dock Bill. Next would follow the Committee stage of the Municipal Trading Bill, the Education (Borrowing) Bill, and the Railway (Electrical Powers) Bill. After that the House would consider the Report of Supply. The Motion for the Adjournment of the House over the holidays would be taken at the morning sitting on Thursday.

MR. LOUGH asked whether anything would be submitted before the holidays with relation to the Brussels Sugar Convention.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR replied that there was every intention to bear that question in mind.

Adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Two o'clock.

APPENDIX I.

PUBLIC BILLS

DEALT WITH IN VOLUME CXXII.

Those marked thus * are Government Bills. The figures in parentheses in the last column refer to the page in this volume. "[H.L.]" following title indicates that the Bill originated in the Lords.

(A.) HOUSE OF LORDS.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
Allotments (London) [H.L.]	<i>Earl Carrington</i>	Read 1 ^o 25th May (1615)
*Berwickshire County Town	<i>Lord Balfour of Burleigh</i>	Read 3 ^a and passed 7th May (5)
Betting [H.L.]	<i>Lord Davey</i>	Second Reading (defeated) 18th May (868)
Bishopric of Bristol [H.L.]	<i>Lord Archbishop of Canterbury</i>	Committee } 8th May (155) Report
Coal Mines (Certificates)		Read 1 ^a 14th May (656) Read 2 ^a 26th May (1760)
Divorce [H.L.]	<i>Earl Russell</i>	Read 1 ^a 12th May (408)
Ecclesiastical Commissioners [H.L.]	<i>Lord Archbishop of Canterbury</i>	Read 1 ^a 15th May (798) Read 2 ^a 19th May (1053) Committee } 22nd May (1502) Report Read 3 ^a and passed 26th May (1760)
*Electric Lighting (London)	<i>Lord Wolverton</i>	Report, Read 3 ^a and passed 26th May (1760)
*Justices of the Peace [H.L.]	<i>Lord Chancellor</i>	Read 1 ^a 14th May (656) Read 2 ^a 22nd May (1496)
Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, Amendment [H.L.]	<i>Lord Muskerry</i>	Read 1 ^a 18th May (868)
Musical Copyright [H.L.]	<i>Earl of Lytton</i>	Read 1 ^a 8th May (155) Read 2 ^a 19th May (1048) Committee 25th May (1614)
*Naval Forces	<i>Earl of Selborne</i>	Read 3 ^a and passed 7th May (5)
Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies)	<i>Lord James of Hereford</i>	Second Reading (defeated) 22nd May (1458)
Polling Arrangements (Par- liamentary Boroughs) [H.L.]	<i>Lord Ribblesdale</i>	Read 1 ^a 19th May (1047) Read 2 ^a 22nd May (1501) Committee 25th May (1614)

(A). HOUSE OF LORDS—continued.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
Polling Districts (County Councils) [H.L.]	<i>Lord Ribblesdale</i>	Read 1 ^a 18th May (868) Read 2 ^a 22nd May (1501) Committee 25th May (1614)
Prevention of Cruelty to Children (Amendment) [H.L.]	<i>Lord Alverstone</i>	Committee 19th May (1048)
*Statute Law Revision (Scotland) [H.L.]	<i>Lord Chancellor</i>	Read 2 ^o 22nd May (1497) Committee 26th May (1760)
*Supply of Electricity [H.L.]	<i>Lord Wolverton</i>	Read 1 ^o 26th May (1760)
Union of Benefices Act, 1860, Amendment [H.L.]	<i>Lord Archbishop of Canterbury</i>	Read 1 ^a 15th May (798) Read 2 ^a 19th May (1052) Committee 22nd May (1502)

(B.) HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
Addenbrook's Hospital	<i>Sir Richard Jebb</i>	Read 2 ^o 18th May (1043) Committee 19th May (1196)
Aged Pensioners	<i>Mr. Remnant</i>	Read 2 ^o 22nd May (1509)
*Bankers (Ireland) Act Repeal	<i>Mr. Atkinson</i>	Read 1 ^o 19th May (1096)
Church Discipline (No. 2.)	<i>Mr. Cripps</i>	Second Reading (adjourned) 12th May (502)
Coal Mines (Certificates)	<i>Mr. Samuel Evans</i>	Read 2 ^o 11th May (404) Committee Report Read 3 ^o and passed } 13th May (652)
Coal Mines Regulation	<i>Mr. Markham</i>	Second Reading (defeated) 15th May (808)
Cottage Homes	<i>Mr. John Hutton</i>	Read 1 ^o 19th May (1096)
*Education (Borrowing)	<i>Mr. Walter Long</i>	Read 2 ^o 12th May (468) Committee 13th May (619)
Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children)	<i>Mr. Cripps</i>	Read 1 ^o 25th May (1651)
*Finance	<i>Mr. Ritchie</i>	Read 1 ^o 13th May (619)
Housing of the Working Classes (Rural Districts)	<i>Sir Walter Foster</i>	Read 1 ^o 13th May (652)

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*Irish Land	<i>Mr. Wyndham</i>	Second Reading 7th May (38) (103)
Local Government Act (1888) Amendment	<i>Mr. Spear</i>	Read 1 ^o 26th May (1810)
Local Government Act (1888) Amendment (London)	<i>Mr. Herbert Robertson</i>	Read 1 ^o 26th May (1810)
*London Education	<i>Sir William Anson</i>	Committee 18th May (942) (1005) Committee 19th May (1097) (1161) Committee 20th May (1227) Committee 25th May (1651) (1712) Committee 26th May (1813) (1873)
*Marine Insurance [H.L.]	<i>Sir Robert Finlay</i>	Read 2 ^o 12th May (491) (492)
*Marine Store Dealers (Ireland)	<i>Mr. Atkinson</i>	Read 1 ^o 19th May (1096)
*Marriages Legalisation	<i>Mr. Cochrane</i>	Read 1 ^o 13th May (541)
*Port of London	<i>Mr. Gerald Balfour</i>	Read 2 ^o 13th May (541)
*Post Office Sites	<i>Mr. Austen Chamberlain</i>	Read 2 ^o 12th May (488)
Purchase of Land (England and Wales)	<i>Mr. Jesse Collings</i>	Read 1 ^o 11th May (313)
*Railways (Electrical Power)	<i>Mr. Gerald Balfour</i>	Read 2 ^o 12th May (474)
Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries	<i>Mr. Richard Cavendish</i>	Read 1 ^o 7th May (38)
Town Tenants (Ireland)	<i>Mr. Kendal O'Brien</i>	Second Reading (adjourned) 22nd May (1571)
Trade Disputes	<i>Mr. Shackleton</i>	Second Reading (defeated) 8th May (204)
Trustee Act (1893) Amend- ment (No. 2)	<i>Sir A. Henderson</i>	Read 1 ^o 21st May (1452)
Workmen's Compensation Act (1897) Amendment	<i>Mr. Joseph Walton</i>	Read 1 ^o 20th May (1226)
Workmen's Compensation Act (1897) Amendment (Seamen)	<i>Mr. Robson</i>	Read 1 ^o 7th May (38)

APPENDIX 11.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, SESSION 1903.

LIST OF RULES, ORDERS, &c., which have been presented during the Session, and are required by Statute to lie for an appointed number of Days upon the Table of the House.

[In continuation of List given in previous volume.]

Title of Paper.	Date from which the Period runs.	Period to lie upon the Table.
Education (Scotland) (Continuation Classes).—Copy of Code of Regulations for Continuation Classes providing further Instruction for those who have left School [35 and 36 Vic., c. 62, s. 67]	7 May	One month
Factory and Workshop Acts (Special Exception—Night Work).—Copy of Order, dated 4th May, 1903, made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department in pursuance of Section 54 (4) of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, amending and consolidating the Orders of the 16th November, 1895, and 22nd August, 1902, with regard to the employment at night of male young persons of the age of sixteen years and upwards [1 Edw. VII., c. 22, s. 126 (3)]	8 May	40 days
Railways (Certificates) (Yorkshire Dales Railway Company).—Copy of Draft Certificate of the Board of Trade authorising the Yorkshire Dales Railway Company to raise additional capital [27 and 28 Vic., c. 120, s. 14]	12 May	6 weeks
Railways (Certificates) (London and South Western Railway Company).—Copy of Draft Certificate of the Board of Trade authorising the construction of a Railway across the Western Shore Road, Southampton, to form a connection between a siding of the London and South Western Railway and the electric generating station belonging to the Corporation of Southampton [27 and 28 Vic., c. 120, s. 14]	14 May	6 weeks
Intermediate Education (Ireland).—Copy of Rules and Programme of Examinations for 1904 [41 and 42 Vic., c. 66, s. 6]	14 May	40 days
University of London Act, 1898.—Copy of Amendment of Section 113 of the Statutes of the University of London [61 and 62 Vic., c. 62, s. 5 (1)]	15 May	40 days
Universities (Scotland) Act, 1889 (Ordinance).—Copy of University Court Ordinance No. VIII. (Glasgow, No. 3) (Foundation of Professorship of Geology, and for other purposes) [52 and 53 Vic., c. 55, s. 20]	15 May	12 weeks
Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877 (Oxford).—Copy of Statute made by the Governing Body of Wadham College, Oxford, on 6th February, 1903, amending Clause 1 of Statute VI. of the Statutes of the College [25 and 26 Vic., c. 26, s. 7]	18 May	12 weeks

APPENDIX II—*continued.*

Title of Paper.	Date from which the Period runs.	Period to lie upon the Table.
Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877 (Oxford).—Copy of Statute made by the Governing Body of Exeter College, Oxford, on 12th December, 1902, amending Statutes III. and XV. of the Statutes of the College [25 and 26 Vic., c. 26, s. 7]	18 May	12 weeks
Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877 (Cambridge).—Copy of Statutes made by the Governing Body of King's College, Cambridge, on 19th December, 1902, amending the College Statutes [40 and 41 Vic., c. 48, s. 50]	18 May	12 weeks
Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877 (Cambridge).—Copy of Statutes made by the Governing Body of Trinity College, Cambridge, on 31st May 1902, amending the Statutes of the College [40 and 41 Vic., c. 48, s. 50]	18 May	12 weeks
College Charter Act, 1871 (Owen's College, Manchester, and University College, Liverpool).—Copies of Applications received from Owen's College, Manchester, and University College, Liverpool, for the establishment of Universities in those Cities, which were referred by His Majesty in Council for the Consideration and Report of a Committee of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council; together with Copies of the Drafts of the Charters applied for [34 and 35 Vic., c. 63, s. 2]	26 May	30 days

INDEX

TO THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[AUTHORISED EDITION].

FIFTH VOLUME OF SESSION 1903.

MAY 7—MAY 26.

EXPLANATION OF ARRANGEMENT AND ABBREVIATIONS. •

Bills: Read First, Second, or Third Time = 1R., 2R., 3R. [c.] = Commons. [L.] = Lords.
Amendt. = Amendment. *Os.* = Observations. *Qs.* = Questions. *As.* = Answers.
Com. = Committee. *Con.* = Consideration. Where in the Index * is added with
 Reading of a Bill, or a Vote in Committee of Supply, it indicates that no Debate took
 place on that Stage of the Bill, or on that Vote. Subjects discussed in Committee
 of Supply are entered under their headings, and also under Members' Names, without
 reference to the actual Vote before the Committee.

Aberdeen

see Scotland.

Abolition of Offices

Compensation—Principle and Scale of
 Awards.

Q. Sir T. Roe; *A.* Mr. W. Long, *May*
18, 916.

Abraham, Mr. William [Glamorganshire, Rhondda]

Coal Mines Regulation Bill, *May 15*, 818.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A.—*Parliamentary Secretary of the Treasury*—[Somerset- shire, Wellington]

Votes—Arrangement of order of, *May 21*,
 1365.

Addenbrooke's Hospital Bill

c. 2R.* *Com.* May 18*, 1043.

Con. in Com. May 19*, 1196.

Rep. May 19*, 1196.

Aden

Dublin Fusiliers—Detention of.

Q. Mr. C. Hobhouse; *A.* Lord G.
 Hamilton, *May 26*, 1788.

Ad Hoc Authority

see London Education Bill.

Admiralty

Exhibits at Manchester and Leeds Exhi-
 bition—Government loans not
 returned, Character of promoter of
 Exhibition, etc.

Qs. Captain Norton; *As.* Mr.
 Arnold-Forster, *May 13*, 534.

Africa, Central

British Protectorate—Report respecting
 Anglo-Congolese Frontier and circum-
 stances attending arrest of the late
 M. Rabinek, presented, *May 19*,
 1047, 1082.

Africa, South

Barracks, Cost of—Erection of, By whom
 borne, etc.

Q. Mr. Black; *A.* Mr. Brodrick,
May 25, 1631.

British Garrison—Establishment and Cost
 in 1893 and 1903.

Q. Mr. Black; *A.* Mr. Brodrick,
May 21, 1345.

British Indian Subjects—Revival of Re-
 strictions on.

Q. Mr. H. Roberts; *A.* Mr. J.
 Chamberlain, *May 21*, 1347.

Mines—Rand Mine Owners—Difficulty of
 obtaining native Labour—Proposal to
 obtain Kaffir Labour by means of in-
 creased wages.

Q. Mr. B. Roberts; *A.* Mr. J.
 Chamberlain, *May 20*, 1208.

Mounted Infantry Battalions, Number of
 —Maintenance of Strength.

Q. Mr. C. Hobhouse; *A.* Mr.
 Brodrick, *May 26*, 1798.

Railway Transport of Troops, Inadequacy
 of—Improvement proposed.

Q. Mr. Flower; *A.* Mr. Brodrick,
May 18, 919.

South African Garrison—Facilities for
 Discussion of.

Qs. Mr. Beckett; *As.* Mr. A. J.
 Balfour, *May 11*, 310.

May 7—May 26.

Aged Pensioners Bill*Debate on 2R. [H.C.], May 29, 1509.*

Age Limit—Question of, 1544.

Denmark — Working of Pension System in, 1539.

Finance.

Cost of Scheme, 1513, 1519, 1523, 1525, 1539, 1542, 1553, 1556, 1559, 1562.

Rates—Contribution from, 1514, 1520, 1524, 1527, 1567.

State Contribution, 1523, 1527, 1567.

Fraud—Prevention of, 1512, 1534.

Friendly Societies—Position of, 1511, 1521, 1530.

Guardians—Information supplied by, 1512, 1517, 1556.

Ireland—Application of Bill to, 1535.

Local Government Board—Action of, 1512, 1516, 1544, 1566.

Parish Relief — Number receiving, 1510.

Pauperism—Increase of, 1510, 1516, 1521, 1536.

Pensions Committee—Constitution of, 1512, 1534.

Poor Law—Limitations and Previous Scope, 1516, 1520, 1531, 1533, 1555, 1570.

Post Office—Pensions paid through, 1511.

Royal Commission's Reports, 1510, 1527, 1531, 1558.

Thrift—Evidence of, 1510, 1517, 1528.
Workmen's Compensation Act—Effect of, 1532, 1555.

c. 2R., May 22, 1571.

Agnew, Sir A. [Edinburgh, S.]

Holyrood Palace—Additions to, proposed, May 20, 1201.

Agricultural Labourers*see* Workmen's Compensation Act.**Agricultural Produce**Carriage of, *see* Post Office.**Agriculture, Board of***President*—Earl of Onslow.

Intelligence Department—Annual Report of Proceedings Presented, May 25, 1576, 1620.

Aiyanger, Sir Bhashyam

Continuation in Office, after receiving pension—Reason for.

Q. Mr. H. C. Richards; A. Lord G. Hamilton, May 14, 675.

Alien Immigration

Measures for Prevention of increase in number of Alien Immigrants from Russia in East London—Number of Immigrants on German Line, etc.

Q. Sir H. Vincent; A. Mr. G. Balfour, May 25, 1621.

Allan, Sir William [Gateshead]

Belleville Boilers, Loss of the Government on—Deficiencies in the Boilers—Sale of Vessels at a loss—Expenditure on the Royal Yacht — Badly designed Cruisers, May 14, 758.

Boiler Explosion at Birmingham—Inquiry into cause of, proposed, May 20, 1210.

“Furious,” H.M.S. — Repairs, Nature of Estimated Cost, etc., May 20, 1210.

Naval Vote—Reasons for increase on, May 14, 739.

Allen, Mr. Charles [Gloucestershire, Stroud]London Education Bill (*Committee*), May 19, 1118.**Allotments (London) Bill**

l. 1R., May 25, 1615.

All Saints, Poplar (Rate Abolition), Bill [Lords] (By Order)*Debate on 2R. [H.C.] May 21, 1439.*

Borough Councils, Attitude of the, 1445.

Ecclesiastical Commission — Alleged extortions by, 1439, 1442, 1444.

Free Churches—Probable action of, 1440.

Nonconformists—Position of, 1439.

Perpetuation of Rates—Bill regarded as, 1439.

Vestry—Collection of Rates by, 1440.

c. 2R. May 21, 1445.

Altmore, Tyrone

Land Acts—Tenants debarred from benefiting by, by Reversionary leases—Provision in Land Bill for purchase of farms proposed.

Q. Mr. Doogan; A. Mr. Wyndham, May 7, 33.

Alverstone, Lord

Prevention of Cruelty to Children (Amendment) Bill [H.L.], May 19, 1048.

America*see* United States of America.**Animals**

Injured Animals, Destruction of, by Police without permission of owner.

Q. Sir Barrington Simeon; A. Mr. Akers Douglas, May 14, 672.

Prevention of Cruelty to Wild Animals. *see* that title.

Vivisection—Number of experiments performed under Licences in 1902—Address for Return, May 26, 1787.

Anson, Sir William—Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education [Oxford University]

Church Training Colleges—Relation of to Local Education Authorities, etc., May 12, 414.

May 7—May 26.

Anson, Sir William—cont.

Education Department—Resignation of Mr. Sadler—Circumstances leading to, *May 14*, 694.

Elementary School Buildings, Condition of—Surveyor's Reports—Instructions to Surveyors, *May 20*, 1215.

Finance—Application of balances in hand of Voluntary School Associations and Managers—Provision for, in Education Act, 1902, *May 26*, 1804.

Grants.

Education Aid Grant—Application of, for repairs of School Houses, *May 20*, 1216.

Evening Continuation School Grants—Non-provided Evening Schools—Payment of Grants by Board of Education.

Voluntary Schools Aid Grant.

Date of payment of—Auditing of Accounts—Application of Grant, etc., *May 18*, 930.

Payment of, to individual schools or governing bodies, *May 18*, 930.

Holland County Council Education Scheme—Objections to scheme from Spalding and Sutton Bridge Urban Councils—Non-representation of Districts on the Authority, *May 26*, 1805.

Holland (Lincolnshire) Education Committee, Composition of—Inability of Board of Education to deal with representation, *May 20*, 1215.

Lindsey (Lincolnshire) Education Committee—Action of, with regard to estimates—No evidence of failure of Committee, *May 20*, 1215.

Local Education Authorities and Board of Education—Requisites of a scheme—Duties of the Board in respect of such scheme, *May 18*, 918.

London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May 18*, 947, 962, 964, 966, 983, 1003, 1018, 1034; *May 19*, 1097, 1101, 1145, 1164, 1169; *May 20*, 1259, 1269, 1271, 1279, 1282; *May 25*, 1675, 1678, 1685, 1696, 1706, 1711, 1731; *May 26*, 1817, 1826, 1848, 1850, 1851, 1862, 1864, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1896, 1897, 1899, 1900, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1908, 1909, 1914.

London Education Bill.

Application of provisions as to appointment of managers and control by local authority—Consideration of particular cases by the Board, *May 26*, 1793.

Provision of Local Government Act for transfer of Powers of County Council to Borough Council—No danger of application of provision, *May 12*, 422.

Newport (Mon.) County Council's Education Scheme, Position of Affairs with regard to—Inquiry proposed, *May 7*, 29; *May 14*, 677.

Anson, Sir William—cont.

Northumberland County Council Education Committee—Exclusion of the Press from Meetings of, *May 18*, 929.

Voluntary Schools.

Repair of—Provision for, in Education Act, 1902, *May 25*, 1642.

Transfer of.

Application of Section 8 of Education Act to cases of, *May 14*, 677.

Public Notification of Transfer—Body required to give such Notification, *May 11*, 291.

Anstruther, Mr. H. T.—Lord of the Treasury
[St. Andrews Burghs]

Royal Edinburgh Asylum, Overcrowding and Disease in—Improvement with regard to, *May 11*, 304.

Argentina

Cattle Importation—Contagious Disease among Cattle, Cause of—Area affected—Effect upon Live Cattle Exports, etc.

Q. Mr. Schwann; A. Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes, *May 25*, 1639.

Army

Annual General Return, Presented, *May 18*, 867, 913.

Army Corps—Strength of First, Second, Third and Fourth Army Corps.

Return relative to, Date of Issue.

Qs. Mr. W. Churchill; As. Mr. Brodrick, *May 7*, 21.

Return Presented, *May 18*, 867, 913.

Blankets Infected with Disease.

Regulations with regard to Sale of Army Goods—Steps for Prevention of Spread of Disease.

Q. Captain Norton; A. Mr. Brodrick, *May 25*, 1630.

Sale of, to Training Ship—"Cornwall"—Recall of all such Blankets, proposed.

Q. Sir T. Dewar; A. Mr. Brodrick, *May 25*, 1630.

Cadet Corps—Application of Headmaster of Grocers' Company School for recognition of School Battalion as a non-uniformed Cadet Corps.

Q. Earl of Meath; A. Earl of Hardwicke, *May 26*, 1761.

Canteens and Regimental Institutes.

Evidence of Committee, Presented, *May 7*, 5; *May 8*, 198.

Report of Committee—Date of Circulation.

Qs. Mr. Nolan and Mr. Weir; As. Mr. Brodrick, *May 11*, 296; *May 13*, 534.

Chaplains—Established and Free Church of Scotland—Number, names, stations of—Ministers of.

Q. Mr. Harmsworth; A. Mr. Brodrick, *May 11*, 296.

[cont.]

May 7—May 26.

Army—cont.

Commissions—Return Presented, *May 8*, 199; *May 11*, 285.

Discharges—Case of Peter Harvey.
Q. Mr. J. P. Farrell; A. Mr. Brodrick, *May 21*, 1340.

Emoluments of Reserve Officers, *see* sub-heading Reserve.

Guns—Useless guns, Disposal of—Number of guns thrown into sea.
Q. Mr. C. Hobhouse; A. Mr. Brodrick, *May 12*, 419.

Irish garrison, Supply of Brushes for use of—Value of Contract.
Q. Mr. Nannetti; A. Mr. Brodrick, *May 14*, 681.

Military Manœuvres Act.
O. *May 11*, 281.

Military Works and Stores—Return Presented, *May 8*, 199.

Military Works—Estimate of Expenditure under Military Works Act, Copy Presented, *May 8*, 198; *May 11*, 271; *May 11*, 285.

Mounted Infantry in South Africa—Number of Battalions—Maintenance of strength.
Q. Mr. C. Hobhouse; A. Mr. Brodrick, *May 26*, 1798.

Pensions—Return of specially granted Pensions, Presented, *May 13*, 527; *May 14*, 655.

Promotions.

Address for Return, *May 25*, 1621.

Grant of Return.

Q. Major Evans Gordon; A. Mr. Brodrick, *May 21*, 1342.

Regimental Canteens—Adoption of Committee's Recommendations.

Q. Earl of Camperdown; A. Earl of Hardwicke, *May 25*, 1613.

Reserve—Emoluments of Officers—*Debate* [H.L.] *May 11*, 277.

Scots Fusiliers—Officers' Uniforms, Cost of Alterations.

Q. Mr. C. Wason; A. Mr. Brodrick, *May 19*, 1091.

Second Dublin Fusiliers—Prolonged Foreign Service—Home Service, proposed.

Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; A. Mr. Brodrick, *May 8*, 203.

Army Guild of the Holy Standard

Members of, among Army Chaplains, Number of.

Q. Mr. Sloan; A. Mr. Brodrick, *May 14*, 682.

Arnold-Forster, Mr. H. O.—Secretary to the Admiralty [Belfast, W.]

Admiralty Exhibits at Manchester and Leeds Exhibition—Government Loans not Returned—Insurance of Missing Exhibits, etc., *May 13*, 534.

Ammunition.

Expenditure—Report called for, *May 13*, 535.

Arnold-Forster, Mr. H. O.—cont.,**Ammunition—cont.**

Practice Ammunition for the Navy—Alterations in Regulations governing Supply, *May 14*, 669, 684.

Armaments, Proposed European reduction of—Reasons for Increase in the Navy Estimates—Comparison of Naval Strength and Expenditure with those of other Powers, *May 14*, 716, 742, 749, 755.

Boilers.

Expenditure on, for new Ships—Amount of Coal consumed—Construction of new Cruisers—Use of Cylindrical Boilers—Answer to remarks and criticisms, *May 14*, 763, 766, 782, 788, 789, 795.

Explosion at Birmingham—Inquiry into Cause of Explosion to be held, *May 20*, 1210.

"Canopus," H.M.S.—Boiler Repairs, Extent and Cost of, *May 11*, 290.

Coal—Stored Coal, Deterioration of, Experiments directed towards prevention of, etc., *May 14*, 686.

County Class of Vessels—Treatment of Irish dockyards—Use of turbine engines, *May 14*, 795.

County Cruisers—Speed Tests, Number of vessels passed, *May 14*, 671.

"Crescent," H.M.S.—Repairs, Delay in execution of, *May 8*, 199.

Cretan Operations—No Medal to be granted for, *May 14*, 683.

"Furious," H.M.S.—Repairs, Nature of, Estimated Cost, etc., *May 20*, 1210.

Gunnery.

Annual publication of list of Ships in order of Gunnery Efficiency—No alteration in Prize-system contemplated, *May 26*, 1799.

Defective Sights—Shooting Returns affected by, Number of, etc., *May 14*, 671.

Inefficiency of, as shown in Returns of Prize-firing—Action of Admiralty, *May 14*, 685.

Returns, Examination of—Importance of good Gunnery acknowledged by the Service, *May 18*, 925.

Mediterranean Fleet.

Alleged waste of Ammunition—Report on, not yet received, *May 25*, 1632.

Gunnery in—Return of comparative merit of shooting efficiency in ships of Mediterranean Fleet, not to be granted, *May 14*, 683.

Navy List—Entrance of names of Officers—Method of arrangement, *May 11*, 287.

[cont.]

May 7—May 26.

Arnold-Forster, Mr. H. O.—cont.

"Ocean," H.M.S. — Repairs to Boilers, Nature of, *May 14*, 670.

Sea Police—Duties of H.M.S. "Seamew," "Speedwell," and "Cockchafer," Area patrolled, *May 14*, 674.

Arsenical Poisoning

Royal Commission Report—Date of issue of final Report.

Q. Sir C. Quilter ; A. Mr. W. Long, *May 11*, 290.

Arundel Port

Annual Report and Account Presented, *May 8*, 154 ; *May 8*, 199.

Ashbourne Acts

see Irish Land Bill.

Ashton, Mr. T. G. [Bedfordshire, Luton]

Insurance — Advisability of extending system of reductions with regard to premiums, *May 13*, 617.

Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H. [Fifeshire, E.]

London Education Bill, *May 20*, 1239.

Trade Disputes Bill, *May 8*, 231.

Workmen's Compensation Act, *May 13*, 650.

Aston Manor Improvement Bill

l. Com. May 14*, 653.

Rep. May 22*, 1454.

3R. May 26*, 1750.

c. 1R. May 26*, 1784.

Atherley-Jones, Mr. L. [Durham, N.W.]

Irish Land Bill, *May 7*, 38.

Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John—Attorney-General for Ireland [Londonderry, N.]

Agricultural and Technical Instruction in Leitrim—Levy of Rate by County Council for purposes of, Amount levied — Amount received from Department, etc., *May 11*, 291.

Belfast Constabulary and Motor Cyclists — Demand of names and occupations of Motor Cyclists — Reason for, *May 11*, 307.

Belfast general Valuation—No intention of postponing Valuation, *May 12*, 416.

Blacksod Pier, Extension—Inclusion of, in schemes to be assisted by Equivalent Grants, *May 11*, 295.

Congested Districts Board, Ireland, Working of — Number of formerly Congested Districts no longer answering to Definition, *May 13*, 538.

Coonana Pier, Repair of, *May 11*, 306.

Cooscrum Fishing Station—No improvements to be carried out, *May 11*, 306.

Cork Model Schools.

Accommodation — Average daily attendance — Cost, etc., *May 14*, 695.

Dispute between Technical Instruction Committee and Commissioners of National Education, *May 14*, 696.

Atkinson, Rt. Hon John—cont.

Deaf, Dumb, and Blind Institutions — Consideration of Claims of, in Development Grant Bill, *May 11*, 308.

Dromore Labourers' Cottages, Delay in erection of, *May 14*, 698.

Eviction on Warden Estate—Case of Mr. Sheehan, *May 11*, 305.

Gun Licences, Refusal of—Case of J. Galvin, Kilnamona, County Clare, *May 11*, 306.

Irish Electoral Divisions—Grant of Return subject to its amendment, *May 14*, 699.

Irish Land Bill.

Leases over Ninety-nine years—Advances to tenants holding such leases under Land Bill — No alteration of law proposed, *May 11*, 293.

Repurchase of Estates, Conditions of, under Bill, *May 26*, 1793.

Justices of the Peace convicted under the Crimes Act (Ireland)—Proposed removal of disqualifications, *May 14*, 698.

Land Act, 1896—Holdings under Section 36, Number of, *May 11*, 293.

Listowel Union Accounts—Investigation into conduct of Auditor, *May 12*, 424.

National Schools.

Equipments—Provision of, by Board of National Education, *May 13*, 538.

Inspectors' Reports.

Date of sending Reports for 1901 to Board of Education, *May 11*, 307.

Publication of, in abbreviated form, *May 13*, 537.

Repair of Schools damaged by Storms — Body responsible for repair, *May 12*, 423.

Poor Law Superannuation (Ireland) Bill—Alterations in, *May 14*, 679.

Registration of Titles, Ireland—Rights conferred on Solicitors by order of December, 1892, with regard to searches, *May 15*, 807.

Rent Appeals at Kilbaylet, Kilcoagh, etc. — No date fixed for hearing of, *May 11*, 308.

St. Louis Exhibition—Exhibit of Irish Industries, *May 13*, 537.

Sligo Police Barracks—Ownership of land, no further inquiries as to, or extension of barracks, in contemplation, *May 14*, 678.

Strabane Labourers' Cottages.

Delay in erection of, cause of, *May 11*, 294.

Loan Fund Appeal for erection of—No formal application made to Board, *May 11*, 294.

[cont.]

May 7—May 26.

Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John—cont.

Sub-Sanitary Officers, Ireland—Salaries of, Grant of Return relative to, *May 11*, 295.

Trinity College Leases—Treatment of portion of land held under a Trinity College perpetuity lease as a separate estate for purposes of sale, *May 18*, 931.

Ulster and Connaught Light Railways Bill, *May 14*, 764.

United Irish League Meetings at Birr—Supervision of the Police, *May 11*, 306.

Valuation of Licensed Premises in Ireland, Raising of—Case of Mrs. Lowe, *May 14*, 679.

Atlantic Shipping Combination

Agreement, details of—Fixing of date for promised discussion, etc.

Qs. Mr. G. Bowles; As. Mr. A. J. Balfour, *May 18*, 938.

Attorney-General.

Fees for last twelve months.

Q. Mr. Whitley; A. Mr. A. Elliot, *May 20*, 1204.

Australian Commonwealth

Constitutional Relations of, in regard to external affairs, Correspondence Presented, *May 19*, 1347, 1083.

Vondel Case—Despatch dealing with Arguments of South Australian Government in the Vondel Case—Laying on Table of.

Q. Sir C. Dilke; A. Mr. J. Chamberlain, *May 11*, 297.

Bakehouses

Underground Bakehouses—Refusal of Certificates to Tenants of—Introduction of Bill dealing with Compensation, proposed.

Q. Dr. Shipman; A. Mr. Akers Douglas, *May 13*, 529.

Baker Street and Waterloo Railway (Extension of Time) Bill

c. 2R* Com.* *May 25*, 1617.

Baker Street and Waterloo Railway (Transfer) Bill

Rep.* *May 14*, 666.

con.* *May 25*, 1617.

Balcarres, Lord [Lancashire, Chorley]

Old Bridewell Burying Ground Bill, *May 11*, 376.

Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J.—Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury [Manchester, E.]

Anglo-French Relations—Conclusion of Permanent Treaty of Conciliation between France and Great Britain—Resolutions of Chambers of Commerce with regard to, *May 11*, 309.

Atlantic Shipping Combine Agreement—Impossibility of fixing date for promised discussion, *May 18*, 938.

Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J.—cont.

Church Discipline (No. 2) Bill, *May 12*, 514.

Company Law—Defects in Law as disclosed by the Whitaker Wright Case—Bill dealing with Defects of Law postponed until after Decision of Case, *May 21*, 1356.

Congo Free State, *May 20*, 1326.

Constabulary—Vote for Royal Irish, Arrangement for taking of, at early date, *May 12*, 424.

“Discovery,” Relief of—Government willing to contribute towards Expenses of Relief Party, *May 26*, 1807.

Ecclesiastical Courts—Procedure and Constitution—Impossibility of dealing with improvement of, in near future, *May 11*, 286.

Education.

Government Grants—Proposed Payment in Advance—Removal of Difficulty, *May 20*, 1208.

“Passive Resistance” to the Education Rate—Proceedings against National Committee, *May 18*, 937.

Historic Buildings—Preservation of, proposed appointment of Select Committee with view to establishing system of National Protection, similar to that adopted in France—Objections, *May 18*, 937.

Housing of the Working Classes Bill—Date of Introduction, *May 7*, 36.

London Education Bill (Committee), *May 18*, 943; *May 19*, 1184; *May 20*, 1230, 1231, 1232, 1233, 1274, 1275, 1280; *May 25*, 1651, 1657, 1665, 1676, 1680, 1682, 1687, 1691, 1724.

Minister of Agriculture—Appointment of the—(Motion for Adjournment), *May 21*, 1423.

Parliamentary Procedure.

Hour of Meeting, Proposal to commence Afternoon Sitting at 2.30 instead of 2 o'clock not at present practicable, *May 12*, 425; *May 21*, 1358.

Private Bill Procedure—Committee of Inquiry, Recommendations of—Appointment of Joint Committee to consider, proposed, *May 7*, 36.

Patriotic Commission—Administration of Funds, introduction of Bill dealing with, at early date, *May 21*, 1342.

Pensions for Widows of Seamen and Marines killed on duty—Granting of State Pensions, early decision probable, *May 21*, 1343.

Shakespearean Relics at Stratford—Proposed demolition of, Powerlessness of Government to deal with Question, *May 13*, 540.

May 7—May 26.

Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J.—cont.

Shipbuilding Vote—Increase in amount of, Policy of Government, explanation of, on Report Stage of Vote, *May 18*, 939.

South African Garrison—Facilities for discussion of, *May 11*, 310.

South African War—Royal Commission on, Completion of Evidence—Date of publication of Report uncertain, *May 20*, 1222.

Southwark—Creation of new Bishopric, Question under consideration, *May 25*, 1645.

Sugar Bounties.

Brussels Permanent Commission.

Bill enabling establishment of to be carried into effect, *May 20*, 1223.

Bill—No necessity for Introduction into Committee of Whole House, *May 20*, 1223.

Funds for Establishment of—Resolution with regard to, *May 25*, 1647.

Trade, Board of—Inquiry into Duties and Functions of, *May 26*, 1787.

Trade Disputes Bill, *May 8*, 256.

Trade Disputes—Proposed Royal Commission.

Character of, *May 14*, 699.

Representation of Ireland on, *May 20*, 1223.

Representation of Women on, *May 21*, 1355.

Votes—Arrangement of the order of, *May 21*, 1363, 1364, 1365.

Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W.—President of the Board of Trade [Leeds, Central]

Alien Immigration—Russian and Polish Immigrants, No increase in Number arriving in London since March, *May 25*, 1621.

Corn and Flour Mills—Number and Output thirty years ago, as compared with the present day, *May 21*, 1349.

Electric Lighting in Camberwell—Application of London Electric Supply Corporation for extension of area, reason for refusal, *May 20*, 1203.

Oyster Beds—Means for prevention of contamination of oyster beds under consideration by Local Government Board, *May 18*, 918.

Patents Act, 1902—Date of coming into operation, *May 7*, 18.

Port of London Bill, *May 13*, 590.

Railways.

Light Railways—Facilities for promotion of, in poor Agricultural Districts, *May 18*, 927.

Preferential Railway Rates—Differential treatment of Home and Foreign Merchandise, Investigation into complaints, Legislation refused, *May 19*, 1093.

Balfour, Hon. G. W.—cont.

Railways (Electrical Powers) Bill, *May 12* 474.

Trade and Navigation Accounts—Explanation of items, *May 15*, 805.

Trade—Appointments by Board of, Advisability of appointing Merchant Service men as Board of Trade Representatives, in preference to Naval Officers, *May 18*, 927.

Workington, Port of—Unsatisfactory condition of—Information to be given to harbour authority, *May 21*, 1350.

Balfour of Burleigh, Lord—Secretary for Scotland.

Berwickshire County Town Bill, *May 7*, 5.

Motor Car Traffic.

Bill dealing with Regulation of—Proposed introduction into Upper House, *May 19*, 1061; *May 22*, 1457.

Identification of Motor Cars—Need for System of Identification, *May 19*, 1059.

Revision of Regulations—Desirability of making the Law in England and Scotland uniform as far as possible, *May 19*, 1054.

Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill, *May 22*, 1481.

Wild Birds Protection Act (Ireland)—Means for enforcement of by Police—No Notice with regard to Law posted on Constabulary Barracks for three years, reason for omission, *May 7*, 7.

Banbury, Sir F. G. [Camberwell, Peckham]

Old Bridewell Burying Ground Bill, *May 11*, 382.

Prevention of Cruelty to Wild Animals Bill, *May 13*, 652.

Town Tenants (Ireland) Bill, *May 22*, 1571.

Vivisection at London University College. Operation on Brown Dog at.

Details of Operation asked for, *May 20*, 1200.

If killed immediately on removal from Theatre, *May 12*, 416.

Performed under what Certificate, *May 8*, 200.

Bangor Corporation Bill

l. Com. May 12*, 405.

Bankers' (Ireland) Act Repeal Bill

c. 1R. May 19*, 1096.

Barges

see Port of London Bill.

Barracks

Dorchester—Quartering of Artillerymen over Stabling—Effect on Health of Troops—Improvement of Barracks, proposed.

Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Brodrick, May 7, 22.

[cont.

May 7—May 26.

Barran, Mr. R. H. [Leeds, N.]London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May 19, 1115.***Barry Railway Bill***l. Rep.* May 26, 1750.***Bartley, Sir G.** [Islington, N.]Civil Service—Promotion of Persons appointed for Special Duties to positions on General Staff—Question of Adequacy of Special Certificate, *May 20, 1204.*London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May 8, 953; May 19, 1183; May 26, 1850, 1861, 1862, 1863.*Police Force of London—Regulation of Traffic, *May 21, 1415.*Post Office Reforms—Postage of Parcels and Payment on Delivery, *May 11, 351.***Bayley, Mr. T.** [Derbyshire, Chesterfield]Coal Mines Regulation Bill, *May 15, 838.*Congo Free State—British Trade, Limitation of Freedom of—Inquiry, *May 7, 23.*Postal Employees' Grievances—Proposed Committee on Wages—Inclusion in Inquiry of case of Sub-Postmasters, proposed, *May 11, 302.*Statue of James II. at Gwyder House, Whitehall, Removal of, Date of Restoration, *May 19, 1085.***Beckett, Mr. E. W.** [Yorkshire, N.R., Whitby]Anglo-French Relations—Conclusion of Permanent Treaty of Conciliation between France and Great Britain, Resolutions of Chambers of Commerce with regard to, *May 11, 309.*South African Garrison—Facilities for Discussion of, *May 11, 310.***Beer**Customs Duties on—*see Tobacco.*

Duty on for year ending 31st March, 1903.

*Q. Sir H. Fowler; A. Mr. Ritchie, May 14, 676.***Belfast**

Barracks—Canteen Arrangements.

Qs. Mr. Sloan; As. Mr. Brodrick, May 14, 681.

Constabulary and Motor Cyclists—Demand of names and occupations of Motor Cyclists—Reasons for.

Qs. Mr. Sloan; As. Mr. Atkinson, May 11, 307.

General Valuation—Postponement of, proposed.

Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; A. Mr. Atkinson, May 12, 416.

Magistracy—Number of Appointments to Magistracy in—Number of Roman Catholics, etc.

*Q. Mr. Wood; A. Mr. Wyndham, May 7, 30.***Belfast—cont.**

Schools, Unsatisfactory Condition of Primary—Improvement with the aid of State Grants.

*Q. Mr. Sloan; A. Mr. Wyndham, May 21, 1354.***Belfast Water Bill***l. Rep.* May 14, 653.**3R.* May 18, 866.**c. lR.* May 19, 1080.***Belgians***see Congo Free State.***Bell, Mr. R.** [Derby]Trade Disputes Bill, *May 8, 211.*Trades Unions—Royal Commission on, Proposed Appointment of, Date, Composition, etc., *May 14, 699.*Workmen's Compensation Act, *May 13, 643.***Belleville Boilers***see Navy.***Belper, Lord**Coal Mines (Certificates) Bill, *May 26, 1761.***Bengal**

House Tax, Amount of—Remission of proposed.

*Q. Mr. Weir; A. Lord G. Hamilton, May 26, 1336.***Berlin, Treaty of***see Congo Free State.***Berwickshire County Town Bill***l. 3R., May 7, 5.*Duns as the County Town—Greenlaw as the County Town—Ratepayers, Position of, *May 7, 5.***Betting Bill***Debate on 2R. [H.L.], May 18, 868.*Advertisement, *see sub-headings Betting Houses, Tipsters.*

Arrest, Suggestion of immediate, 873, 896.

Athletic Meetings, Betting at, 881.

Betting Houses.

Acts relating to, 877.

Advertisements sent from, 878, 890, 896.

Foreign addresses, Circulars sent from, 878, 896.

Bookmakers, Position and Practices of, 870, 900.

By-laws, Checking betting by enforcement of, 872.

Children, Making bets with, 871, 890, 894, 896.

Crime, Betting as a source of, 869.

Fines, Uselessness of, 872.

"Instrument," Use of an, 874.

Kempton Park Case, Significance of, 880.

May 7—May 26.

Betting Bill—cont.

Letters and telegrams, Betting by, 878, 886.

Licences for bookmakers suggested, 875.

Pari mutuel system suggested, 876, 884, 901.

Police authority to make arrests, 873, 896.

Post Office authority to open betting communications, 886, 893.

"Public Place," Definition of, 874, 894, 897.

Select Committee, Report and Statistics of, 868, 833, 892, 895, 900, 905.

Starting Prices, Suggested abolition of publication of, 875.

Street Betting, Increase of, 870, 888, 894, 903, 906.

Tipsters' Advertisements, 879, 886, 898.

Bignold, Mr. A. [Wick Burghs]

Post Office Estimates, Details of—Date on which available, *May 12*, 417.

Birmingham

Boiler Explosion—Inquiry into cause proposed.

Q. Sir W. Allan; *A.* Mr. Arnold-Forster, *May 20*, 1210.

Birmingham Corporation Bill

l. 3R.* *May 14*, 654.

c. 1R.* *May 15*, 802.

2R.* *Com.* May 25*, 1617.

Birr, King's County

United Irish League Meetings—Continued supervision of the Police.

Q. Mr. Reddy; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *May 11*, 306.

Bishopric of Bristol Bill

l. Rep.* *May 8*, 155.

3R.* *May 11*, 270.

Bishops

see Church Discipline (No. 2) Bill.

"Black List"

Persons placed on list without their consent—Removal of disabilities of such persons proposed — Case of Commissioner of Police *v.* Donovan, Decision of High Court.

Q. Mr. B. Robinson; *A.* Mr. Akers Douglas, *May 14*, 673.

Black, Mr. A. W. [Banffshire]

Aged Pensioners Bill, *May 22*, 1560.

Barracks in South Africa, Erection of, Cost, By whom borne, etc., *May 25*, 1631.

Colonies and Retaliatory Duties, Communications with Colonies on subject of, *May 20*, 1211.

Black, Mr. A. W.—cont.

German Duties on Canadian Products—Possible retaliatory action of Great Britain on German imports into United Kingdom, *May 20*, 1212.

Scottish Licensing Appeals—Number of, in 1901, 1902—Number of Reversals of Decision, etc., *May 20*, 1217.

Blackheath and Greenwich District Electric Light Bill

c. Rep.* *May 22*, 1503.

Blake, Mr. E. [Longford, S.]

Budget Resolutions — Opportunity for discussion asked for, *May 11*, 431.

Bloemfontein Conference

Papers retaining to—Date of Presentation.

Q. Mr. Buchanan; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *May 20*, 1211.

Blundell, Col. [Lancashire, Ince]

Coal Mines Regulation Bill, *May 15*, 842.

Board of Agriculture

see Agriculture, Board of.

Board of Trade

see Trade, Board of.

Board of Works, Ireland

see Works, Board of.

Board Schools

see Education (Borrowing) Bill.

Boilers

Explosions. Babcock and Wilcox Water Tube Boiler. Explosion at Birmingham. Inquiry into cause, proposed.

Qs. Sir W. Allan; *As.* Mr. Arnold-Forster, *May 20*, 1210.

Boland, Mr. J. [Kerry, S.]

Coonana Pier—Repair of, *May 11*, 306.

Cooserowm Fishing Station—Improvement of, *May 11*, 306.

Eviction on Warden Estate, Sheem—Case of Mr. Sheehan, Re-instatement of Tenant, proposed, *May 11*, 305.

Public Offices (Dublin) Bill—Provision in Bill for allocation of site for purposes of a Gallery of Modern Art and Royal Hibernian Academy, *May 20*, 1217, 1220.

Bond, Mr. E. [Nottingham, E.]

London Education Bill (Committee), *May 20*, 1251; *May 26*, 1865.

Bookmakers

see Betting Bill.

Borough Committees

see London Education Bill.

Borough Councils

see London Education Bill.

May 7—May 26.

Boscawen, Capt. Griffith, *Parliamentary Charity Commissioner*, [Kent, Tunbridge]

Sunderland Institute for the Blind.
Lockout of Ship-fender makers.
Powerlessness of Charity Commissioners to intervene, *May 11*, 304.

Bournemouth Corporation Tramways Bill

Rep.* *May 19*, 1045.

3R.* *May 25*, 1574.

c. 1R.* *May 26*, 1784.

Bousfield, Mr. W. R. [Hackney, N.]

London Education Bill (Committee), *May 25*, 1662, 1677, 1678, 1689, 1715, 1722.

Bowles, Mr. Gibson [Lynn Regis]

Atlantic Shipping Combine Agreement—Details of, Fixing of Date for promised Discussion, etc., *May 18*, 938.

Budget Resolutions—Opportunity for Discussion asked for—Remission of the Corn Tax, *May 12*, 431, 439.

Irish Land Bill, *May 7*, 66.

Judicature, Expenditure of the Supreme Court of—Conditions under which Appointments are held—Scale of Salaries, *May 21*, 1367, 1374.

London Education Bill (Committee), *May 25*, 1669.

National Debt—Amount of, Permanent Annual Charge, *May 12*, 450.

Navy.

Ammunition.

Alleged Waste of, by Mediterranean Fleet, *May 13*, 535; *May 25*, 1632.

Supply of Practice Ammunition—Effect of Revised Regulations, *May 14*, 669, 684.

Estimates—Appropriation by Admiralty of money voted for one purpose to another—Objected to, *May 14*, 788.

Expenditure contrasted with that of other Powers—Ratio between Naval and Military Expenditure, *May 14*, 739.

Gunnery.

Inefficiency of, as shown in Returns of Prize Firing—Inquiry into cause, *May 14*, 685.

Returns. Examination of by Admiralty—Issue of Orders dealing with the retention by Admirals of their Commands, on condition of shooting efficiency of Fleet under their orders, Reconsideration of, proposed, *May 18*, 925.

Yearly Publication of List of Ships in Order of Gunnery Efficiency and Alteration of Prize System, proposed, *May 26*, 1799.

Bowles, Mr. Gibson—cont.

Navy—cont.

Oil Fuel, *May 14*, 787.

Turbines, Adoption of, *May 14*, 788.

Parliamentary Procedure—Hour of Meeting—Proposal to commence Afternoon Sitting at 2.30 instead of 2 o'clock—Involving Alteration of Standing Orders, *May 12*, 425.

Police Force of London—Larger Powers Necessary for Regulation of Traffic, *May 21*, 1413.

Rotten Row—Defective Condition of—Improvement of Drainage proposed, *May 14*, 692.

Sugar Bounties.

Brussels Permanent Commission.

Bill Enabling Convention to be carried into effect, Date of, *May 20*, 1223.

Date—Form of Application to House for Expenditure Involved in Establishment of, *May 20*, 1223.

Funds for Establishment of—Provision of, previous to obtaining assent of the House, *May 25*, 1646.

Votes—Arrangement of Order of, *May 21*, 1364.

Wireless Telegraphy in Somaliland—Employment of Naval System, alleged, *May 21*, 1344.

Boyle

New Works in Boyle Rural District—Estimated Cost, by whom borne, effect on cost of adoption of the main road scheme.

Q. Mr. J. P. Farrell; A. Mr. Wynham, *May 26*, 1795.

Union.

Printing Contract—Acceptance of High Tender by Guardians, alleged.

Q. Mr. J. P. Farrell; A. Mr. Wyndham, *May 22*, 1508.

Proposed Inquiry—Grounds for ordering inquiry.

Q. Mr. Tully; A. Mr. Wyndham, *May 7*, 33.

Bridgwater Gas Bill

l. Royal Assent. *May 22*, 1454.

3R.* *May 26*, 1750.

Brigg, Mr. J. [Yorkshire, W.R., Keighley]

Education (Borrowing) Bill, *May 12*, 471.

Education, Government Grants—Payment of, in advance proposed, *May 20*, 1208.

London Education Bill (Committee), *May 19*, 1154.

Railways (Electrical Power) Bill, *May 12*, 482.

Post Office—Revision of Postal Staff.

Q. Mr. C. Hobhouse; Mr. A. Chamberlain, *May 7*, 16.

May 7—May 26.

British Gaslight Company (Norwich) Bill

- l. Rep.* *May 22, 1454.*
 3r.* *May 26, 1750.*
 c. 1R.* *May 26, 1784.*

Broadstairs Gas Bill

- l. Com.* *May 12, 405.*

Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John—Secretary of State for War—[Surrey, Guildford]

Army Chaplains of Established Church of Scotland in Army—Number, names, stations of—No information with regard to Chaplains of Free Church, *May 11, 296.*

Army Corps—Strength of 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Army Corps, Return relative to, date of issue, *May 7, 21.*

Belfast Barracks—Canteen arrangements not dealt with by War Office, *May 14, 681.*

Blankets infected with disease—Regulations with regard to sale of Army blankets, steps to prevent further danger, *May 25, 1630.*

Canteens—Report of Departmental Committee on, Speedy issue of, *May 11, 296.*

Date of Circulation, *May 13, 534.*

Dorchester Artillery Barracks—Quartering of men over stabling—Effect on health of troops, Proposed improvement of barracks, *May 7, 22.*

Dublin Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion — Prolonged Foreign Service, cause of, *May 8, 203.*

Duke of York's School.

Removal from Chelsea, reasons for, *May 12, 417.*

Scarlet Fever Epidemic—Alleged, refusal to give information to Sanitary Authorities, etc., *May 18, 921.*

Edinburgh, Royal Visit to — Military arrangements on occasion of, Local Military Authorities responsible, *May 25, 1632.*

Fox, Private—Discharge from Army on Ground of ill-health—Proposed grant of small pension, *May 7, 22.*

Guards' Hospital, Westminster — Infectious diseases in, Removal of infectious patients unnecessary, *May 8, 203.*

Guns, disposal of useless—Guns thrown into sea, Number of, *May 12, 419.*

Harvey, Peter—Intentions with regard to discharge of, *May 21, 1340.*

Horses for 125th, 126th, and 127th Field Batteries—Number of horses available, authorised establishment, *May 18, 920.*

Irish Garrison—Supply of Brushes for use of, Contract value of, *May 14, 681.*

Lancers 5th—Officer Second in Command, Arrangements with regard to, *May 21, 1341.*

Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John—cont.

Lancers, 21st—Alleged ill-treatment of officer, information with regard to, *May 14, 680.*

Manchester and Leeds Exhibitions.

List of Government Property, to whom lent—Inquiries into status of promoters of Exhibition, etc. *May 18, 924.*

War Office Loans—Nature of application for, Insurance of Goods, etc., *May 12, 418.*

Maryborough—Alleged curtailment of Militia Rations at, *May 25, 1627.*

Meat Contracts for Limerick Garrison—Tenders for, Number of, Tender accepted, *May 21, 1341.*

Militia and Volunteer Forces, Royal Commission on—Representation of Forces, No additional Members on Commission possible, *May 21, 1343.*

Murray, Private J.—Balance due to, Proposed payment of, to deceased soldier's mother, Inquiry, *May 26, 1797.*

Naas District, Repair of Roads in—Increased expenditure on roads necessitated by traffic to Barracks—Repayment of outlay to Naas Council, *May 7, 20.*

Old Dean Common, Preservation of, for Military Manoeuvring Ground, *May 18, 920.*

Promotions in Army—Return to be granted, *May 21, 1342.*

Purchases in Ireland for Army—Purchase of Local Produce, Extended powers of Commander-in-Chief and General Officers Commanding in regard to *May 11, 297.*

Queen's County Militia Recruits—Pay of, etc., *May 25, 1628.*

Rifle Clubs, Ammunition for, Rate of Charge, *May 8, 203.*

Scots Fusiliers—Officers' Uniforms, Cost of Alterations, *May 19, 1091.*

Soldiers, average cost of soldiers belonging to Artillery, Cavalry, etc., in England, India, South Africa, etc., *May 26, 1796.*

Somaliland Military Expedition.

Abyssinian Force, Position of, *May 19, 1088.*

Ammunition, Alleged deficiency of—No communication received from General Manning on subject, *May 18, 921.*

European Troops serving in — No extra allowance to be granted to., *May 11, 295.*

Italian Government — Co-operation with, *May 19, 1088.*

Officers—Grant of free Passage home for wounded officers, *May 12, 417.*

May 7—May 26.

Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John—cont.**Somaliland Military Expedition—cont.**

Policy of the Government with regard to—No further intimation of to General Manning with exception of a communication on subject of base of Military Operations, *May 18*, 921.

Spy employed by the Mullah, Treatment of — Incorrect Press Message with regard to, *May 14*, 682.

Wireless Telegraphy in Somaliland—System employed, *May 21*, 1344.

Somaliland, Survey of — Explanation relating to Maps issued by War Office to the effect that Somaliland has never been surveyed, *May 18*, 919.

South Africa.

Barracks, Erection of—Cost, by whom borne, *May 25*, 1631.

Mounted Infantry in—Number of Battalions — Maintenance of Strength, *May 26*, 1798.

Remount Farm, Clark's Siding — Management of—Result of Inquiry not to be made public—Allegations not proved, *May 20*, 1206.

Transport of Troops by Railway—Insufficient provision of Passenger Carriages, *May 18*, 919.

South African War.

Disease in the Army—Report of Committee to be laid on the Table, *May 21*, 1347.

Militia Officers—Rewards for, refused —No reconsideration of special cases, *May 13*, 530.

War Medals—Issue of, to 78th Company Imperial Yeomanry, *May 7*, 20.

Yeomanry, Imperial—Number of Companies going to South Africa —Date of return of last Company —Financial settlement—Number of Officers having received Gratuity, etc., *May 19*, 1090.

Stanford, Mr.—Maltreatment of at Cape Town—Action of Colonel Cooper with regard to—Exclusion of Report of Legal Proceedings and Apologies of Officers from Cape Press, *May 7*, 20.

Volunteer and Militia Medical Officers—Pay of—Equal treatment with Civil Medical Practitioners, *May 14*, 680.

Volunteer Field Artillery—Orders with regard to, Abeyance of, pending Report of Royal Commission, *May 21*, 1346.

Wireless Telegraphy for Army purposes—Results of tests applied to System during German Army Manœuvres, *May 21*, 1344.

Broughty Ferry Gas Provisional Order Bill

c. Ordered, *May 19*, 1079.
1R.* *May 19*, 1079.

Bryce, Rt. Hon. James [Aberdeen, S.]

Constitutional Hill, Paving of—Application to Treasury in respect of, Number of, Date, Replies to Applications, *May 20*, 1202.

Education (Borrowing) Bill, *May 12*, 471.

Income Tax—Inquiry into, *May 13*, 618.

London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May 18*, 950, 974, 1027; *May 19*, 1098, 1119, 1189; *May 20*, 1232, 1275, 1277; *May 25*, 1651, 1656, 1680, 1721; *May 26*, 1838, 1863, 1864, 1881, 1884, 1886, 1888, 1896, 1900, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1907.

Port of London Bill, *May 13*, 584.

Post Office at Aberdeen, Delay in Building—Inconvenience caused to Public and Employees, *May 12*, 466.

Railways (Electrical Power) Bill, *May 12*, 476.

Trades Disputes Commission, Date of Appointment, *May 14*, 699.

Votes, Arrangements of the Order of, *May 21*, 1362.

Buchanan, Mr. T. [Perthshire, E.]

Bloemfontein Conference—Papers relating to, Time of Presentation, *May 20*, 1211.

Brussels Permanent Commission, Establishment of—Necessary Expenditure —Introduction of Bill dealing with, subsequent to spending of Money, *May 25*, 1646.

Judicature, Expenditure of the Court of —Question as to control over Estimate under Discussion, *May 21*, 1367, 1375, 1378, 1379.

Permanent Annual Charge—Amount of, *May 12*, 453.

Post Office Packet Service—Deficiencies in P. & O. Mail Service to India and China, Charge for conveyance of Mails to the Cape, Question of renewal of contract with P. & O. Company, *May 11*, 402.

Scottish Aid Grant, Distribution of—Minute relating to, date of laying before Parliament, *May 20*, 1217.

Votes—Arrangement of order of, *May 21*, 1365.

Budget**National Debt.**

Permanent Annual Charge, Amount of—Debate in Com. of Ways and Means, *May 12*, 450.

Consols, Government control over price of, 457, 463.

Crown Colonies' Liability, 451, 453,

Budget—cont.National Debt—*cont.*Permanent Annual Charge, Amount of—*cont.*

Exchequer Bonds, Raising money by, 452, 453.

Income Tax Revenue, 451, 454.

Irish Loan—Effect on Exchequer of, 451, 457.

National Debt—Efforts for reduction of, 450, 451, 453, 454, 456, 459, 461.

Previous Charges, 458.

Sinking Fund, Raids made on, 450, 452, 454, 456, 461.

Treasury Bills, Raising money on, 452.

Unfunded Debt, Method of raising money by, 452.

Permanent Annual Charge, Amount of—Resolution reported, *May 13*, 617.Resolutions Discussed, *May 12*, 428.Resolutions Reported, *May 12*, 450 ; *May 13*, 616, 617.**Building Societies***see* Land Registry.**Bull, Mr.** [Hammersmith]London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May 26*, 1889.**Burdett-Coutts, Mr.** [Westminster]London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May 13*, 989 ; *May 20*, 1273 ; *May 25*, 1690, 1694.Police Force of London—Regulation of extraordinary Traffic, *May 21*, 1414.**Burgess Hill and St. John's Common Gas Bill**l. 2R.* *Com.* May 7*, 4.
Rep.* *May 26*, 1749.**Burial Grounds***see* Old Bridewell.**Burmah**

Finances, Condition of.

Q. Mr. Schwann ; A. Lord G. Hamilton.
May 18, 925.

Finances—Surplus Revenue, Method of Expenditure.

Q. Mr. Schwann ; A. Lord G. Hamilton, *May 25*, 1635.

Leprosy—Number of Lepers, Provision for Compulsory Segregation.

Q. Mr. Schwann ; A. Earl Percy,
May 20, 1212.**Burns, Mr. John** [Battersea]Old Bridewell Burying Ground Bill, *May 11*, 381.**Business of the House**Course of Business—Mr. A. J. Balfour's Statements and Replies to Questions, *May 7*, 36 ; *May 11*, 311 ; *May 13*, 541 ; *May 18*, 940 ; *May 19*, 1095 ; *May 20*, 1224 ; *May 26*, 1915.Sir A. Acland-Hood's Replies to Questions, *May 22*, 1509.**Butcher, Mr.** [York]Irish Land Bill, *May 7*, 96.Land Registry—Operation of the Land Transfer Act, *May 21*, 1398.Old Bridewell Burying Ground Bill, *May 11*, 377.Workmen's Compensation Act, *May 13*, 633.**Butter**

American Butter sold as Irish, alleged—Prevention of further Frauds.

Qs. Mr. Joyce, Mr. Flavin ; As. Mr. Wyndham, *May 13*, 933.**Buxton***see* Post Office Sites Bill.**Buxton, Mr. Sydney** [Tower Hamlets, Popular]Budget Resolutions—Amount of Revenue raised by Tobacco Duty, *May 12*, 438.H.M.S. "Crescent"—Repairs, Delay in Execution of, *May 8*, 199.London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May 18*, 942, 963 ; *May 19*, 1142, 1166, 1173 ; *May 25*, 1675, 1681, 1688, 1708, 1741 ; *May 26*, 1852, 1877, 1881, 1884, 1895.National Debt—Permanent Annual Charge, Amount of, *May 12*, 451.Port of London Bill, *May 13*, 555.**Caldwell, Mr. J.** [Lanark, Mid.]Church Discipline Bill, *May 12*, 523.Judicature, Court of—Clerk's examinations, *May 21*, 1377.London Education Bill, *May 26*, 1862.Marine Insurance Bill, *May 12*, 492.Post Office Packet Service—Deficiencies in P. & O. Service to China and India—Power of the P. & O. Company owing to subsidy granted by Government—Protest against monopoly of any one Shipping Company—Suggested use of the Siberian Railway, *May 11*, 394.Post Office Sites Bill, *May 12*, 490.Railways (Electrical Power) Bill, *May 12*, 477.**Camberwell.**

Electric Lighting.—Application of London Electric Supply Corporation for extension of area—reason for refusal.

Q. Dr. Macnamara ; A. Mr. G. Balfour, *May 20*, 1203.

May 7—May 26.

Campbell, Mr. J. [Armagh, S.]

Company Law—Defects in law, as disclosed by the Whitaker-Wright case—Date of introduction of Bill dealing with defects, *May 21*, 1356.

Wireless Telegraphy in Somaliland—Cost of systems employed during campaign—Results of tests applied to wireless system during German Army Manœuvres, *May 21*, 1344.

Campbell-Bannerman, Rt. Hon. Sir H. [Stirling Burghs]

Budget Resolutions—Opportunity for discussion, *May 12*, 432.

Parliamentary Procedure, Hour of Meeting—Proposal to commence afternoon sitting at 2.30 instead of 2 o'clock, *May 12*, 425.

Camperdown, Earl of

Motor Car Traffic—Introduction of Bill with regard to regulation of, *May 19*, 1061; *May 22*, 1457.

London County Council—Expenditure—Sum spent by Council in promoting and opposing Bills in Parliament—Return giving names of Bills promoted—Sum spent annually, etc., *May 25*, 1614.

Regimental Canteens—Adoption of Committee's recommendations, *May 25*, 1613.

Sittings of Parliament, *May 25*, 1600.

Canada

German Duties on Canadian Products—Possible retaliatory action of Great Britain on German imports into United Kingdom—Communications on subject.

Qs. Mr. Black; *As.* Lord Cranborne, *May 20*, 1212.

Canals

Canal Commissions—Annual Report Presented, *May 12*, 407, 413.

Canibalism

see Congo Free State.

"Panopus," H.M.S.

Boiler Repairs—Extent and Cost.

Q. Mr. Harmsworth; *A.* Mr. Arnold-Forster, *May 11*, 290.

Canterbury, Lord Archbishop of

Ecclesiastical Commissioners Bill [H.L.], *May 19*, 1053.

Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill, *May 22*, 1479.

Union of Benefices Act, 1860, Amendment Bill, *May 19*, 1052.

Cape Town, Cape Colony

Mail Service to, *see* Post Office—Mails.

Officers, Conduct of—Maltreatment of Mr. Stanford, Action of Colonel Cooper, Exclusion of Report of Legal Proceedings and Apologies of Officers, from Cape Press.

Qs. Mr. S. Macneill; *As.* Mr. Brodrick, *May 7*, 20.

Cape Town, Cape Colony—cont.

Treatment of Two English Girls by Police.

Q. Mr. Norman; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *May 19*, 1088.

Cape of Good Hope Observatory

Report Presented, *May 15*, 804; *May 18*, 866.

Cardiff Railway Bill

l. Rep. May 22*, 1454.

3R. May 26*, 1750.

c. R. May 26*, 1784.

Carlisle

Mails to—Time at which due. Number and extent of delays.

Q. Mr. Harmsworth; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *May 11*, 288.

Carmarthenshire Electric Power Bill

l. Rep. May 26*, 1749.

Carna

Expenditure in, by Congested Districts Board.

Q. Mr. Harris; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *May 26*, 1793.

Carrington, Earl

Emoluments of Reserve Officers, *May 11*, 277.

Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward—Solicitor-General—[Dublin University]

Judicature, Court of—Clerks' Appointments, *May 21*, 1378.

Carvill, Mr. P. C. H. [Newry]

Ulster and Connaught Light Railways Bill, *May 14*, 764.

Castlebaldwin

Postal Facilities—Delay in Delivery of Letters in Roscommon—Removal of Grievance.

Q. Mr. O'Dowd; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *May 19*, 1094.

Causton, Mr. B. K. [Southwark, W.]

London Education Bill, *May 20*, 1271.

Old Bridewell Burying Ground Bill, *May 11*, 382.

Cavendish, Mr. V. C. W. [Derbyshire, W.]

Bright's, Mr. J., Statue, *May 25*, 1641.

Constitution Hill, Paving of—Applications to Treasury in respect of, Confidential nature of, *May 20*, 1202.

Holyrood Palace—Additions to, *May 20*, 1201.

Rotten Row—Additional Sand for, *May 26*, 1792.

Westminster Hall—Admission of Public, No necessity for Alteration of Conditions of Admittance, *May 25*, 1642.

Cecil, Lord Hugh [Greenwich]

Church Discipline (No. 2) Bill, *May 12*, 512.

London Education Bill, *May 20*, 1244.

May 7—May 26.

Census.

England and Wales—Census of Occupations, Extension to Scotland and Ireland, proposed.

Q. Mr. K. Hardie ; A. Mr. W. Long, *May 13*, 530.

Central African Times."

Forfeiture of Bonds of Proprietor and Editor in consequence of the Publication of an Article in the "Central African Times," Action of Judge.

Q. Sir B. Gurdon ; A. Lord Cranborne, *May 19*, 1086.

Ceylon.

Leprosy in—Number of leper hospitals—Provision of additional hospitals in isolated districts, proposed.

Q. Mr. Schwann ; A. Mr. J. Chamberlain, *May 20*, 1206.

Chairman of Committees of Ways and Means.

Hon. J. W. Lowther.

Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. Austen — *Postmaster-General* [Worcester, East]

Ireland.

Post Office.

Donaghadee Removal of Office to more Central Site, Question under consideration, *May 19*, 1095.

Dublin.

Counter Duties, Number of Clerks employed on, *May 11*, 309.

Supervising Duties, Performance of, by Junior Sorting Clerks and Telegraphists, *May 11*, 308.

Mail Service.

Ballahacomane, Postal Facilities at, *May 14*, 676.

Ballyduff — Inquiries with view to establishing Sunday Service, *May 18*, 935.

Castlebaldwin Postal Facilities—Delay in delivery of letters in Roscommon —No improvement practicable, *May 9*, 1094.

Donegal—Gweedore and Buncbeg District—Improved Postal Facilities, *May 7*, 16.

Longford — Conveyance of Mails from Station to Post Office — Employment of more suitable method of transit, *May 25*, 1624.

Telegraphic Communication between Listowel and Tralee—Extension of system to Listowel refused, *May 19*, 1087.

Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. Austen—*cont.***Mail Service.**

Carlisle, Perth and Inverness—Mails to—Delays, cause of, *May 11*, 288.

China, Mails to—Conveyance by the Trans-Siberian Route—Arrangements with Russia not yet completed, *May 11*, 289.

Money Order System with the Colonies and Foreign Countries—Excessive cost of Commission—Improvement of system under consideration, *May 18*, 917.

Parcel-Post—Alleged refusal to deliver parcel on grounds of insufficient address, Inquiry into case, *May 15*, 806.

Postage Rates.

Continental Postage Rates, Reduction of, Consideration of at Postal Union Meetings, *May 25*, 1636.

Transvaal Excessive Postage-rate, Representation to Transvaal Government, *May 25*, 1624.

Post Office.

Delivery of Letters—Interpretation of Rule 56, in the Provincial Town Postmen's Rule Book, *May 26*, 1791.

Employees.

Bristol — Revision of Postal Staff, *May 7*, 16.

General Post Office — Women Clerks, No extension of age limit in contemplation, *May 21*, 1350.

Grievances, Proposed Inquiry into —Nonconsideration of Cases of Women on Reduced Pay and Sub-Postmasters, *May 11*, 302.

Wages, Inquiry into—Committee to decide on method of obtaining information on questions contained in the reference, *May 26*, 1802.

Estimates, Details of—Date on which available, *May 12*, 417.

Irish Questions—*see* subheading Ireland.

Packet Service—Deficiencies in Service to Western Islands of Scotland — Difficulties of the Post Office — Irregularities in Irish Mail Train Service—Employment of foreign ships for carriage of British Mails — Suggested Post Office on board Mail Steamers—Carriage of Mails to China and India—Deficiency of P. and O. Service—Cape Mails, *May 11*, 393.

Reforms.

Agricultural Produce, Carriage of —Difficulties in use of Parcels Post — Necessity for greater facilities for collecting Parcels—Deficiencies in Motor Car Service, *May 12*, 485.

[*cont.*

May 7—May 26.

Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. Austen—cont.

Post Office—*cont.*

Reforms—*cont.*

Proposed Committee of Inquiry into the Grievances of Employees—Constitution of the Committee—Grievances concerning Leave of Absence, Wages, Pensions, etc.—Increased Facilities for obtaining Postal Orders—Re-purchase of Stamps—Foreign Rates, etc., *May 11, 333, 351, 355.*

Scotch Questions, *see* subheading Scotland.

Stationery Contract—Quality of Stationery, Complaints with regard to, referred to Inland Revenue Department, *May 26, 1790.*

Post Office Sites Bill, *May 12, 488.*

Scotland.

Post Office Employees.

Edinburgh—Clerks, Promotion of—Dissatisfaction with regard to Promotion of Junior Clerks, *May 21, 1339.*

Staff, Retirement of, at age of sixty-five—Retention of Officer beyond limit, *May 21, 1339.*

Glasgow—Assistant Postmen, Established Appointments for, *May 7, 15.*

Telegraph Service.

Wapping Telegraph Office, Inconvenience of present Site—No suitable Site yet Found, *May 25, 1636.*

Women Telegraphists—Promotion Grievance—Appointment of Telegraphists of Inferior Qualifications to disadvantage of Senior and More Experienced Employees—Reason for Appointment, *May 7, 27.*

Transvaal, British Indian Subjects in—Conditions of Trade and Residence—No proposals with reference to contained in Report of Inter-Colonial Conference, *May 14, 686.*

Trinidad Gaols, Coolies in—Protection of Indentured Coolies—Provision for, embodied in Immigration Ordinances of 1899, *May 14, 687.*

Chamberlain, Right Hon. J.—Secretary of State for the Colonies [Birmingham, W.]

Aged Pensioners Bill, *May 22, 1549.*

Australian Commonwealth—The Vondel Case—Despatch dealing with Arguments of South Australian Government in the Vondel Case, Laying on Table of, *May 11, 297.*

British Trade with Foreign Countries—Return to be Granted, *May 25, 1634.*

Cape Town—Treatment of Two English Girls by Police, *May 19, 1083.*

Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J.—cont.

Ceylon, Leprosy in—Number of Leper Hospitals—Proposed provision of Additional Hospitals, *May 20, 1206.*

Colonies and Retaliatory Duties—No Communications with Colonies on subject of Retaliatory Duties, *May 20, 1211.*

Gilbert and Ellice Islands.

Administration of, Allegations against Resident Commissioner unfounded, *May 19, 1092.*

Illegal deportation of Mr. Hodge, *May 19, 1091.*

Hong Kong.

Plague.

Recurrence of, Number of Deaths Cause, etc., *May 11, 298.*

Reports of Sanitary Experts—Copies placed in Library, *May 26, 1800.*

Public Health Laws—Bill amending Laws already passed and in operation, *May 26, 1797.*

Minister of Agriculture (Motion for Adjournment), *May 21, 1433.*

Natal Church Properties Bill—Measure for Transfer of Church of England Property to South African Bishops—Proposed refusal to sanction Bill, *May 20, 1207.*

Nigeria.

Additions to the Protectorate of Northern Nigeria—Responsibilities involved, Area of acquired—Country, etc., *May 12, 419.*

Military Operations—No additional charge on National Exchequer anticipated in consequence of, *May 25, 1629.*

Pacific Cable—Interruption of Service—Places at which occurring, *May 11, 287.*

Sierra Leone Rebellion—Losses sustained in—No Compensation to be granted to Traders, *May 12, 421.*

South Africa.

Government Shipments to South Africa—Proposed discontinuance of shipping Cargo by Conference lines, *May 19, 1092.*

British Indian subjects—Revisal of Restrictions on, Necessity for, *May 21, 1347.*

Compensation Claims—Information with regard to Number—Amount of, not yet available, *May 26, 1801.*

Mines—Rand Mine-owners, Increase of wages paid by, *May 20, 1205.*

Transvaal.

Civil Administration.

Dutch Minister—Arrest of, at Rustenberg, Increased stringency of Peace Preservation Ordinance, *May 20, 1207.*

May 7—May 26.

Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J.—cont.South Africa—*cont.*Transvaal—*cont.*Civil Administration—*cont.*

Naturalisation of Aliens —
Arrangements for, Inclusion of Ordinances relative to, in Parliamentary Papers, *May 12*, 420.

Legislative Council—Number and Composition, Number of Boer Members, etc., *May 25*, 1634.

Mines.

Asiatic Labour, Employment of — Attitude of H.M. Government towards proposal, *May 25*, 1633.

Chinese Labour—Alleged recruiting in America, *May 26*, 1799.

Gold and Coal Mines, Labour in — Number of white men and Kaffirs employed respectively, *May 25*, 1634.

Kaffir Labour in Coal Mines, Increase of, *May 14*, 670.

Native Labour in—Statistics of disease, death, desertion not yet received, *May 20*, 1211.

Output from coal mines since 31st December, 1902—Corresponding output in 1898, *May 11*, 297.

Channing, Mr. Francis A. [Northampton, E.]Aged Pensioners Bill, *May 22*, 1516.

Anti-Vaccinationists, Prison Treatment of Case of H. Elderkin, imprisoned in Northampton Gaol, *May 11*, 301.

Church Discipline (No. 2) Bill, *May 12*, 506.

Income Tax—Suggested Extension of Limit of Abatement and Exemption, *May 13*, 618.

Irish Land Bill, *May 7*, 105.

London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May 25*, 1668, 1713; *May 26*, 1904, 1905.

Railways (Electrical Power) Bill, *May 12*, 480.

Votes—Arrangement of the order of, *May 21*, 1362.

Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry [Lincolnshire, Sleaford]Aged Pensioners' Bill, *May 22*, 1558.**Chard Corporation Gas and Electricity Bill**c. 1R.* *May 26*, 1784.l. Rep.* *May 14*, 653.3R.* *May 25*, 1574.**Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway Bill**l. 2R.* *Com.* May 11*, 270.**Charities and Charity Commissioners**

Burghclere (Hants) Charity—Return Presented, *May 15*, 805; *May 18*, 913.

Check-weighers

See Coal Mines Regulation Bill.

Cheshire Lines Committee Billc. Rep.* *May 7*, 10.con.* *May 20*, 1197.3R.* *May 25*, 1616.l. 1R.* *May*, 1751.**China**

Mail Service—Conveyance of Mails by Trans-Siberian Route, Arrangements with Russia.

Q. Sir H. Fowler; A. Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *May 11*, 289.

Manchuria—Evacuation of by Russia—Combination of United States, Japan and England, in order to secure fulfilment of assurances with regard to, proposed.

Q. Mr. J. Walton; A. Lord Cranborne, *May 11*, 298.

Christ's Hospital

Removal of.—

Os. *May 11*, 373, 374, 380.

Church Discipline, No. 2 Billc. 2R. *May 12*, 519.

Debate on, 2R. [H. C.] *May 12*, 502.

Appeal to lay courts, Right of clergymen to, 504, 508, 509.

Bishops and Archbishops, Proposed committal of power to—502, 503, 506, 509.

Committee, Suggested reference of Bill to, 517, 519, 521, 523.

Ecclesiastical Courts, Decrees of—503.

Litigation on Ecclesiastical matters, Reform of—502.

Nonconformists, Position of—511, 516.

Privy Council, Right of appeal to—505, 515.

Ritualism, Action of Bishops regarding—506, 508, 513.

Royal Commission, Recommendation of, 502.

Churchill, Mr. Winston [Oldham]

Army Corps—Strength of 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Army Corps, Return relative to, Date of Issue, *May 7*, 21.

Lancers, 5th—Officer second in command, Arrangements with regard to, *May 21*, 1341.

Naval Expenditure—Outlay on Shipbuilding—Contraband of War and Food Supply in War Time—Ratio between Naval and Military Expenditure, *May 14*, 723, 727.

May 7—May 26.

Cigarettes.

Duty—Necessity for Higher.

*O. May 12, 449.***City and South London Railway Bill.***l. 2R.* Com.* May 11, 270.***Civil Service.**

Abstractor Clerks, Pensions of—Reconsideration of Cases with view to Granting Pension based on Temporary Service.

Q. Mr. C. Hay; A. Mr. A. Elliot, May 14, 677.

Promotion of Persons Appointed for Special Duties to Positions on General Staff—Question of Adequacy of Special Certificate.

*Q. Sir G. Bartley; A. Mr. A. Elliot, May 20, 1204.***Civil Services and Revenue Departments Estimates***see Supply.***Clancy, Mr. John [Dublin Co., N.]**

Castleblaney Licence Transfer—Case of M. Keeley—Action of Inland Revenue Authorities, *May 18, 932.*

Trade Disputes Bill, *May 8, 249.***Clare Railways***O. Mr. William Redmond, May 20, 1332.***Clark's Siding, South Africa**

Remount Farm, Management of—Inquiry into—Publication of Result, proposed.

*Q. Colonel Welby; A. Mr. Brodric, May 20, 1206.***Clergy***see Church Discipline (No. 2) Bill.***Cleveland and Durham County Electric Power Bill***c. 2R.* Com. May 13, 525.**Rep.* May 26, 1779.***Clifford of Chudleigh, Lord**Sittings of Parliament, *May 25, 1586.*

Registration of—Number of registered Clubs under Licencing Act in England and Wales.

*Q. Mr. H. Roberts; A. Mr. Akers Douglas, May 18, 926.***Coal**

Exports Duty.

Decrease of export of coal of declared value of 5s. to 6s. per ton—Comparison with previous year, Cause of alleged decrease.

Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; A. Mr. Ritchie, May 7, 25.

Export of coal at values between 7s. and 8s. per ton, Statistics.

Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; A. Mr. Ritchie, May 11, 300.

Storage—Deterioration of stored coal—Experiments directed towards prevention of, Progress of, etc.

*Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; A. Mr. Arnold-Forster, May 14, 686.***Coal Mines (Certificates) Bill***c. 2R.* May 11, 404.**con.* May 13, 652.**Rep.* May 13, 652.**3R.* May 13, 652.**l. 1R.* May 14, 656.**2R.* May, 26, 1760.**2R. May, 26, 1761.***Coal Mines Regulation Bill***Debate on 2 R. [H.C.], May 15, 808.*

Accidents—Number of, 812, 819, 826, 845, 850, 855.

Age of workers employed in mines, 811, 829, 843, 850.

Arbitration for special rules—Proposed abolition of, 809, 818, 837, 849, 853.

Boards to draw up rules—Proposed representative, 810, 818, 827, 841, 847, 849, 853.

Boys employed in mines, 814, 844, 850, 855.

Certificates, *see* Enginemen.

Check-weighers—Position and Power of, 823, 831, 839, 847, 857.

Committee—Proposed reference of Bill to, 814, 823, 839, 849.

Disabilities incurred by workers, 813.

District Coal Mines' Boards, *see* Boards.

Durham—Miners in, 815, 845, 850.

Enginemen, Certificates for, 817.

Female labour in mines, 848, 849.

Fines imposed by the Boards, 828.

Home Office—Control over special rules of, 810, 827, 837, 840.

Hours of work in mines, 811, 830, 837, 841, 842, 843, 850, 855.

Inspection of mines, 816, 822, 828, 860

Labour Legislation in England—History of, 808.

Miners' Permanent Relief Fund—Statistics furnished by, 812, 838.

Mining Association of Great Britain—Attitude of, 810, 816, 818, 840.

Northumberland—Miners in, 810, 837, 845.

Safety Clauses for young persons, 815, 829, 846, 852, 856.

Scotland application to mines in, 816.

Shafts—Provisions of, 833, 858.

Trades Unionism—Element of, 811, 837.

Coal Mines

Scotland—Employment of Poles in Coal-pits—Examination of Employees in the knowledge of the language and laws for safety of Mine, etc.

Q. Sir H. Vincent; A. Mr. Akers Douglas, May 21, 1347,

May 7—May 26.

Cochrane, Mr. T. H.—*Under Secretary of State for Home Department* [Ayrshire, N.]

Coal Mines Regulation Bill, *May 15*, 852.

Prisons—Answers to criticisms, information, etc.—Prison dietary—Number of prisoners—Vagrants in prison, etc. *May 21*, 1449.

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children—Breaches of Intoxicating Liquors (Sale to Children) Act, Reporting Cases to Commissioners, *May 25*, 1640.

Walsham-le-Willow's Anti-Vaccinationists—Refusal of exemption Certificates, *May 25*, 1640.

“Cockchafer,” H.M.S.

Sea Police Duties of, Area Patrolled, etc. Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Arnold-Forster, *May 14*, 674.

Cohen, Mr. B. L. [Islington, E.]

London Education Bill (*Committee*) *May 25*, 1668; *May 26*, 1845.

Old Bridewell Burying Ground Bill, *May 11*, 373.

Permanent Annual Charge,—Amount of, *May 12*, 452.

Publicans' Licences, Non-Renewal of—Return showing number of Years during which Licencee had held Licence, etc., proposed, *May 20*, 1202.

Transvaal, Guaranteed Loan—Number of Applications, *May 18*, 916.

Colomb, Sir John [Great Yarmouth]

“Discovery,” Relief of—Steps for Security of Members of Relief Party, *May 26*, 1807.

Irish Land Commission—Rent Fixing Branch, Annual Cost, etc., *May 13*, 532.

Land Act, 1896—Holdings under Section 36, Number of, *May 11*, 293.

Naval Expenditure, Negotiations with Foreign Powers with a View to Checking—Expenditure on Shipbuilding—Expenditure on Personnel—Question of Wages, *May 14*, 724.

Pacific Cable—Interruption of Service, Places at which occurring, *May 11*, 287.

Royal Irish Constabulary.

Candidates—Number and Nationality of, *May 8*, 202.

Reduction of Force, Method of, *May 7*, 19; *May 8*, 202.

Vote—Taking of, previous to Committee Stage of Irish Land Bill, proposed, *May 12*, 424.

Shipbuilding, Information required as to, Progress in—Experiments with Submarines, *May 14*, 774.

Colonial Conference

Memorandum on Sea Power Presented, *May 19*, 1047, 1083.

Colonies

Annual Reports Presented, *May 11*, 286.

Annual Report Presented, *May 12*, 407.

Retaliatory Duties—Communications with Colonies on subject of.

Q. Mr. Black; A. Mr. J. Chamberlain, *May 20*, 1211.

Combinations. Law Relating to
see Trade Disputes Bill.

Commercial Gas Bill

c. con. May 8*, 193.

3R.* *May 12*, 408.

L. 1R.* *May 14*, 654.

2R.* *Com.* May 22*, 1454.

Committees

House of Commons—Ascension Day, Sitting of Committees—*Motion* (Mr. A. J. Balfour), *May 20*, 1226.

Common Law

see Marine Insurance Bill.

Companies

Company Law—Defects in law, as disclosed by the Whitaker-Wright case—Introduction of Bill dealing with defects, Date of.

Q. Mr. J. Campbell; A. Mr. A. J. Balfour, *May 21*, 1356.

Congested Districts Board, Ireland

Kiltimagh and Carna, Expenditure by Board in respective Districts.

Q. Mr. Harris; A. Mr. Wyndham, *May 26*, 1793.

Working of the Board, Number of formerly congested districts no longer answering to definition.

Q. Mr. O'Kelly; A. Mr. Atkinson, *May 13*, 538.

Congested Districts Board, Scotland

New holdings in Highland Crofting Counties, Number of, during year under review.

Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. G. Murray, *May 21*, 1351.

Immigration of Cottars, Legislation to give powers for acquisition of land proposed.

Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. G. Murray, *May 21*, 1351.

Stallions, Purchase of, by Board, Veterinary Examination previous to purchase.

Q. Mr. Nichol; A. Mr. G. Murray, *May 26*, 1787.

Congo Free State

Administration of, Rabinek Case—Laying before House of Information with regard to, proposed.

Qs. Sir C. Dilke; As. Lord Cranborne, *May 13*, 536; *May 20*, 1213.

May 7—May 26.

Congo Free State—cont.

Bahr-el-Ghazal—Proposed grant of, to Congo Free State, Consideration of present inhabitants, Discussion of proposal, previous to decision.

Q. Mr. B. Roberts; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *May 26*, 1792.

British Trade.

Congo Basin, British Trade in—Negotiations with France in respect of.

Q. Sir C. Dilke; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *May 12*, 421.

Limitation of freedom of—Inquiry.

Q. Mr. Bayley; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *May 7*, 23.

Debate on Motion for Government Intervention, May 20, 1289.

Belgians, Territory ceded to King of—1290, 1300, 1328.

Berlin, Terms of the Treaty of—1290, 1300, 1309, 1315, 1317, 1327.

Cannibalism, 1292, 1304.

Congolese, Treatment of the—1292, 1293, 1294, 1313, 1319.

Consular Reports, Alleged inadequate—1320.

Convention of British Subjects, 1302.

Domaine Privé, Establishment and Revenues of—1290, 1315.

History of the territory, 1290, 1300.

International Commission proposed, 1299, 1301.

Missionaries, Evidence of—1293, 1304, 1307.

Natives, *see* subheading Congolese.

Portugal, Attitude of—1301, 1328.

Powers, Position of the—1289, 1325.

Rabinek Case—1291, 1303.

Rubber, Profits of—1298, 1315.

Slavery—1293, 1304, 1313.

Trade in Congo—1291, 1303, 1309, 1311.

Zappo-Zapps, Behaviour of—1293.

Free Trade—Agreement with Signatories to Act of Berlin with regard to clauses relating to complete freedom of Trade and prohibition of Monopolies.

Q. Mr. C. M'Arthur; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *May 26*, 1801.

Consols

Government Control over price of.
Os. May 12, 457, 463.

Conspiracy, Law relating to

see Trade Disputes Bill.

Constabulary, Royal Irish

Ballyporeen—Numbers assembled at, on April 26th—Reason for Attendance—Payment of Expenses involved.

Qs. Mr. Cullinan; *As.* Mr. Wyndham, *May 7*, 31.

Constabulary, Royal Irish—cont.

Belfast Constabulary and Motor Cyclists—Demand of Names and Occupations of Motor Cyclists, *May 11*, 307.

Bicycles, Number of Men provided with—Number of Irish Manufacture, etc.

Q. Mr. J. O'Connor; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *May 25*, 1643.

Candidates, Number and Nationality of.

Q. Sir J. Colomb; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *May 8*, 202.

Interference of Members of, in Civil Actions outside their Districts—Case of Sergeant Kilgannon.

Q. Mr. H. Law; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *May 8*, 202.

Listry, Extra Police at—Number—Cost of Maintenance.

Q. Mr. Murphy; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *May 26*, 1794.

Reduction of Force, Method of.

Qs. Sir J. Colomb; *As.* Mr. Wyndham, *May 7*, 19; *May 8*, 202.

Sligo Barracks—Ownership of Land, Further Inquiries as to, proposed.

Q. Mr. H. C. Richards; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *May 14*, 678.

Vote—Taking of, previous to Committee Stage of Irish Land Bill, proposed.

Q. Sir J. Colomb; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *May 12*, 424.

Constitution Hill

Paving of—Applications to Treasury—Number, Date, and Replies to Applications.

Q. Mr. Bryce; *A.* Mr. V. Cavenish, *May 20*, 1202.

Continuation Schools [Scotland]

Code of 1903. Presented, *May 7*, 4, 13.

Contraband of War

Food Stuffs Question.

Os. in Com. of Supply, May 14, 723, 728.

Conway Infectious Diseases Hospital

Site—Unsuitability of proposed site—Adoption of more suitable site—

Representations to Conway Guardians.

Q. Mr. H. Roberts; *A.* Mr. G. Lawson, *May 20*, 1214.

Co-ordination in Education

see London Education Bill.

Corbett, Mr. T. L. [Down, N.]

Donaghadee Post Office—Removal of, to more central Site, Reply to Memorial, *May 19*, 1095.

Irish Land Bill, *May 7*, 103.

Cork

Dock Labourers, Treatment of.

Os. May, 14, 748, 749, 755.

Model Schools.

Accommodation — Average Daily Attendance, Cost, &c.

Q. Mr. Flynn; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *May 14*, 695.

[cont.

May 7—May 26.

Cork—cont.**Model Schools—cont.**

Attendance—Proportion of Infants.

Q. Mr. Flynn; A. Mr. Wyndham, *May 20, 1921.*

Committee of National Education—Action of, with regard to alterations of schools made at suggestion of Commissioners, Reason for.

Q. Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien; A. Mr. Wyndham, *May 20, 1920.*

Pupil Teachers, Number trained in Schools, etc.

Qs. Mr. Flynn; As. Mr. Wyndham, *May 20, 1921.*

Technical Instruction Committee.

Dispute between Technical Instruction Committee and Commissioners of National Education—Protest against action of Commissioners.

Q. Capt. Donelan; A. Mr. Atkinson, *May 14, 1895.*

Eviction of, Postponed till after taking of the Irish Education Estimates.

Qs. Mr. J. Redmond; As. Mr. Atkinson, Mr. Wyndham, *May 14, 1896; May 20, 1921.***Cork Harbour Bill**c. con.* *May 11, 1883.*3R.* *May 14, 1885.*l. 1R.* *May 15, 1897.***Corn Duty**

Rebate.

Eligibility of duty-paid cereals for rebate.

Q. Mr. Goddard; A. Mr. Ritchie, *May 19, 1886.*

Imported duty-paid wheat, Rebate on—Allowance on present stocks.

Q. Mr. B. Langley; A. Mr. Ritchie, *May 26, 1790.*

Irish Merchants—Inclusion of, in proposed Grant of Rebate.

Q. Mr. J. P. Farrell; A. Mr. Ritchie, *May 26, 1790.*

Remission of.

O. *May 12, 431.***Cornwall**

County Council Allotments—Inability of County Council to provide Allotments, owing to opposition of Local Government Board, alleged.

Q. Mr. Mansfield; A. Mr. W. Long, *May 13, 529.***"Cornwall," H.M.S.**

Disease—Infected Army Blankets—Sale of, to training ship.

Q. Sir T. Dewar; A. Mr. Brodrick, *May 25, 1630.*Q. Mr. D. Morgan; A. Mr. W. Long, *May 25, 1639.***Corporal Punishment**Sentences—Address for Return, *May 7, 14.***Corporation and Livery Guilds Schools**

see London Education Bill.

Cottage Homes Billc. 1R.* *May 19, 1096.***County Councils, Ireland**Salaries—Return Presented, *May 8, 198; May 11, 285.***County Court Judges**

Replies of, to proposed Amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act. Laying on Table of, proposed.

Q. Sir C. Dilke; A. Mr. Akers Douglas, *May 13, 537.***Coventry Electric Tramways Bill**c. con.* *May 11, 283.*3R.* *May 14, 665.*l. 1R.* *May 15, 797.***Cranborne, Lord — Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs [Rochester]**Canadian Products—German duties on. Possible retaliatory action of Great Britain on German imports into United Kingdom, *May 20, 1212.*Central African Times—Forfeiture of bonds of proprietor and editor, in consequence of the publication of an article in the *Central African Times*, *May 19, 1086.***Congo Free State.**Os. *May 20, 1316.*Bahr-el-Ghazal—Proposed grant of part of, to Congo Free State, under consideration, *May 26, 1792.*British Trade—Limitation of freedom of, Inquiry, *May 7, 23.*Congo Basin, British Trade in—Negotiations with France in respect of, not yet completed, *May 12, 421.*Free Trade in—Agreement with signatories to Act of Berlin with regard to clause relating to complete freedom of trade and prohibition of monopolies, *May 26, 1801.*Herr Rabinek—Case of, *May 13, 536; May 20, 1212.*Consular Reports, Advertisements in—Case of Mr. Consul Neville Rolfe's Report on Trade of South Italy. Issue of instructions to Consuls, *May 7, 17; May 25, 1636.*Foreign Ministers of Commerce—All Reports not yet received, *May 25, 1626.*Greece, Sale of Currants in—Scheme for granting Monopoly of Sale to Greek and British Syndicate—Action of British Minister in Athens, *May 7, 16; May 18, 917.*

[cont.]

May 7—May 26.

Cranborne, Lord—*cont.*Kischineff—Massacre of Jews at, *May 19*, 1093.Manchuria—Evacuation of, by Russia—No necessity for Combination of United States, Japan, and England, for securing fulfilment of assurances with regard to, in view of Russia's latest communications, *May 11*, 298.Monastir Massacres—Alleged Massacre of Christians—Statement with regard to, *May 14*, 688.**Persia.**British Railways in South-West Persia—Development of—Intentions of H.M. Government with regard to, *May 12*, 421.River Karun—Improved Navigation of, Attitude of Persian Government, *May 11*, 299.Red Sea Lighthouses—Erection of New Lighthouses, Cause of delay in putting them into working order, *May 11*, 287.Russian Import Duties on Scottish-Cured Herrings—Charge of uniform rate of duty—No representations to be made to Russian Government on subject of, *May 14*, 687.Salonika Bomb Outrage—Deaths resulting from, No definite information with regard to, *May 11*, 299.Waima Incident—Settlement of Claim—Speedy payment of Compensation, *May 14*, 674.**Crean, Mr. Eugene** [Cork, S.E.]Dockyards—Suggested Encouragement of Irish Dockyards, *May 14*, 789.Naval Expenditure—Policy of Increasing Navy to two-Power Standard—Treatment of Dock Labourers in Ireland, *May 14*, 748, 755.**Cremer, Mr. W. R.** [Shoreditch, Haggerston]London Education Bill, *May 18*, 991.**"Crescent," H. M. S.**

Repairs, Delay in Execution of.

Q. Mr. S. Buxton; A. Mr. Arnold-Forster, *May 8*, 199.**Crete**

Medal for Cretan Operations, Distribution of.

Q. Mr. Harmsworth; A. Mr. Arnold-Forster, *May 14*, 683.**Crewe, Earl of**Foreign Warships in British Harbours—Under what Regulations admitted, Recent Changes in Regulations, Conditions under which British Warships are admitted to Harbours of Foreign Powers, Dangers of present Practice of Unlimited Admission—Consideration of Question by Committee of Imperial Defence, and Laying on Table of Papers, proposed, *May 19*, 1063.**Cripps, Mr. C. A.** [Lancashire, Stretford]Church Discipline (No. 2) Bill, *May 12*, 502.London Education Bill, *May 18*, 1024; *May 25*, 1720, 1727; *May 26*, 1889.Trade Disputes Bill, *May 8*, 240.**Crombie, Mr. J. W.** [Kincardineshire]Intoxicating Liquors (Sales to Children) Act, Violation of, at Fulham—Instructions to Police to Enforce Requirements of Act, *May 20*, 1213; *May 21*, 1414; Reporting Cases to Commissioner, *May 25*, 1640.Royal Visit to Edinburgh, Unsatisfactory Military Arrangements on occasion of—Inconvenience to Volunteers from the North, *May 25*, 1632.**Crooks, Mr. W.** [Woolwich]Aged Pensioners Bill, *May 22*, 1570.All Saints, Poplar (Rate Abolition) Bill, *May 21*, 1445.London Education Bill, *May 18*, 1016; *May 20*, 1284; *May 26*, 1903.Poor Law Schools—Inspection of, under Control of Board of Education, *May 25*, 1637.**Cross, Viscount**Licensing Act, 1902—Amending Bill, Introduction of, proposed, *May 12*, 408.**Crystal Palace District Gas Bill**c. Rep.* *May 8*, 195.con.* *May 15*, 801.3R., *May 19*, 1078.l. 1R.*, *May 22*, 1455.**Cullinan, Mr. J.** [Tipperary, S.]Liverpool, Disturbances at, by Wiseites—Prevention of further Disorder, *May 8*, 199.Post Office Packet Service—Late Delivery of Mails in Ireland, *May 11*, 387.Royal Irish Constabulary at Ballyporeen—Numbers assembled on April 26th, Reason for Attendance—Payment of Expense involved, *May 7*, 31.**Cunard Mail Service**

see Post Office—Mails.

Customs Department

Watchers, Alleged Grievances of—Committee of Inquiry, proposed.

Q. Captain Norton; A. Mr. Elliot, *May 11*, 304.**Customs and Excise Duties**

Duties on Beer, Spirits and Tobacco for year ending 31st March, 1903.

Q. Sir H. Fowler; A. Mr. Ritchie, *May 14*, 676.**Customs Duties**Tobacco, Beer and Spirits, Taxation of—Budget Resolutions, *May 12*, 428; Reports, *May 13*, 616, 617.

May 7—May 26.

Dalziel, Mr. [Kirkcaldy Burghs]

Government Shipments to South Africa—
Discontinuance of Shipping Cargo by
Conference Lines, proposed, *May 19*,
1092.

Minister of Agriculture (Motion for
Adjournment), *May 21*, 1426.

Street Collections by Children, Protest
against, *May 21*, 1415.

Dartmouth

see Naval Training.

Davy, Lord

Betting Bill, *May 18*, 868.

Davies, Mr. Alfred [Carmarthen Boroughs]

Post Office Packet Service—Cunard Mail
Service—Lateness of Deliveries in
New York—Advantages of Sorting
Offices on board the Mail Steamers,
May 11, 388.

Deck Loads on Merchant Ships

Debate [H.L.], *May 25*, 1607.

Defence of the Empire

Foreign Warships in British Harbours—
Under what Regulations admitted,
Recent Changes in Regulations, Con-
ditions under which British Warships
are admitted to Harbours of Foreign
Powers—Dangers of present Practice
of Unlimited Admission, Consideration
of Question by Committee of Imperial
Defence proposed.

Q. Earl of Crewe; *A.* Earl of Sel-
borne, *May 19*, 1063.

Delany, Mr. [Queen's County, Ossory]

Militia Rations at Maryborough, curtail-
ment of, alleged, *May 25*, 1627.

Post Office Reforms—Proposed Committee
of Inquiry into grievances of employees,
May 11, 348.

Queen's County Militia Recruits—Pay of,
etc., *May 25*, 1628.

Denman, Lord

Imperial Yeomanry Reserve—Institution
of, Outline of scheme proposed, *May*
26, 1767.

Denmark

Pensions System in.
Os. *May 22*, 1539.

Denny, Colonel [Kilmarnock Burghs]

London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May*
26, 1898.

Trade and Navigation Accounts—Explan-
ation of items, *May 15*, 805.

Derby, Earl of

Betting Bill, *May 18*, 905.

Derby Gas Bill

*l. Com.** *May 15*, 797.

Derlin, Mr. C. R. [Galway]

London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May*
19, 1111.

Devonshire, Duke of—*Lord President of the Council*

Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill,
May 22, 1472.

Proposed alteration of time of the Sittings
of Parliament, *May 25*, 1602.

Dewar, Sir T. [Tower Hamlets, St. George's]

Army Blankets infected with disease—
Sale of, to Training Ship "Cornwall"
—Recall of all such Blankets proposed,
May 25, 1630.

Continental Postage Rates, Reduction of
—Consideration of, at Postal Union
Meeting, proposed, *May 25*, 1636.

Wapping Telegraph Office—Inconvenience
of present site—Establishment of
more Central Office proposed, *May 25*,
1636.

Dewar, Mr. John [Inverness-shire]

Post Office Packet Service—Deficiencies
in Service to Western Islands of
Scotland, *May 11*, 387.

Dewsbury, Batley, and Birstal Tramways Bill

*c. 1R.** *May 26*, 1784.

*l. 3R.** *May 25*, 1574.

Dickson - Poynder, Sir J. [Wiltshire, Chippenham]

London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May*
20, 1254.

Dickson, Mr. C. Scott.—*Solicitor-General for Scotland* [Glasgow, Bridgton]

Crofting Fishery Districts—Loans to
Fishermen in—Practice of granting
Loans not to be resumed, *May 14*,
691.

Didcot, Newbury, and Southampton Railway Bill

*l. Rep.** *May 26*, 1750.

Dilke, Sir C. [Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean]

Australian Commonwealth—The Vondel
Case—Despatch dealing with argu-
ments of South Australian Govern-
ment in the Vondel Case, *May 11*,
297.

Coal Mines Regulation Bill, *May 15*, 808.

Congo Free State, *May 20*, 1306.

Arrest of Herr Rabinek—Govern-
ment Despatch on Papers relat-
ing to, *May 20*, 1213.

British Trade in Congo Basin—
Negotiations with France in
respect of, *May 12*, 421.

Rabinek Case—Laying before House
of information with regard to,
proposed, *May 13*, 536.

County Court Judges and the Workmen's
Compensation Act—Replies of
Judges, to proposed Amendment of
the Act. Laying on Table of,
proposed, *May 13*, 537.

[*cont.*]

May 7—May 26.

Dilke, Sir C.—cont.

Factories—Chief Inspector's Report, Date of publication, *May 21*, 1338.

Naval Expenditure, Increase in—Question of the Colonial Contribution and proceedings at the Colonial Conference—

Comparison of Expenditure with that of other Naval Powers—Comparison with that of the Army—Two Power standard—Possibility of reducing Armaments by Friendly Conference with the Powers, *May 14*, 711.

Postal Employees' Grievances—Proposed Committee on Wages, Inclusion in Inquiry of Case of Women on reduced pay, *May 11*, 302.

Trades Disputes Commission.

Nature of, *May 14*, 699.

Proposed Appointment of a Woman on proposed Commission, *May 21*, 1355.

Subjects of Inquiry of, Inclusion of questions arising from Taff Vale judgment, *May 14*, 699.

Dimsdale, Sir J.

London Education Bill—Endowed Schools, Application of Provisions as to appointment of Managers and control by local authority, to, *May 26*, 1793.

Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph [London]

London Education Bill (*Committee*) *May 20*, 1257; *May 26*, 1901, 1903.

Old Bridewell Burying Ground Bill, *May 11*, 378.

Port of London Bill, *May 13*, 611.

Diplomatic and Consular Service
Consular Reports.

Advertisements in—Precautions taken by Foreign Office before sanctioning insertion of Advertisements.

Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *May 25*, 1636.

Use of, as medium of Advertisement for Particular Firms, alleged—Case of Mr. Consul Neville Rolfe's Report on Trade of South Italy, Issue of Instructions to Consuls, proposed.

Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *May 7*, 17.

"Discovery"

Relief of—Members of Relief Party on Active List of Royal Navy—Request for Exchequer Grant, etc.

Q. Colonel Roys; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *May 26*, 1807.

Diseases of Animals

Ireland—Report of Proceedings, for 1902, by Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, Presented, *May 8*, 154, 198.

Foreign Animals (Amendment) Order Presented, *May 12*, 407, 413.

Orders in Council Presented, *May 21*, 1335; *May 22*, 1456.

Distillation

England—Spirit distilled during 1902, Amount of—Material from which Distilled, Amount despatched to Leith, etc.

Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy; *As.* Mr. Ritchie, *May 7*, 23.

Illicit Distillation—Return Presented, *May 15*, 804; *May 18*, 913.

District Coal Mines Boards

see Coal Mines Regulation Bill.

District Registrar

see Judicature, Court of

Divisions in the House

Trade Disputes Bill—Error in counting the "No" Votes in the Division on, Correction of Mistake.

Q. Mr. Lyttelton; *A.* Mr. Speaker, *May 11*, 313.

Divorce Bill

L. 1R. May 12*, 408.

Docks

see Port of London Bill.

Dogs

Vivisection at London University College—Dogs subjected to experiment, Number of, etc.

Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Akers Douglas, *May 11*, 300.

Domaine Privé

see Congo Free State.

Donaghadee

Post Office, Removal to more central site, proposed—Reply to Memorial.

Q. Mr. T. L. Corbett; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *May 19*, 1095.

Donegal

Mail Service—Gweedore and Bunbeg District, Improved Postal Facilities, proposed.

Q. Mr. H. Law; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *May 7*, 16.

Donelan, Captain [Cork, E.]

Cork Model Schools—Dispute between Technical Instruction Committee and Commissioners of National Education—Protest against action of Commissioners, *May 14*, 695.

Dockyard Labourers in Ireland—Grievances of, *May 14*, 755.

Irish Technical Instruction—Grant in lieu of the Equivalent Grant for Technical Education, Availability of, Administration of Funds, *May 7*, 31.

Kilmoredaly, Galway—Extra Police stationed at, reason for, *May 20*, 1222.

Doogan, Mr. P. C. [Tyrone, E.]

Altmore, Tyrone—Tenants debarred from benefitting by Land Acts, by Revisionary Leases, Provision in Land Bill for purchase of Farms, proposed, *May 7*, 33.

May 7—May 26.

Dorchester

Artillery Barracks—Quartering of men over Stabling—Effect on health of troops—Improvement of Barracks, proposed.

Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Brodrick, May 7, 22.

Doughty, Mr. G. [Great Grimsby]

Wireless Telegraphy for Light Vessels—Fitting Light Vessels with Apparatus, Completion of Contracts, *May 20, 1213.*

Douglas, Rt. Hon. Akers — *Secretary of State for the Home Department*—[Kent, St. Augustine's]

Anti-Vaccinationists, Prison Treatment of—Case of H. Elderkin, imprisoned in Northampton Gaol, *May 11, 301.*

"Black List"—Persons placed on List without their consent, Decision of High Court in case of Commissioner of Police *v. Donovan*, *May 14, 673.*

Coal Mines—Female Labour in, Employment of, Information obtainable from Annual General Report on Mines and Quarries, *May 26, 1802.*

County Court Judges and the Workmen's Compensation Act—Replies of Judges to proposed Amendment of the Act, confidential nature of, *May 13, 537.*

Disturbances at Liverpool—Preservation of Order by Local Authorities, *May 8, 199.*

Electricity in Mines—Report of Committee, Date of Publication, *May 25, 1625.*

Executions at Holloway, *May 21, 1451.*

Factories—Chief Inspector's Report, Date of Publication, *May 21, 1338.*

Holloway Prison Executions, Representation for Discontinuance of carrying out Executions, Decision with regard to.

Injured Animals—Destruction of, by Police under Act of 1894, *May 14, 672.*

Intoxicating Liquors (Sales to Children) Act—Violation of, at Fulham alleged, No knowledge of Police of Cases, *May 20, 1213.*

Licensing Act, 1902—"Internal Communication," Course of action to be adopted in reference to term not yet decided upon, *May 20, 1203.*

Licensing Prosecutions for opening during Prohibited Hours—Action of Highgate Magistrates, *May 14, 671.*

London Streets—Breaking up of, Control over, *May 26, 1788.*

Motor Cars in Parliament Street, Westminster—Alleged Disregard of Police Signals by Chauffeurs passing through Parliament Street, *May 21, 1349.*

Motor Car Driver—Disregard of Constable's Signals in Parliament Street, Result of Inquiry, *May 26, 1788.*

Poles in Scottish Coal Mines, Employment of—Employees not examined in Language but instructed in Regulations, *May 21, 1347.*

Douglas, Rt. Hon. Akers—*cont.*

Police Force of London—Regulation of Motor Car Traffic—Strength of the Force—Number of Arrests and Outrages—Spread of Hooliganism, *May 21, 1410, 1415.*

Publicans' Licences refused—Information with regard to, *May 8, 201.*

Publicans' Licences—Refusals to renew Licences during 1901 and 1902, Return not to be granted, *May 21, 1337.*

Publicans' Licences, Non-renewal of—Return showing Number of Years during which Licencees had held Licence, refused, *May 20, 1202.*

Registration of Clubs—Number Registered, Inclusion in future of Information in Annual Reports of Inspectors of Constabulary, *May 18, 926.*

Trade Disputes Bill, *May 8, 226.*

Underground Bakehouses—Refusal of Certificates to Tenants of, No necessity for Introduction of Bill dealing with Compensation, *May 13, 529.*

Vivisection at London University College.

Dogs subjected to Experiment, Number of, etc., *May 11, 300.*

Experiments on a Brown Dog—Proposal for such Experiment to be discontinued or conducted in presence of Home Office Inspector, Adoption of proposal impossible, *May 11, 300.*

Number of persons holding Certificates, etc.—Information with regard to, *May 8, 201.*

Operation upon a Brown Dog—Performed under Certificate C, *May 8, 200.*

Operation on Brown Dog—Killed on removal from Theatre, *May 12, 416.*

Operation on a Brown Dog, Performance of Experiment, by whom and under what Certificate, *May 20, 1200.*

Workmen's Compensation Act, *May 13, 645.*

Down County

Magistracy—Number of Appointments to Magistracy in, Number of Roman Catholics, etc.

Q. Mr. Wood; A. Mr. Wyndham, May 7, 30

Dover Corporation Bill

c. Rep. May 22, 1505.*

Dublin

Bonding Store—Licence for, Grant of, to Dublin Miller—Refusal to Country Miller, alleged—Grant of equal privileges, proposed.

Q. Mr. Sullivan; A. Mr. Ritchie, May 7, 25.

[*cont.*]

May 7—May 26.

Dublin—cont.

Gallery of Modern Art and Royal Hibernian Academy—Provision in Bill for Allocation of Site for purposes of.
Qs. Mr. Boland; As. Mr. Elliot, Mr. Wyndham, May 20, 1217, 1220.

Metropolitan Police — Compensation for injuries received on duty—Case of Thomas Hackett.

Q. Mr. J. P. Farrell; A. Mr. Wyndham, May 22, 1508.

Post Office—Counter duties in—Number of Sorting Clerks and Telegraphists employed on, Length of Employment, etc.

Q. Mr. Nannetti; A. Mr. Austen Chamberlain, May 11, 309.

Post Office, Supervising Duties—Performance of, by Junior Sorting Clerks and Telegraphists — Stoppage of Practice, proposed.

Q. Mr. Nannetti; A. Mr. Austen Chamberlain, May 11, 308.

Dublin Fusiliers

Detention of, on Aden Frontier—With drawal, proposed.

Q. Mr. C. Hobhouse; A. Lord G. Hamilton, May 26, 1788.

Dublin Improvement (Bull Alley Area) Bill

l. 3R. May 8, 153.*

Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway Bill

c. Rep. May 19, 1079.*

con. May 25, 1617.*

Dudley, Stourbridge, and District Tramways Bill

c. 1R. May 22, 1505.*

l. 3R. May 19, 1046.*

Duke of York's School

Removal from Chelsea, Reasons for.

Q. Mr. Whitmore; A. Mr. Brodrick, May 12, 417.

Scarlet Fever Epidemic—Alleged Refusal to give Information to Sanitary Authorities, Instructions to School Officials, proposed.

Q. Mr. W. Thomson; A. Mr. Brodrick, May 18, 921.

Dundee Royal Lunatic Asylum Order Confirmation Bill

c. Ordered, May 12, 409.

con. May 14, 665.*

l. 1R. May 19, 1046.*

Rep. May 19, 1046.*

Duns

see Berwickshire County Town Bill.

Durham

see Coal Mines Regulation Bill.

Durham, County of

Polling Districts—Order altering certain Polling Districts in the County, Presented, *May 11, 272, 285.*

Durham, Earl of

Betting Bill, *May 18, 883.*

Dyke, Sir W. Hart [Kent, Dartford]
 London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May 25, 1662.*

East Ardsley Gas Bill

l. Rep. May 14, 653.*

3R. May 19, 1046.*

East Ham Improvement Bill

c. con. May 20, 1197.*

3R. May 25, 1616.*

l. 1R. May 26, 1751.*

Ebbw Vale Water and Improvement Bill

c. Rep. May 7, 10.*

con. May 15, 801.*

3R. May 19, 1078.*

l. 1R. May 22, 1455.*

Ecclesiastical Commission

All Saints, Poplar (Rate Abolition), Bill
see that title.

Court of Benefices—Amount paid by Commission to Officers of Court—Duties of Officers—Fund from which Payments are made.

Q. Mr. Rigg; A. Mr. L. Knowles, May 21, 1336.

Ecclesiastical Commissioners Bill

l. 1R. May 15, 798.*

2R. May 19, 1054.

Rep. May 22, 1502.*

3R. May 26, 1760.*

Statement — Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, *May 19, 1053.*

Ecclesiastical Courts

Church Discipline (No. 2.) Bill, *see that title.*

Procedure and constitution of—Introduction of Improvements, proposed.

Q. Mr. H. D. Greene; A. Mr. A. J. Balfour, May 11, 286.

Edinburgh

Museum of Science and Art—Report for 1902 Presented, *May 8, 153; 198.*

Post Office.

Promotion of Clerks—Dissatisfaction with regard to promotion of Junior Clerks.

Q. Sir L. M'Iver; A. Mr. Austen Chamberlain, May 21, 1339.

Retirement of Staff at age of Sixty-five — Regulation not complied with.

Q. Sir L. M'Iver; O. Mr. Austen Chamberlain, May 21, 1339.

Royal Visit — Unsatisfactory Military Arrangements on occasion of, Inconvenience to Volunteers from the North—Party responsible for.

Q. Mr. Crombie; A. Mr. Brodrick, May 25, 1632.

Education

Education Committees—Exclusion of the Press from Meetings—Case of the Education Committee of the Northumberland County Council.

Qs. Mr. Trevelyan; As. Sir W. Anson, *May 18*, 929.

Education Department—Resignation of Mr. Sadler—Laying Correspondence on Table, proposed.

Q. Mr. Emmott; A. Sir W. Anson, *May 14*, 694.

Elementary School Buildings—Condition of, Surveyors' Reports—Instructions to Surveyors.

Q. Mr. Mansfield; A. Sir W. Anson, *May 21*, 1215.

Evening Continuation Schools—Grants—Non-provided Evening Schools—Payment of Grants by Board of Education—Powers of Local Education Authority over Schools.

Q. Dr. Macnamara; A. Sir W. Anson, *May 21*, 1338.

Finance—Order for handing over of balances of Voluntary School Associations and Managers to Local Education Authority, proposed.

Q. Mr. Mansfield; A. Sir W. Anson, *May 26*, 1804.

Grants.

Aid Grant—Application of, for Repair of School Houses.

Q. Mr. Lambert; A. Sir W. Anson, *May 20*, 1216.

Equivalent Grant—Amount to be allocated for Educational Purposes.

Q. Mr. W. Redmond; A. Mr. Wyndham, *May 18*, 933.

Government Grants—Payment of, in Advance, proposed.

Q. Mr. Brigg; A. Mr. A. J. Balfour, *May 20*, 1208.

Holland (Lincolnshire) Education Committee—Composition of, Preponderance of Churchmen, Equal Representation on Committee, proposed.

Q. Mr. Mansfield; A. Sir W. Anson, *May 20*, 1215.

Ireland.

Building Grants under the Board of National Education—Decision with regard to scale.

Q. Mr. M'Kean; A. Mr. Elliot, *May 21*, 1352.

Equivalent grant.

Allocation of, for improvement of school appliances, etc.

Q. Mr. T. O'Donnell; A. Mr. Wyndham, *May 19*, 1087.

Application of portion of, to primary education.

Q. Mr. J. O'Connor; A. Mr. Wyndham, *May 25*, 1644.

Evening National Schools—Payments of Grants delayed.

Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; A. Mr. Wyndham, *May 13*, 533.

Education—cont.**Ireland—cont.**

Intermediate Education—Rules and Programme Presented, *May 14*, 669, 798.

Technical Instruction—Grant in lieu of the equivalent grant for technical education, availability of—Administration of funds.

Qs. Captain Donelan; As. Mr. Wyndham, *May 7*, 31.

Lindsey (Lincolnshire) Education Committee—Action of, with regard to Estimates—Threatened resignation of School Committees.

Q. Mr. Mansfield; A. Sir W. Anson, *May 20*, 1214.

Local Authorities—Policy of Board of Education with regard to—Application of policy to Elementary Education.

Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; A. Sir W. Anson, *May 18*, 918.

London Education Bill, *see* that title.

“Passive Resistance” to the Education Rate—Proceedings against National Committee.

Q. Mr. Trevelyan; A. Mr. A. J. Balfour, *May 18*, 937.

Return Presented, *May 15*, 804.

Schemes for formation of Education Committees—Approved by Board of Education—Statement Presented, *May 26*, 1758, 1786.

Scotland.

Aid Grant, Distribution of—Minute relating to—Date of laying before Parliament.

Q. Mr. Buchanan; A. Mr. G. Murray, *May 20*, 1217.

General Report Presented, *May 13*, 527; *May 14*, 655.

Report of Committee of Council on Education Presented, *May 13*, 527; *May 14*, 655.

Technical Education—Return Presented, *May 14*, 668.

Education Act, 1902

Owners and Trustees of Non-Provided Schools—Position of, under Act.

Q. Lord Heneage; A. Marquess of Londonderry, *May 15*, 798.

Education, Board of

President: *Marquess of Londonderry.*

Parliamentary Secretary—*Sir William Anson.*

Director of Special Inquiries and Reports—Papers relating to, Presented, *May 18*, 866, 914.

London Education Bill, *see* that title.

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (East Ham, etc.) Bill

l. 2R*. *May 14*, 654.

Rep*. *May 25*, 1575.

3R*. *May 26*, 1752.

c. 1R*. *May 26*, 1784.

May 7—May 26.

Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London) Bill

- l. 2R.* *May 14*, 654.
Com.* *May 22*, 1455.

Education (Borrowing) Bill

- c. 2R. *May 12*, 474.
Debate on 2R [H.C.], *May 12*, 468.
Balances, Use of, 469, 470, 472, 473, 474.
Board Schools, Management of, 468.
Education Act (1902), Power given to local authorities by, 468.
Loan to local authorities, Proposed, 468, 469, 471, 472, 473, 474.
Local authorities and Management of Schools, 468, 471.
Local Government Board, Money advanced through, 468.
Ratepayers, Burden of, 470.
Repayment of Loan, Time for, 471.
Voluntary Schools, Management of, 468, 469, 472, 473.
Committee Report Progress, *May 13*, 620.

Elections

- Amendment of Law to Secure Disqualification of Persons for Re-election whose previous Election has been declared Void, proposed.
Q. Sir C. Furness; A. Sir R. Finlay, *May 14*, 675.

Electric Lighting

- Board of Trade Reports Presented, *May 22* 1456.
Camberwell—Application of London Electric Supply Corporation for Extension, of Area—Reason for Refusal.
Q. Dr. Macnamara; A. Mr. G. Balfour, *May 20*, 1203.

Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1883

- Board of Trade Special Report Presented, *May 21*, 1335.

Electric Lighting (London) Bill

- l. 3R.* *May 26*, 1760.

Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill

- c. Rep.* *May 7*, 10.
3R.* *May 8*, 193.
l. 1R.* *May 11*, 270.
2R.* Com.* *May 22*, 1455.
Rep.* *May 25*, 1575.
3R.* *May 26*, 1752.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill

- c. Rep.* *May 7*, 10.
con.* *May 8*, 193.
3R.* *May 11*, 283.
l. 1R.* *May 12*, 406.
2R.* *May 22*, 1455.
Rep.* *May 25*, 1575.
3R.* *May 26*, 1752.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill

- c. Rep.* *May 7*, 10.
con.* *May 8*, 193.
3R.* *May 11*, 283.
l. 1R.* *May 12*, 406.
2R.* *May 22*, 1455.
Rep.* *May 25*, 1575.
3R.* *May 26*, 1752.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill

- 3 Return Presented, *May 7*, 13.
c. 2R.* Com.* *May 11*, 283.
Rep.* *May 22*, 1505.
con.* *May 25*, 1617.
3R.* *May 26*, 1779.
l. 1R.* *May 26*, 1751.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders, (No. 5) Bill.

- Return Presented, *May 7*, 14.
c. 2R.* Com.* *May 19*, 1079.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders, (No. 6) Bill.

- Return Presented, *May 7*, 14.
c. Rep.* *May 14*, 665.
3R.* *May 15*, 801.
l. 1R.* *May 15*, 797.
2R.* *May 26*, 1752.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders, (No. 7) Bill.

- c. Ordered, *May 7*, 9.
1R.* *May 7*, 9.
2R.* *May 26*, 1779.

Memorandum of, stating Nature of proposals contained in Bill, Copy ordered, *May 19*, 1083.

Return Presented, *May 20*, 1199.

Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Bill.

- c. 1R.* *May 25*, 1651.

Elibank, Master of

British Trade with Foreign Countries—Return of, proposed, *May 25*, 1634.

Indian Trade with Foreign Countries—Volume of export and import trade. Return proposed, *May 25*, 1635.

Elliot, Mr. A.—Financial Secretary to the Treasury [Durham]

Abstractor Clerks, Pensions of, *May 14*, 677.

Civil Service—Promotion of Persons appointed for Special Duties to positions on General Staff, Inadequacy of special certificate, *May 20*, 1204.

Customs Watchers—Alleged Grievances of—No necessity for holding proposed Committee of Inquiry, *May 11*, 304.

Exports of Milling Offals—Amount in years 1900, 1901, 1902, *May 21*, 1338.

Fees of Attorney-General and Solicitor-General for last twelve months, *May 20*, 1204.

May 7—May 26.

Elliot, Mr. A.—cont.

Gallery of Modern Art and Royal Hibernian Academy—No provision to be inserted in Public Offices (Dublin) Bill for allocation of site for purposes of Gallery, *May 20*, 1217.

Inland Revenue Department—Secretary's Department, Alleged expensive method of Promotion, *May 11*, 289.

Ireland.**Education.**

Building Grants under the Board of National Education—Decision with regard to, deferred, *May 21*, 1352.

National Schools, Erection of—Increase of Building Estimates—Scheme to be considered on completion of Inquiry into Educational System, *May 26*, 1791.

Irish National School Teachers' Pension Fund, *May 12*, 423 ; *May 19*, 1088.

Gun Licences—Refusal of Licence to J. Adair, Castleblaney—Refund of money, *May 7*, 35.

Loans to Irish Farmers, Increase in number of—No necessity for appointment of additional inspectors, *May 13*, 539.

National Gallery Annual Report—Proposed Indication in Report of new pictures acquired during year—Communication of system to Trustee, *May 20*, 1204.

Public Offices (Dublin) Bill—New Buildings, Selection of architect, *May 14*, 695.

Scotland—Collection of Death Duties in, Centralisation of Death Duty Assessment in Edinburgh, Purpose of new proposals, *May 12*, 415.

Treasury—Financial control over Court of Judicature exercised by, *May 21*, 1376.

War Office Tenders for Oats—Minimum weight required in Ireland, *May 13*, 540.

Ellis, Mr. J. [Nottingham, Rushcliffe]

Electricity in Mines—Report of Committee, Date of Publication, *May 25*, 1625.

London Education Bill, *May 26*, 1889.

Nigeria.

Additions to the Protectorate of Northern Nigeria—Responsibilities involved, Area of acquired Country, etc., *May 12*, 419.

Military Operations—No additional charge on National Exchequer anticipated, *May 25*, 1629.

Nottingham Smallpox Hospital—Erection of, on unsuitable site, Danger to the Public, *May 25*, 1638.

Ellis, Mr. J.—cont.**Parliamentary Procedure.**

Ascension Day—Sitting of Committees on, *May 20*, 1226.

Hour of Meeting—Afternoon Sitting to commence at 2.30 instead of 2 o'clock, proposed, *May 12*, 425 ; *May 21*, 1358.

Port of London Bill, *May 13*, 573.

Transvaal.

Aliens, Arrangements for Naturalisation of—Inclusion of Ordinances relative to, in Parliamentary Papers, proposed, *May 12*, 420.

Mines, Protest against Employment of Asiatic Labour in—Opinion of H. M. Government, etc., *May 25*, 1633.

Wandsworth Infirmary, Alleged undue Violence at—Evidence at Inquest on Michael Sadler, *May 11*, 291.

Emigration and Immigration

Statistical Tables relating to, with Report to Board of Trade thereon—Return Ordered, *May 26*, 1758 ; Presented, *May 26*, 1759.

Emmot Mr. A. [Oldham]

Congo Free State, *May 20*, 1310.

Education Department—Resignation of Mr. Sadler, Laying Correspondence on Table, proposed, *May 14*, 694.

London Education Bill, *May 25*, 1696.

Post Office Reforms—Suggested Committee for Inquiry into Grievances of Employees—Salaries of Women Clerks, *May 11*, 351.

Emoluments of Reserve Officers

Debate [H.L.] May 11, 277.

Classes of Reserve Officers, Disparity in Treatment of, 277.

Gratuities, Exchange of Pensions for, 277, 279, 281.

Royal Warrant, Terms of, 277.

South Africa, Payment during War in, 278, 279.

Employment of Children Bill

c. Rep.* *May 7*, 37.

Evans, Mr. Samuel [Glamorganshire, Mid]

London Education Bill, *May 13*, 969 ; *May 20*, 1259, 1279 ; *May 25*, 1694, 1740 ; *May 26*, 1861, 1863, 1866, 1888, 1890, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1908, 1910, 1915.

Evictions, Ireland

Farms—Return Ordered, *May 18*, 915 ; Presented, *May 18*, 915.

Inquiries in connection with Irish Land Bill—Action of Police with regard to. Q. Mr. Flavin ; A. Mr. Wyndham, *May 7*, 33.

May 7—May 26.

Evictions, Ireland—cont.

Ratheline evicted tenants—Visited by the Police, Inclusion in Irish Land Bill of Clause dealing with restoration of evicted tenants.

Q. Mr. J. P. Farrell; A. Mr. Wyndham, *May 21, 1353.*

Exchequer Bonds

see Budget.

Executions

see Prisons.

Exeter Railway Bill

c. 2R.* *Com.* May 11, 283.*

Rep.* *May 22, 1504.*

Explosions

Lowwood Gunpowder Company's Factory—Explosion at, Report Presented, *May 14, 655, 668.*

Faber, Mr. Beckett [Hampshire, Andover]
Land Registry—Objections to Land Transfer Act, *May 21, 1396.*

Factories and Workshops

Annual Report Presented, *May 25, 1576, 1620.*

Night Work—Order amending and consolidating orders with regard to employment at night, Presented, *May 8, 154, 198.*

Report of Chief Inspector—Date of Publication.

Q. Sir C. Dilke; A. Mr. Akers Douglas, *May 21, 1338.*

Fardell, Sir George [Paddington, S.]
London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May 19, 1181.*

Farquharson, Dr. R. [Aberdeenshire, W.]

South African War, Disease in the Army—Report of Committee, Laying on Table of, *May 21, 1347.*

Farrell, Mr. J. P. [Longford N.]

Boyle.

Rural District, New Works in—Estimated cost, by whom borne, Effect on cost of adoption of the main road scheme, *May 26, 1795.*

Union Printing Contract—Acceptance of high tender by Guardians, alleged, *May 22, 1508.*

Corn Duty Rebate—Inclusion of Irish Merchants in proposed grant of Rebate, *May 21, 1790.*

Dublin Metropolitan Police—Compensation for injuries received on duty—Case of Thomas Hackett, *May 22, 1508.*

Harvey, Peter—Intentions with regard to discharge of, *May 21, 1340.*

Land Commission—Mr. Murrough O'Brien, Reason for not sitting to hear Appeal Cases, *May 20, 1218.*

Local Government Board for Ireland—Auditors and Public Contracts, No interference on part of Board with Work of Auditor, *May 26, 1794.*

Farrell, Mr. J. P.—cont.

Longford.

Cusack Estate—Refusal of Grazing Tenancies to Evicted Tenants, Assistance to enable Tenants to Purchase Farms, proposed, *May 25, 1626.*

District Council—Auditor's Surcharge, Payment not to be Enforced prior to Decision of Engineer's Case against Council, proposed, *May 26, 1795.*

Drainage Boards—Composition and Method of Election, Legislation proposed, *May 20, 1219.*

Drumard—E. Farrelly's Holding at, Decrease in size of Tenancy, Readjustment of Boundaries, proposed, *May 21, 1353.*

Magistrates, Appointments of—Number made on Recommendation of Lord Lieutenant of County—Number of Roman Catholics and Protestants, *May 21, 1340.*

Mails—Conveyance of, from Station to Post Office, Employment of more suitable Method of Transit, *May 25, 1624.*

Trees—Sale of, Provision in Irish Land Bill for Preservation of Trees in Rural Parts, *May 20, 1219.*

Murray, Private J.—Balance due to, Payment of, to deceased Soldier's Mother, proposed, *May 26, 1797.*

National Schools in Ireland, Erection of—Expediting Adoption of the Proposal to increase the Building Estimates, *May 26, 1791.*

Ratheline—Evicted Tenants, Visited by the Police—Inclusion in Irish Land Bill of Clause dealing with the Restoration of Evicted Tenants, *May 21, 1353.*

Unions in Ireland—Appointment of Commission on Amalgamation of, Names of Commissioners, etc., *May 25, 1629.*

Women Clerks in General Post Office—Extension of Age limits, proposed, *May 21, 1350.*

Faversham Gas Bill

c. 2R.* *Com.* May 11, 283.*

Rep.* *May 22, 1504.*

3R.* *May 26, 1778.*

Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn—Lord of the Treasury [Huntingdonshire, Ramsey]

Aberdeen Post Office—Reasons for Delay in Building, *May 12, 467.*

Argentine Cattle Trade—Foot-and-Mouth Disease among Cattle necessitating Prohibition of Export of Animals, *May 25, 1639.*

Holyrood Palace, Condition of—Dates of Annual Reports on—Defects of Drainage, When and by whom Reported, *May 14, 692.*

[cont.]

May 7—May 26.

Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn—*cont.*

House of Commons Telegraph Rooms—
Defective Ventilation, *May 13*, 531.

New Road from the Mall to Charing Cross
—Date of Opening, *May 13*, 532.

Rotten Row, Defective Condition of—Im-
provements to be effected, *May 14*,
692.

Statue of James II. at Gwyder House,
Whitehall, Removal of—Re-erection
in more suitable Position, *May 19*,
1085.

Fenwick, Mr. C. [Northumberland, Wans-
beck]

Aged Pensioners Bill, *May 22*, 1530.

Workmen's Compensation Act, Amend-
ment of, *May 13*, 623.

Ferguson, Mr. Munro [Leith Burghs]

Naval Expenditure, Reasons for Increase
in—Ratio between Naval and Military
Expenditure—Significance of the Re-
duction of *Personnel* in the French
Fleet, *May 14*, 741.

Fergusson, Sir J. [Manchester, N.E.]
London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May*
20, 1277.

Red Sea Lighthouses—Lighting of new
Houses, Cause of Delay, *May 26*,
1792.

Feversham, Earl of

Betting Bill, *May 18*, 908.

Ffrench, Mr. P. [Wexford, S.]

Loans to Irish Farmers—Increase in Num-
ber of, No corresponding Increase in
Number of Inspectors, *May 13*, 539.

Field, Mr. [Dublin, St. Patrick]

Aged Pensions Bill, *May 22*, 1535.

Budget Resolutions—Effect of heavy
Duties on Tobacco—Plea for En-
couragement of Home Industry, *May*
12, 446, 447.

Railways (Electrical Power) Bill, *May 12*,
482.

Fife Electric Power Bill

l. Rep. May 26*, 1750.

Finance Bill

c. 1R. May 13, 619.

Finlay, Sir R. B.—*Attorney-General* [Inver-
ness Burghs]

Civil Code for the United Kingdom or
British Empire—Impossibility of pre-
paring such a Code, *May 14*, 691.

Elections—Proposed amendment of Law
to secure disqualification of Persons
for re-election, whose previous Elec-
tion has been declared void, *May 14*,
675.

Judicature, Expenditure of Supreme
Court of—Chancery Appeals in Ar-
rears—Necessity for extra Judges—
Appointments and Salaries, *May 21*,
1370, 1374.

Finlay, Sir R. B.—*cont.*

Land Registry System, Inevitable Expen-
diture in connection with—Security
afforded by Land Registry—Position
of the County Councils—Operation of
Land Transfer Act, *May 21*, 1389.

Manchester Licensing Committee, Election
of—Voting of Persons not entitled to
vote, Proceedings against Offenders,
May 18, 928.

Marine Insurance Bill, *May 12*, 499.

Motor Car Race from Scotland to
London—Alleged breaches of the
law, *May 21*, 1348.

Votes—Arrangement of the order of,
May 21, 1362.

Firearms

Ireland.

Refusal of Licences.

Castleblaney—Refusal of Licence
to J. Adair—Refund of
Money.

Q. Mr. Sloan; A. Mr.
Elliot, May 7, 35,

Castlemaine—Refusal of Licence
to P. Courmane, Reason for.

Q. Mr. T. O'Donnell; A.
Mr. Wyndham, May
7, 19.

Kilnamona, County Clare—Re-
fusal of Licence to J. Galvin.

Q. Mr. W. Redmond; A.
Mr. Atkinson, May 11,
306.

Removal of two guns from pos-
session of Owner at New-
market, Clare, Reason for.

Q. Mr. W. Redmond; A.
Mr. Wyndham, May
21, 1354.

First Commissioner of Works

Lord Windsor.

First Lord of the Admiralty

Earl of Selborne.

**First Lord of the Treasury and Prime
Minister**

Rt. Hon. A. J. Balfour.

"Firth of Forth, The"

Stranding of.

Second Officer, conduct of—Stobbs
conduct of Mr.—Trade, Board of,
Proposed action—Treasury,
Question of appeal for Funds to.

Q. Lord Muskerry; A. Lord
Wolverton, May 7, 6.

Fisheries

Ireland—Cooscrum Fishing Station, Im-
provement of.

Q. Mr. Boland; A. Mr. Atkinson,
May 11, 306.

[*cont.*

May 7—May 26.

Fisheries—cont.

Proposed Fisheries Board—Introduction of Bill dealing with formation of proposed Board, Date of uncertain.

Q. Lord Heneage; A. Earl Howe, *May 18, 1909.*

Scotland.

Crofting Fishery Districts—Resuming practice of granting Loans, proposed.

Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Scott Dickson, *May 14, 1909.*

Herrings, Scottish-cured — Russian import duty on, Charge of uniform rate of duty, Reduction, proposed.

Q. Mr. Weir; A. Lord Cranborne, *May 14, 1909.*

Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbour Bill

c. Rep.* *May 8th, 1911.*

con.* *May 19, 1909.*

3r.* *May 25, 1916.*

l. 1r.* *May 26, 1911.*

Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund [Wiltshire, Cricklade]

Congo Free State, *May 20, 1925.*

London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May 25, 1909; May 26, 1906, 1889, 1896.*

Minister of Agriculture—Appointment of —(Motion for Adjournment), *May 21, 1920.*

Flannery, Sir Fortescue [Yorkshire, Shipley]

Navy List—Entrance of names of Officers in order of Rank and Seniority in accordance with the new Scheme, proposed, *May 11, 1897.*

Oil fuel, Use of—Use of Turbines, *May 14, 1901.*

Shipbuilding, Reasons for increased Expenditure on—Comparisons between Naval and Military Expenditure, *May 14, 1905.*

Flavin, Mr. M. J. [Kerry, N.]

Ballyduff Mails—Inconvenience caused by not having Sunday delivery—Sunday Service, proposed, *May 18, 1905.*

Butter, American—Sold as Irish, Alleged, Prevention of further frauds, *May 18, 1903.*

Dock labourers in Ireland, Treatment of, *May 14, 1909.*

Evictions—Inquiries in connection with Irish Land Bill, Action of police with regard to, *May 7, 1903.*

Fox, Private—Discharge from Army on ground of ill-health—Grant of small pension, proposed, *May 7, 1902.*

Listowel.

Mail Delays—Number of, previous and subsequent to the amalgamation of Waterford and Limerick Railway Company and Great Southern and Western Railway Company, *May 7, 1904.*

Flavin, Mr. M. J.—cont.**Listowel—cont.**

Telegraphic communication between Listowel and Tralee—Extension of system to Listowel proposed, *May 19, 1907.*

Union Accounts—Re-examination of accounts by Auditor, pending decision with regard to holding of sworn inquiry, *May 12, 1904.*

Urban Council Audit—Removal of Papers from Urban Council Office, Authority for, Auditor, etc., *May 7, 1904.*

Prison Population in Ireland, *May 21, 1909.*

War Office Tenders for Oats—Minimum weight required in Ireland, *May 13, 1904.*

Fleets of the World

Return Presented, *May 15, 1904.*

Flogging

see Prisons.

Flower, Mr. E. F. S. [Bradford, W.]

Irish Land Bill, *May 7, 1911.*

London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May 18, 1909; May 20, 1902.*

Transport of Troops by Railway in South Africa—Insufficient Passenger Carriages—Improvement proposed, *May 18, 1909.*

Flynn, Mr. J. C. [Cork, N.]**Cork Model Schools.**

Accommodation—Average daily attendance, Cost, etc., *May 14, 1905.*

Attendance—Proportion of Infants, *May 20, 1921.*

Pupil Teachers—Number Trained in Schools, etc., *May 20, 1921.*

Naval Expenditure—Claims of Ireland to share in—Unfair treatment of Irish Docks, *May 14, 1905.*

Food

Imported Food Supplies—Report relative to, Date of issue.

Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; A. Mr. Bonar Law, *May 25, 1901.*

Food Supply in War Time**Navy Discussion.**

Os. *May 14, 1903, 1902.*

Foreign Ministers of Commerce

Report on Constitution and Functions of —Date of laying on Table.

Q. Mr. L. Sinclair; A. Lord Cranborne, *May 25, 1906.*

Foster, Sir Michael [London University]

London Education Bill (*Committee*) *May 19, 1922; May 20, 1903; May 26, 1885, 1905, 1906, 1908.*

May 7—May 26.

Foster, Sir Walter [Derbyshire, Ilkeston]Aged Pensioners Bill, *May 22*, 1553.Church Discipline Bill, *May 12*, 519.Coal Mines Regulation Bill, *May 15*, 848.London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May 18*, 1010.Plague in India—Annual increase of Steps for prevention of disease, *May 26*, 1789.Post Office Reforms—Committee of Inquiry into grievances of employees, Position of sub-masters and women, Salaries of women, Re-purchase of stamps, *May 11*, 356.**Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry** [Wolverhampton, E.]Budget Resolutions—Discussion of financial questions, *May 12*, 431, 437.China, Mail to—Conveyance by the Trans-Siberian Route, Arrangements with Russia, *May 11*, 289.Customs and Excise duties on Beer, Spirits, and Tobacco for year ending March 31st, 1903, *May 14*, 676.Land Registry, Expenses of the system of—Position of the County Councils—Working of the Land Transfer Act, *May 21*, 1393.New Road from the Mall to Charing Cross—Date of opening, *May 13*, 532.**Fox, Private**

Discharge from Army on ground of ill-health—Grant of small pension proposed.

Q. Mr. Flavin; A. Mr. Brodrick, *May 7*, 22.**France**

Anglo-French Relations—Conclusion of Permanent Treaty of Conciliation between France and Great Britain, Resolutions of Chambers of Commerce with regard to.

Qs. Mr. Beckett; As. Mr. A. J. Balfour, *May 11*, 309.

Naval Position compared with that of England.

Os. in *Com. of Supply*, *May 14*, 705, 715, 720, 726, 741.**Freight-trains**

see Police.

Friendly Societies

see Aged Pensioners Bill and Outdoor Relief.

Ganton-on-Sea, Sea Defences Billl. 3R.* *May 7*, 4.c. 1R.* *May 8*, 195.2R.* *Com.* May 18*, 910.**Giller, Mr. J. M. F.** [Wiltshire, Westbury]Somaliland Military Expedition—Report on situation caused by results of recent fighting, *May 18*, 921.**"Furious," H.M.S.**

Repairs, Nature of, Estimated cost, etc.

Q. Sir W. Allan; A. Mr. Arnold-Forster, *May 20*, 1210.**Furness, Sir C.** [Hartlepool]Elections—Amendment of law to secure disqualification of persons for re-election whose previous election has been declared void, proposed, *May 14*, 675.**Galloway Mr. W. J.** [Manchester, S.W.]Trade Disputes Bill, *May 8*, 215.**Galway**

Kilmoredaly, Extra Police Stationed at—Reason for.

Q. Captain Donelan; A. Mr. Wyndham, *May 20*, 1222.**Gas and Water Orders Confirmation Bill**l. 2R.* *May 25*, 1574.**Gas Light and Coke Company's Acts Amendment Bill**c. Rep.* *May 12*, 410.**Gas Light and Coke Company Bill**c. Rep.* *May 12*, 410.con.* *May 18*, 910.3R.* *May 21*, 1334.l. 1R.* *May 22*, 1455.**Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill**l. 2R.* *May 22*, 1455.**Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill**l. 2R.* *May 22*, 1455.**General Medical Council**Account for 1902—Presented, *May 21*, 1335; *May 22*, 1456.**Germany**

Naval Position compared with that of England.

Observations in Com. of Supply, *May 14*, 705, 716, 725, 726, 733, 740, 743, 748.**Gibbs, Hon. Alban** [London]London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May 25*, 1689; *May 26*, 1903.**Gibbs, Hon. Vicary** [Hertfordshire, St. Albans]Port of London Bill, *May 13*, 577.**Gilbert and Elice Islands**

Administration of—Allegations against Resident Commissioner.

Q. Mr. C. Wason; A. Mr. J. Chamberlain, *May 19*, 1092.

Lodge, Mr.—Illegal deportation of, Payment of Compensation.

Q. Mr. C. Wason; A. Mr. J. Chamberlain, *May 19*, 1091.**Gilhooly, Mr. J.** [Cork County, W.]Dockyard Labourers in Ireland—Grievances of, *May 14*, 756.

May 7—May 26.

Glasgow

Post Office—Assistant Postmen, Established Appointments for.

Q. Sir J. Stirling-Maxwell; A. Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *May 7, 15.*

Glasgow, Earl of

Naval Training, New scheme—No real necessity for alteration—Agitation of engineers—Merits of scheme, Return to early age of entry for cadets, Training of warrant officers, Utilisation of Services of Marine officers—Demerits of scheme, Proposed interchangeability of Officers from one branch to another, *May 8, 155.*

Goddard, Mr. D. F. [Ipswich]

Corn Duty Rebate—Eligibility of Duty-paid cereals for rebate, *May 19, 1086.*

Naval Votes—Extravagance consequent on transference of surpluses on, *May 14, 779.*

Gombein

see Irish Land Bill.

Gordon, Mr. J. [Londonderry, S.]

Irish Land Bill, *May 7, 85.*

Gordon, Major Evans [Tower Hamlets, Stepney]

Army Promotions—Return, Grant of, *May 21, 1342.*

Indian Army, Re-numbering of—Precedence of Regiments, Maintenance of, *May 12, 416.*

Gorleston and Southtown Gas Bill

c. con.* *May 11, 283.*

3R.* *May 14, 665.*

l. 1R.* *May 15, 797.*

2R.* Com.* *May 26, 1750.*

Gorst, Right Hon. Sir John [Cambridge University]

Budget Resolutions—Discussion of Financial Questions, *May 11, 430, 438.*

Civil Service Examinations, *May 21, 1379.*

Congo Free State, *May 20, 1307.*

Dockyard Labourers, Wages and Conditions of Work among, *May 14, 752.*

Education (Borrowing) Bill, *May 12, 473.*

London Education Bill (Committee), *May 13, 1021; May 19, 1097; 1178; May 20, 1231, 1276, 1278, 1279, 1281; May 25, 1670, 1686, 1732; May 26, 1821.*

National Debt — Permanent Annual Charge, *May 12, 454.*

Goschen, Viscount.

Out-door Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill, *May 22, 1474.*

Goulding, Mr. E. A. [Wiltshire, Devizes.]

Aged Pensioners' Bill, *May 22, 1536.*

Government Securities.

Return Presented, *May 14, 668.*

Granard.

Union—Inquiry into action of Medical Officer, Result of.

Q. Mr. Tully; A. Mr. Wyndham, *May 7, 32.*

Granby, Marquess of.

Motor Car Traffic—Identification of Motor Cars.

Need for System of Identification—Compelling Motors to bear number and letter indicating county, proposed, *May 19, 1058.*

Speed Regulations — Alteration of, proposed, *May 19, 1058.*

Grant, Mr. Corrie [Warwickshire, Rugby.]

London Education Bill (Committee), *May 18, 993; May 19, 1122, 1165, 1185; May 20, 1286; May 26, 1862, 1863, 1871, 1910.*

Post Office Employees—Wages, Inquiry into—Evidence of Staff, Access for those to give Evidence to Official Documents, proposed, *May 26, 1802.*

Prevention of Cruelty to Wild Animals Bill, *May 13, 651.*

Gray, Mr. Ernest [West Ham, N.]

London Education Bill (Committee), *May 25, 1679; May 26, 1828, 1859, 1862, 1868, 1906.*

Great Central Railway Bill

c. 3R.* *May 7, 9.*

l. 1R.* *May 8, 153.*

2R.* Com.* *May 15, 797.*

Great Eastern Railway Bill

l. 1R.* *May 7, 4.*

2R.* Com.* *May 14, 654.*

Great Northern and City Railway Bill

l. Rep.* *May 12, 405.*

3R.* *May 15, 797.*

Great Northern, Piccadilly, and Brompton Railway (Various Powers) Bill

c. Rep.* *May 14, 666.*

Great Northern Railway Bill

l. 1R.* *May 7, 4.*

2R.* Com.* *May 14, 654.*

Great Southern and Western Railway Bill

c. Rep.* *May 8, 194.*

Con.* *May 25, 1617.*

Great Western Railway Bill

c. Rep.* *May 20, 1197.*

Great Western Railway (Pension Fund) Bill

l. 3R.* *May 8, 153.*

May 7—May 26.

Greece**Currant Monopoly.**

Information to be telegraphed home with regard to proposed Monopoly.

Q. Mr. C. M'Arthur; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *May 18*, 917.

Scheme for Granting Monopoly of Sale to Greek and British Syndicate—Action of British Minister in Athens.

Q. Mr. C. M'Arthur; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *May 7*, 16.

Greene, Mr. H. D. [Shrewsbury]

Ecclesiastical Courts — Procedure and Constitution, Introduction of Improvement, proposed, *May 11*, 286.

Greenlaw

see Berwickshire County Town Bill.

Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward [Northumberland, Berwick].

London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May 20*, 1767; *May 25*, 1729.

Griffith, Mr. Ellis [Anglesey]

Minister of Agriculture—Appointment of (Motion for adjournment), *May 21*, 1431.

Voluntary Schools—Transfer of, Power to complete transfer without reference to Section 8 of the Education Act, 1902, *May 14*, 677.

Grindleford, Baslow, and Bakewell Railway Bill

c. Rep. May 26*, 1779.

Grocers' School.

Cadet Corps—Application of Headmaster for recognition of school battalion as a non-uniformed Cadet Corps.

Q. Earl of Meath; *A.* Earl of Hardwicke, *May 26*, 1761.

Groves, Mr. J. G. [Salford, S.]

Aged Pensioners' Bill, *May 22*, 1533.

Budget Resolutions—Action of Tobacco and Spirit Dealers in view of increase of duties, *May 12*, 441.

Coal—Request for information regarding Naval, *May 14*, 778.

Guards' Hospital, Westminster

Infectious Diseases in—Removal of infectious patients proposed.

Q. Captain Jessel; *A.* Mr. Brodric, *May 8*, 203.

Gujerat

Land Revenue—Standard of assessment, comparison with that of Bengal, Reduction of assessments, etc., proposed.

Q. Mr. H. Roberts; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton, *May 20*, 1205.

Gurdon, Sir W. B. [Norfolk N.]

Central African Times — Forfeiture of Bonds of Proprietor and Editor, in consequence of the publication of an article in the *Central African Times* —Action of Judge, *May 19*, 1086.

Gurdon, Sir W. B.—cont.

Elementary Schools—Expenses of, Proposed Legislation, *May 8*, 201.

London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May 19*, 1183.

National Gallery Annual Report—Indication in Report of New Pictures acquired during year, proposed, *May 20* 1204.

Hainault Forest Bill

c. Rep. May 8*, 195.

Haldane, Rt. R. B. [Haddingtonshire]

London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May 19*, 1193; *May 25*, 1710; *May 26*, 1908.

Trades Disputes Bill, *May 8*, 252.

Hall, Mr. Marshall [Lancashire, Southport]

Post Office Reforms — Suggested Committee of Inquiry into grievances of employees — Salaries of Women — Date of Issue of Stamps, *May 11*, 352.

Halsbury, Earl of—Lord Chancellor.

Betting Bill, *May 18*, 905.

Justices of the Peace Bill, *May 22*, 1496.

London County Council Expenditure — Sum spent by Council in promoting and opposing Bills in Parliament, Return giving names of Bills promoted, Sum spent annually, etc., Difficulty as to form of Return, *May 25*, 1614.

Musical Copyright Bill, *May 19*, 1051.

Statute Revision (Scotland) Bill, *May 22* 1497.

Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G—Secretary of State for India [Middlesex, Ealing]

Bengal House Tax, Conditions of Assessment—Proposed Remission of, *May 21*, 1336.

Bhashyam Aiyanger, Sir—Continuation in office, after receiving Pension, Reason for, *May 14*, 675.

Burmah, Finances—Condition of, *May 18*, 925.

Surplus Revenue devoted to General Revenues of India, *May 25*, 1635.

Calcutta Customs Service—Overtime Allowances, Question of, under consideration, *May 15*, 805.

Dublin Fusiliers—Detention of, at Aden, Withdrawal of Troops not yet possible, *May 26*, 1788.

Gujerat, Land Revenue in—Standard of Assessment, Arrangements for Reduction of Assessment in Deteriorated Districts, etc., *May 20*, 1206.

Hill Tipperah Native State—Rule of Succession in, Interference with, by Government of India, Reason for, *May 25*, 1625.

Indian Army, Re-numbering of Regiments in—Precedence of Regiments, Maintenance of, *May 12*, 416.

[cont.]

May 7—May 26.

Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G.—cont.

Indian Trade with Foreign Countries—
Volume of Export and Import trade,
Return to be granted, *May 25*, 1635.

Khairpur Currency, Conversion of, Arrange-
ment of scheme for, Condition of
acceptance of Native Rupee by
Khairpur State Treasury, *May 7*,
15.

Plague in India—Annual increase of,
Steps for Prevention of Disease, *May*
26, 1789.

Ramchandra, Sirdar Balvant—Claims of,
Decision with regard to, *May 7*, 14.

Somaliland—Revenue and Expenditure,
May 22, 1507.

Hampton Court Gas Bill

c. Rep*. *May 7*, 10.
Com*. *May 18*, 910.
3R*. *May 21*, 1334.
l. 1R*. *May 22*, 1455.

Hardie, Mr. Keir [Merthyr Tydvil]

Census of Occupations—Extension to
Scotland and Ireland, proposed, *May*
13, 530.

Coal Mines Regulation Bill, *May 15*, 839.

Rates—Payment of, through Landlord,
—Liability of Tenants—Amendment
of Law proposed, *May 20*, 1199.

Transvaal Mines—Employment of Asiatic
Labour in, Attitude of H.M. Govern-
ment towards proposal, *May 25*, 1633.

**Hardwicke, Earl of—Under Secretary of
State for War**

Canteens, Regimental—Committee's re-
commendations, Decision not arrived
at as to giving effect to recommenda-
tions, *May 25*, 1613.

Grocers' School Cadet Corps—Application
of Headmaster for Recognition of
School Battalion as a non-uniformed
Cadet Corps, Inclusion of question in
terms of Reference of Commission on
Militia and Volunteers, *May 27*, 1761.

Imperial Yeomanry Reserve, Institution
of—Opinion of Yeomanry Officers,
etc., *May 27*, 1767.

Military Manœuvres Act, *May 11*, 281.

Panna, Maharajah of, Deposition—Un-
desirability of publishing Papers
relating to, Statement of circum-
stances leading to Deposition, etc.,
May 26, 1771.

Reserve Officers—Emoluments of, *May 11*,
279.

Harewood, Earl of

Betting Bill, *May 18*, 892.

Harris, Mr. F. L. [Tynemouth]

Irish Congested Districts Board—Expen-
diture in Kiltimagh and Carna
respectively, *May 26*, 1793.

Harrogate Water Bill

c. 1R.* *May 7*, 11.
2R.* Com.* *May 18*, 910.

Harrow and Stanmore Gas Bill

c. 1R.* *May 7*, 11.
2R.* Com.* *May 18*, 910.
Rep.* *May 26*, 1779.

Harmsworth, Mr. R. L. [Caithness-shire]

"Canopus," H.M.S.—Boiler Repairs,
Extent and Cost, *May 11*, 290.

Chaplains in Army—Established and Free
Church of Scotland, Number, Names,
Stations of, Ministers of, *May 11*,
296.

Cretan Operations—Distribution of Medal
for, *May 14*, 683.

Cruisers of the "County" class—Speed
Tests, Number of vessels passed and
failed, *May 14*, 671.

Gunnery, Naval.

Defective Sights—Number of Shooting
Returns affected by, *May 14*, 671.

Mediterranean Fleet—Laying on Table of
Information with regard to Comparative
Merit of Shooting efficiency in
Ships of Mediterranean Fleet, pro-
posed *May 14*, 683.

Inland Revenue Department—Secretary's
Department, Expensive Method of
Promotion alleged, Introduction of
more economical Method, proposed,
May 11, 289.

Mails to Carlisle, Perth and Inverness
—Time at which due, Number and
extent of delays, *May 11*, 288.

"Ocean" H.M.S.—Repairs to Boilers,
Nature of, *May 14*, 670.

Physical Training, Scotland—Medical
Inspection of school children, Assis-
tance of Medical Officers in carrying
out recommendations of Royal Com-
mission with regard to, *May 11*, 290.

Post Office Reforms—Delay of Mail
Trains, *May 11*, 351.

**Hartland, Sir F. Dixon [Middlesex, Ux-
bridge]**

Port of London Bill, *May 13*, 542.

Harvey Peter

Intentions with regard to discharge of.

Q. Mr. J. P. Farrell; A. Mr.
Brodrick, *May 21*, 1340.

Harwood, Mr. G. [Bolton]

Children in Workhouses—Number in other
than Metropolitan Workhouses, Num-
ber under three years of age, *May 26*,
1788.

Hastings Harbour District Railway Bill

l. Com.* *May 7*, 3.
Rep.* *May 26*, 1750.

Hastings Tramways (Extension) Bill

l. 3R.* *May 25*, 1574.
c. 1R.* *May 26*, 1784.

May 7—May 26.

Hay, Hon. Claude G. D. [Shoreditch, Hoxton]

Abstractor Clerks, Pensions of—Reconsideration of Cases with view to Granting Pension based on Temporary Service, *May 14*, 677.

London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May 20*, 1270; *May 26*, 1891.

Post Office Reforms—Committee of Inquiry into Grievances of Employees, *May 11*, 345.

Rotten Row, Additional Sand for, *May 26*, 1792.

Transvaal Guaranteed Loan—Application of Sinking Fund to Purchase of Stock, *May 18*, 926.

Healy, Mr. T. M. [Louth, N.]

Belfast General Valuation, Postponement of, proposed, *May 12*, 416.

Dublin Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion—Prolonged Foreign Service—Home Service for, proposed, *May 8*, 203.

Irish Land Bill, *May 7*, 52.

National Schools, Ireland — Evening Schools—Grants, Payment of Delayed, *May 13*, 533.

Spirit, Distillation of in England—Amount Distilled in 1902 — Materials from which Distilled—Amount despatched to Leith, etc., *May 7*, 23.

Whiskey Trade—Alleged Frauds—Inclusion of Sale of Spirituous Liquors under Supervision of Food and Drugs Act, proposed—Power of Chemical Analysis to Determine the Composition of Alcoholic Liquors, *May 7*, 24.

Heaton, Mr. Henniker [Canterbury]

Post Office.

Money order System with the Colonies and Foreign Countries—Excessive cost of Commission, Improvement of System proposed, *May 18*, 917.

Packet Service—Charge of Mail Service to India, Result of the P. & O. Contract as regards British Competition, *May 11*, 401.

Reforms — Increased facilities for obtaining Postal Orders — Limit for presentation—Postage to the Colonies — Agricultural parcels post—Use of embossed stamps on other envelopes—Cost of post-cards — Proposed division of Post Office administrations — Cases of default, neglect and larceny on the part of employees—Savings' Bank — Grievances of employees, etc., *May 11*, 317.

Stationery Contract — Quality of Stationery supplied, Remonstrance with regard to inferiority, *May 26*, 1790.

Helder, Mr. A. [Whitehaven]

Old Bridewell Burying Ground Bill, *May 11*, 382.

Red Sea Lighthouse—Erection of New Lighthouses, Date of putting into working order, *May 11*, 287.

Hemphill, Rt. Hon. C. H. [Tyrone, N.]

Votes, Arrangement of order of, *May 21*, 1363.

Heneage, Lord

Education Act, 1902 — Owners and Trustees of Non-Provided Schools, Position of, under Act, *May 15*, 798.

Fisheries Board—Proposed Introduction of Bill dealing with formation of proposed Board, Date of, etc., *May 18*, 909.

Hereford, Lord Bishop of

Betting Bill, *May 18*, 895.

Hereford, Lord James of

Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill, *May 22*, 1485.

Hexham Gas Bill

c. 2R.* *Com. May 11*, 283.

Hickman, Sir Alfred [Wolverhampton]

Patients Act, 1902—Date of coming into operation, *May 7*, 18.

Trade Disputes Bill, *May 8*, 251.

Higher Grade Schools

see London Education Bill.

Highgate Bench

Licensing Prosecutions for opening during Prohibited Hours, Action of Highgate Magistrates.

Q. Sir W. Lawson; A. Mr. Akers Douglas, *May 14*, 671.

Highland and Ivergarry and Fort Augustus Railway Companies Bill

c. Rep.* *May 21*, 1334.

con.* *May 26*, 1778.

3R.* *May 26*, 1778.

l. 1R.* *May 26*, 1751.

Historic Buildings

Preservation of — Appointment of Select Committee with view to establishing System of National Protection, proposed.

Qs. Mr. Yoxall; As. Mr. A. J. Balfour, *May 18*, 937.

Hobhouse, Mr. Charles [Bristol, E.]

Bristol Post Office — Revision of Postal Staff, *May 7*, 16.

Dublin Fusiliers, Detention at Aden — Withdrawal proposed, *May 26*, 1788.

Guns, Disposal of useless — Guns thrown into sea, number of, *May 12*, 419.

Mounted Infantry in South Africa — Number of Battalions, Maintenance of Strength, *Mar. 26*, 1798.

Prisons, Military — Request for Information as to change of Directors, *May 21*, 1446.

Soldiers — Average Cost of Soldiers belonging to Artillery, Cavalry, etc., in England, South Africa, etc., *May 26*, 1796.

[cont.]

May 7—May 26.

Hobhouse, Mr. Charles—cont.

Somaliland—Revenue and Expenditure,
May 22, 1507.

War, Royal Commission on the—Com-
pletion of Evidence, Date of Publica-
tion of Report, *May 20, 1222.*

Hobhouse, Mr. Henry [Somersetshire, E.]

Education (Borrowing) Bill, *May 12, 470.*

London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May*
20, 1233, 1264, 1268; May 26, 1813,
1854, 1903, 1909.

Private Business—Committee of Inquiry,
Recommendation of, Appointment of
Joint Committee to Consider, pro-
posed, *May 7, 36.*

Sandhurst Military College—Musketry
and Mounted Infantry Course for
Cadets awaiting Commissions, pro-
posed, *May 25, 1627.*

Voluntary Schools, Transfer of—Public
Notification of Transfer, Body re-
quired to give such Notification, *May*
11, 291.

Holland (Lincolnshire)

Education Committee—Composition of,
Preponderance of Churchmen, Equal
Representation on Committee, pro-
posed.

Q. Mr. Mansfield; A. Sir W.
Anson, May 20, 2151.

Education Scheme—Objections to Scheme
from Spalding and Sutton Bridge
Urban Councils, Non-representations
of Districts on the Authority, Reason
for.

Q. Mr. Mansfield; A. Sir W.
Anson, May 26, 1805.

Holloway Prison

Executions—Representation for discon-
tinuance of carrying out Executions
—Decision with regard to.

Q. Mr. Lough; A. Mr. Akers
Douglas, May 7, 27.
Os. May 21, 1446, 1451.

Holyrood Palace

Additions to Palace proposed.

Q. Sir A. Agnew; A. Mr. V. Cavendish,
May 20, 1201.

Condition of, Dates of Annual Reports on
—Defect of Drainage, when and by
whom reported, etc.

Qs. Mr. Weir; As. Mr. Ailwyn
Fellowes, May 14, 692.

Home Office

Coal Mines, Control over.

Os. May 15, 810, 827, 837, 840.

Old Bridewell Burying Ground, Action
regarding.

O. May 11, 372, 376.

Home Rule

see Irish Land Bill — Town Tenants
(Ireland) Bill.

Hong-Kong

Plague.

Recurrence of, Number of Deaths,
Cause of, Opinion of Hong-Kong
Council.

Qs. Mr. Weir; As. Mr. J.
Chamberlain, May 11, 298.

Severity of Epidemic—Date of laying
Report of Sanitary Experts on
Table.

Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. J.
Chamberlain, May 26,
1800.

Public Health Laws—Bill amending
Laws, Sanction of.

Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. J. Chamber-
lain, May 26, 1797.

Hooliganism

see Police.

Horses

Field Batteries, 125th, 126th, 127th—
Number of Horses available for,
Authorised Establishment.

Q. Mr. A. Lee; A. Mr. Brodrick,
May 18, 920.

Houldsworth, Sir W. H. [Manchester, N. W.]

Publicans' Licences.

Number of Refused—Grounds of Re-
fusal, *May 8, 201.*

Refusals to renew Licences during 1901,
1902—Return requested, *May 21,*
1337.

Housing of the Working Classes Bill

Probable Date of introduction.

Q. Dr. Macnamara; A. Mr. A. J.
Balfour, May 7, 36.

Housing of the Working Classes (Rural Districts) Bill

c. Ordered, May 13, 652.

1R. May 13, 652.*

Hove, Worthing and District Tramways Bill

l. 3R. May 19, 1045.*

c. 1R. May 22, 1505.*

Howe, Earl

Fisheries, Proposed Board—Introduction
of Bill dealing with Formation of
proposed Board—Date of, Uncertain,
May 18, 909.

Land Drainage Provisional Order Bill,
May 22, 1458.

Humphreys-Owen, Mr. A. C. [Montgomeryshire]

London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May*
25, 1679.

Hutchinson, Dr. [Sussex, Rye]

Police Force of London, *May 21, 1409.*

Hutton, Mr. Alfred [Yorkshire, W. R., Morley]

Education (Borrowing) Bill, *May 12, 468.*

London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May*
18, 964; May 19, 1137; May 25,
1708; May 26, 1899.

May 7—May 26.

Hutton, Mr. John [Yorkshire, Richmond]

Prisons, Increase of Vagrants in—Punishment for idleness—Protest against Abolition of Flogging and Short Sentences—Position of Prison Officers, *May 21, 1447.*

Hyde Corporation Bill

c. con. May 11, 283.*

3R. May 14, 665.*

l. 1R. May 15, 797.*

2R. Com.* May 25, 1574.*

Hyde Park

Education Bill Demonstration—Number of Platforms authorised for.

Q. Sir G. Bartley; A. Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes, May 14, 693.

Hydrographer

Admiralty Survey—Report for 1902 Presented, *May 19, 1047; May 20, 1199.*

Income Tax

Abatement and Exemption.

Os. May 13, 618.

Budget Resolution, *May 12, 450; Resolution Reported, May 13, 617.*

Incomes under £400, £500, £600, £700, payment on, respectively—Yield from Tax, etc.

Q. Mr. Whitley Thomson; A. Mr. Ritchie, May 25, 1621.

Inquiry, Forms of.

Os. May 13, 618.

India

Secretary of State—Rt. Hon. Lord G. Hamilton.

Under Secretary—Earl of Hardwicke.

Army.

British Soldiers' Pay, Liability for Increase in—Address for Return, *May 15, 805.*

Renumbering of, Maintenance of—Precedence of Regiments.

Q. Major Evans Gordon; A. Lord G. Hamilton, May 12, 416.

Calcutta Customs Service—Overtime Allowances—Non-payment of full Allowance—Remedy of Grievance.

Q. Sir S. King; A. Lord G. Hamilton, May 15, 805.

East India—Financial Statement, Return. Presented, *May 8, 198.*

Finance.

Estimate of Revenue and Expenditure for 1902-1903 and 1901-1902, Presented, *May 12, 407, 413.*

Home Charges—Accounts of the Government of India Presented, *May 12, 407, 413.*

Finance and Revenue Accounts Presented, *May 12, 407, 413.*

Hill Tipperah Native State—Rule of Succession in, Interference with by Government of India, Reason for.

Q. Mr. H. Roberts; A. Lord G. Hamilton, May 25, 1625.

India—cont.

Khairpur Currency—Arrangement of Scheme for Conversion of, Condition of Acceptance of Native Rupee by Khairpur State Treasury.

Q. Mr. Weir; A. Lord G. Hamilton, May 7, 15.

Panna, Maharajah of—Deposition, Publication of Papers relating to.

Qs. Lord Tweedmouth; As. Earl of Hardwicke, May 26, 1771.

Plague—Annual Increase of, Steps for Prevention of Disease.

Q. Sir W. Foster; A. Lord G. Hamilton, May 26, 1789.

Ramchandra, Sirdar Balvant—Claims of, Decision with regard to.

Q. Mr. Weir; A. Lord G. Hamilton, May 7, 14.

Trade with Foreign Countries—Volume of export and import trade—Return proposed.

Q. Master of Elibank; A. Lord G. Hamilton, May 25, 1635.

India Rubber, Gutta Percha, and Telegraphic Works Company Bill

c. 2R. Com.*, May 11, 283.*

Rep., May 22, 1503.*

Inland Revenue Department

Secretary's Department—Expensive method of Promotion alleged—Introduction of more Economical method proposed.

Q. Mr. Harmsworth; A. Mr. A. Elliot, May 11, 289.

Insurance

Premiums, Extension of system of reductions with regard to.

Os. May 13, 617.

Intoxicating Liquors (Sales to Children) Act

Violation of, at Fulham—Instructions to Police to enforce requirements of Act.

Q. Mr. Crombie; A. Mr. Akers-Douglas, May 20, 1213.

Inverness

Mails to—Time at which due—Number and Extent of delays.

Q. Mr. Harmsworth; A. Mr. Austen Chamberlain, May 11, 288.

Ipswich Gas Bill

l. 2R. Com.* May 7, 4.*

Ireland

Aged Pensioners Bill—Application of.

O. May 22, 1535.

Army Purchases—Purchase of Local Produce, Extended Powers of Commander-in-Chief and general officers Commanding, with regard to.

Q. Mr. J. O'Connor; A. Mr. Brodrick, May 11, 297.

Belfast, *see* that title.

[*cont.*

May 7—May 26.

Ireland—cont.

Betting Offices—Declaration with regard to, Inquiry proposed.

Q. Mr. Sloan; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *May 18, 934.*

Clare Railways.

O. Mr. W. Redmond, *May 20, 1332.*

Deaf, Dumb, and Blind Institutions—Consideration of Claims of, in Development Grant Bill.

Q. Mr. Sloan; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *May 11, 308.*

Dockyards—Suggested encouragement of, *Os.* *May 14, 789, 792, 794, 795.*

Drunkenness—Number of Arrests for 1st May, 1902, to 30th April, 1903, Return Ordered, *May 18, 915.*

Dublin, *see* that title.

Electoral Divisions—Grant of Return relative to.

Q. Mr. O'Kelly; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *May 14, 699.*

Firearms, *see* that title.

Granard, *see* that title.

Hospital Relief for Policemen—Amendment of Law with regard to, proposed.

Q. Mr. Murphy; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *May 25, 1627.*

Irish Land Bill, *see* that title.

Irish Lights Tenders, *see* that title.

Land Commission, *see* that title.

Land Question, *see* that title.

Listowel, *see* that title.

Loans to Farmers—Increase in Number of, no corresponding increase in number of inspectors.

Q. Mr. Ffrench; *A.* Mr. Elliot, *May 13, 539.*

Londonderry, *see* that title.

Mails, Delivery of.

Os. *May 11, 387, 390.*

Millers' Bonding Stores—Grant of Licence to Dublin Miller—Refusal to Country Miller alleged—Grant of equal privileges proposed.

Q. Mr. Sullivan; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *May 7, 25.*

Naas, *see* that title.

National School Teachers, *see* that title.

Post Office—Employees Grievances.

O. *May 11, 358.*

Protection of Wild Birds—Wild Birds Protection Act, Means for enforcement of by Police, No notice with regard to Law, Posted on Constabulary Barracks for three years, Reason for Omission.

Q. Earl of Mayo; *A.* Lord Balfour of Burleigh, *May 7, 7.*

Railways, *see* subheading Clare.

Registration of Titles—Order giving Solicitors the option of having personal Unofficial Searches in lieu of Official Common Searches, Disregard of, alleged—Return of Number of Verified Personal Searches and Common Searches, proposed.

Qs. Mr. O'Shaughnessy; *As.* Mr. Atkinson, *May 15, 807.*

Ireland—cont.

Sub-Sanitary Officers—Salaries of, Grant of Return Relative to.

Q. Mr. O'Doherty; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *May 11, 295.*

Tobacco, Use of—Its place as an article of dietary.

Os. *May 12, 442, 445.*

Town Tenants Bill, *May 22, 1571.*

Trade Disputes Bill, Application of.

O. *May 8, 249.*

Ulster and Connaught Light Railways Bill, *May 14, 763.*

War Office Tenders for Oats—Minimum weight required in Ireland.

Q. Mr. Flavin; *A.* Mr. Elliot, *May 13, 540.*

Irish Land Bill

c. 2R., *May 7, 151.*

Debate on 2R. [H.C.] resumed, May 7, 38.

Administration.

Membership of, 64, 121.

O'Brien, Treatment of Mr. Murrough, 64.

Wrench, Nomination of Mr., 121.

Agriculture in Ireland, 53, 134.

Ashbourne Acts, Operation of, 73, 167, 112, 120.

Bonus, *see* subheading Finance.

Compulsion in Bill, 105.

Congested Districts, Proposed legislation, regarding, 48, 78.

Decadal Reduction, System of, *see* subheading Finance.

Demesne Land, Sale of, 47.

Dual Ownerships, Evils of, 115, 129.

Encumbered Estates, Proposed action regarding, 115, 132.

Evicted Tenants, Treatment of, 73, 78, 98, 101.

Finance.

Bonus, Amount and arrangement of, 39, 47, 51, 82, 86, 110, 118.

Decadal Reduction, System of, 51, 59.

Landlords, Inducement to sell given to, 41, 45, 57, 83, 88, 104, 112, 137.

Maximum Rent, 50, 98.

Minimum Rent, 80, 88, 98, 101.

Rent Charge, Amount of, 50, 59, 102, 120.

Repayment of Loan, Time for, 44, 120.

Security for Loan, 53, 70, 83, 87, 93, 135.

Taxpayers, Position of British, 47, 69, 80, 89, 102.

Tenants, Price paid by, 57, 82, 137.

May 7—May 26.

Irish Land Bill—cont.*Debate—cont.*

- Gombein, Power of the, 44, 46, 120, 137.
- Home Rule, Encouragement of, 40, 54, 67, 90, 95, 114, 129.
- Labourers, Clauses relating to, 42, 46, 59, 78, 92, 98.
- Land Conference, Report and Work of, 56, 109.
- Landlords, *see* subheading Finance.
- Land Purchase Schemes.
- Average Prices of Land, 82, 107.
- History of, 76, 108, 114, 131.
- Results of, 77, 97.
- Maximum Rent, *see* Finance.
- Minimum Rent, *see* Finance.
- O'Brien, Treatment of Mr. Murrrough, *see* subheading Administration.
- Peasant Proprietary, Scheme of, 44, 46, 77, 110, 136.
- Rent Charge, *see* subheading Finance.
- Tenants, Protection of purchasing, 44, 106.
- Titles, Clerks to inquire into, 63, 72.
- Unionists, Attitude of, 89, 104, 111, 114, 140.
- Wrench, Appointment of Mr., *see* subheading Administration.
- Drainage and other Charges—Provision for redemption of, in Bill.
- Q. Mr. T. W. Russell; A. Mr. Wyndham, *May 25*, 1645.
- Losses over ninety-nine years—Advances to Tenants holding such leases under Irish Land Bill.
- Q. Mr. Kennedy; A. Mr. Atkinson, *May 11*, 293.
- Repurchase of Estates, Conditions of, under Bill.
- Q. Mr. Lonsdale; A. Mr. Atkinson, *May 26*, 1793.
- Trees—Sale of, Introduction of—Provision in Bill for Preservation of Trees in Rural parts.
- Qs. Mr. J. P. Farrell; As. Mr. Wyndham, *May 20*, 1219.

Irish Lights Tenders

- Motion for Return concerning, May 11*, 272.
- Expenditure on Construction and Maintenance, 272.
- Lighthouse Advisory Board, *see* subheading Shipowners.
- Number of tenders constructed, 274.
- "Princess Alexandra," Replacement of the—272, 276.
- Shipowners' Advisory Board, Position of—272, 275.
- Trade, Board of—Action and Report, 272, 275.

Jameson, Major J. [Clare W.]

- Irish Land Bill, *May 7*, 100.
- Minutes of Agriculture (Motion for Adjournment), *May 21*, 1436.

Jersey, Earl of

- Coal Mines (Certificates) Bill, *May 26*, 1760.

Jessell, Captain Herbert [St. Pancras]

- Guards' Hospital, Westminster—Infectious diseases in, Removal of Infectious Patients proposed, *May 8*, 203.
- London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May 18*, 986; *May 19*, 1139; *May 20*, 1260; *May 26*, 1836.

Jewish Colonisation Association Bill

- c. 1R.* *May 26*, 1784.
- l. Rep.* *May 19*, 1045.
- 3R.* *May 25*, 1574.

Jews

- Massacre at Kischineff, Details of.
- Q. Mr. S. Samuel; A. Lord Cranborne, *May 19*, 1093.

Jones, Mr. Brynmor [Swansea District]

- Judicature, Expenditure of Supreme Court of—Check upon Improper Appointments—Amalgamation of Offices of Probate, Registrar, and District Registrar, *May 21*, 1372.
- London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May 18*, 888; *May 19*, 1196; *May 25*, 1700.
- Waima Incident—Payment of Compensation by French Government—Prolonged Delay in Settlement, Cause of, *May 14*, 674.

Jones, Mr. William [Carnarvonshire, Arfon]

- Workmen's Compensation Act, *May 13*, 620.

Journal Committee of the House of Lords

- Reports Presented, *May 12*, 406.

Joyce, Mr. M. [Limerick]

- American Butter Sold as Irish, alleged—Prevention of further Frauds, *May 18*, 933.
- Limerick Garrison—Tenders for Meat Contracts, Number of—Tender Accepted, etc., *May 21*, 1341.

Judges

- see* Judicature, Court of.

Judicature, Court of

- Appointments, Conditions of, *Os. May 21*, 1367, 1369, 1371, 1372, 1377, 1378.
- Chancery Appeals, *Os. May 21*, 1370, 1373.
- Clerks, Number and Salaries of, *Os. May 21*, 1363, 1369, 1377.
- Control of, *Os. May 21*, 1367, 1376.

[cont,

May 7—May 26.

Judicature, Court of—*cont.*

District Registrar,
Os. May 21, 1373.

Examination, Clerks' appointments by,
Os. May 21, 1377, 1378.

Judges, Pensions of,
Os. May 21, 1373, 1374.

Judges, Question of appointment of extra,
Os. May 21, 1370.

Judges, Retirement of,
Os. May 21, 1374.

Patronage, Question of,
Os. May 21, 1375.

Pensions, System of Judges',
Os. May 21, 1373, 1374.

Probate Registrars, Office of,
Os. May 21, 1373.

Salaries, Scale of,
Os. May 21, 1368, 1371.

Treasury, Financial control of the,
Os. May 21, 1375, 1376.

Judicial Statistics

England and Wales—Civil Statistics
Presented, *May 11, 271, 285.*

Justices of the Peace Bill

l. 1R. May 14, 656.*

2R. May 22, 1497.

2R. Com.* May 22, 1497.*

Com. May 26, 1760.*

Kearley, Mr. H. E. [Devonport]

Dockyard Labourers—Wages and Condi-
tions of Work of, *May 14, 750.*

Naval Expenditure—Reasons for In-
creased—Necessity for an efficient
Naval Defence, Comparison of Ex-
penditure with that of European
Powers, *May 14, 724, 745, 749, 750.*

Pensions for Widows of Seamen and
Marines Killed on Duty—Decisions
with regard to granting of State
Pensions, *May 21, 1343.*

Royal Patriotic Commission—Administra-
tion of Funds, Introduction of Bill
dealing with, date of, *May 21, 1342.*

Shipbuilding, Reforms in—Relations
between the Admiralty and the Con-
tractors concerning Building and Re-
pairs—Equipment by dockyards,
May 14, 776.

Kempton Park

see Betting Bill.

Kennedy, Mr. P. J. [Westmeath, N.]

Irish Land Bill—Leases over Ninety-nine
years, Advances to tenants holding
such leases under Land Bill, *May 11,*
293.

Kenyon, Lord

Polling Arrangements (Parliamentary
Boroughs) Bill, *May 22, 1501.*

Kerry

Listry—Extra Police stationed at, Number
of, Cost of Maintenance, Withdrawal
proposed.

*Q. Mr. Murphy; A. Mr. Wynd-
ham, May 26, 1794.*

Kiltimagh

Expenditure in, by Congested Districts
Board.

Q. Mr. Harris; A. Wyndham, May 26,
1793.

Kimber, Mr. [Wandsworth]

London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May*
18, 1002, 1012; May 20, 1247.

King, Sir H. Seymour [Hull, Central]

Calcutta Customs Service—Overtime
Allowances, Non-payment of full
allowance, Remedy of Grievance, *May*
15, 805.

King's College, London, Bill

c. 1R. May 26, 1784.*

l. Rep. May 22, 1454.*

3R. May 22, 1750.*

Kip's Patents Bill

l. 1R. May 22, 1453.*

2R. May 26, 1750.*

Kischineff

Massacre of Jews at, Details of.

Q. Mr. S. Samuel; A. Lord Cranborne,
May 19, 1093.

**Knott End Railway (Extension of Time)
Bill**

c. 2R. Com.* May 18, 910.*

Rep. May 26, 1779.*

Knowles, Mr. Lees [Salford, W.]

Ecclesiastical Commission—Court of Bene-
fices, Amount paid by Commission to
Officers of Court, Duties of Officers,
Fund out of which Payments are
made, *May 21, 1336.*

Labouchere, Mr. H. [Northampton]

London Education Bill, *May 25, 1671;*
May 26, 1911.

Police Force of London—Regulation of
Motor Car Traffic, *May 21, 1409.*

Labourers' Cottages, Ireland

Delays in Completing Schemes—Dromore
West Union—Delay in erection of
Cottages.

Q. Mr. W. M'Killop; A. Mr.
Atkinson, May 14, 698.

Labourers' (Ireland) Acts

Return relative to—Granting of, proposed.
Q. Mr. Murphy; A. Mr. Wyndham,
May 25, 1644.

Lambert, Mr. G. [Devonshire, South Molton]

Aged Pensioners' Bill, *May 22, 1525.*

Budget Resolutions—Necessity for higher
duty on cigarettes in order to check
juvenile smoking, *May 12, 449.*

[*cont.*]

May 7 May 26.

Lambert, Mr. G.—cont.

Education Aid Grant—Application of, for Repairs of School Houses, *May 20*, 1276.

Education (Borrowing) Bill, *May 12*, 472.

Transvaal Legislative Council—Number and Composition—Number of Boer Members, etc., *May 25*, 1634.

Voluntary Schools.

Aid Grant—Payment of, to individual schools or governing bodies—Date of Payment—Auditing of Accounts—Application of Grant, etc., *May 18*, 930.

Repair of—Application of Aid Grant under Act of 1897 to purpose of repairs, *May 25*, 1642.

Upkeep and alteration of—Application of Public Money to—Opportunity for discussion of decision of Education Department with regard to, *May 25*, 1645.

Lanarkshire and Ayrshire Railway Order Confirmation Bill.

l. lr. May 7, 4.

Lanarkshire and Dumbartonshire Railway Bill

c. Rep. May 22*, 1503.

Lancashire and Yorkshire and London and North Western Railways (Steam Vessels) Bill

c. Rep. May 8*, 194.

con. May 18*, 910.

3r. May 21*, 1334.

l. lr. May 22*, 1455.

Lancaster, County of

Polling Districts, Alteration of—County Council Order, Presented, *May 18*, 868, 913.

Lancers, 5th

Officer Second in Command—Arrangements with regard to.

Q. Mr. W. Churchill; A. Mr. Brodrick, May 21, 1341.

Lancers, 21st

Officer.

Ill-treatment of, Alleged.

Qs. Mr. W. Redmond; As. Mr. Brodrick, May 14, 680.

Nationality of.

Qs. Mr. W. Churchill, Sir C. Dilke; As. Mr. Brodrick, May 21, 1345.

Land

Compulsory acquisition, Board of Trade Orders granting.

Os. May 12, 475, 476, 479.

Registry—Transfer Act, 1875, &c., Return Ordered, *May 19*, 1083.

Land Commission, Ireland

Commissioners—O'Brien, Mr. Murrough, Reason for not sitting to hear Appeal Cases, &c

Q. Mr. J. P. Farrell; A. Mr. Wyndham, May 20, 1218.

Drumard, County Longford—E. Farrelly's Holding at, Decrease in size of tenancy, Readjustment of Boundaries proposed.

Q. Mr. J. P. Farrell; A. Mr. Wyndham, May 21, 1353.

Fair Rents—Kilbaylet, Kileoagh Appeals, Delay in hearing.

Qs. Mr. J. O'Connor; As. Mr. Atkinson, May 11, 308.

Land Dispute—Case of Rev. Mr. Elliot.

Q. Mr. W. Redmond; A. Mr. Wyndham, May 26, 1806.

Rent—Fixing Branch, Annual Cost, etc.

Q. Sir J. Colomb; A. Mr. Wyndham, May 13, 532.

Land Drainage Provisional Order Bill.

c. Rep. May 7*, 10.

3r. May 8*, 193.

l. lr. May 11*, 270.

2r. Com.* May 18*, 866.

Com. May 19*, 1047.

Rep. May 19*, 1047.

3r. May 22, 1458.

Statement, Earl Howe, *May 22*, 1458.

Land Purchase, Ireland

Lloyd-Apjohns Estate, County Limerick—Sale to Tenants—Progress in Lord Judges' Court.

Q. Mr. London; A. Mr. Wyndham, May 21, 1355.

Land Question, Ireland

Act of 1896—Number of Holdings under Section 36.

Q. Sir J. Colomb; A. Mr. Atkinson, May 11, 293.

Trinity College Leases—Treatment of Portion of Land held under a Trinity College perpetuity lease as a separate estate for purposes of sale.

Qs. Mr. Lonsdale; As. Mr. Atkinson, May 18, 931.

Land Registry

Building Societies—Position of.

Os. May 21, 1388, 1389.

County Councils—Statutory responsibility of.

Os. May 21, 1385, 1388, 1390, 1394.

Land Transfer Act, Operation of.

Os. May 21, 1383, 1385, 1395, 1396, 1397, 1398, 1400.

Land Transfer Act

see Land Registry.

Langley, Mr. B. [Sheffield, Attercliffe.]

Corn Duty—Rebates on imported duty-paid wheat, Allowance on present stocks, *May 26*, 1790.

May 7—May 26.

- Laurie, Lieut.-General** [Pembroke and Haverfordwest]
London Education Bill, *May 20*, 1271.
- Law, Mr. Bonar**—*Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade*—[Glasgow, Blackfriars.]
Imported Food Supplies, Report relative to—Date of issue, *May 25*, 1641.
Wireless Telegraphy for Light Vessels—Fitting Light Vessels with apparatus, Negotiations in progress, *May 20*, 1213.
- Law, Mr. H.** [Donegal, W.]
Donegal Mail Service—Gweedore and Bunby District, Improved postal facilities proposed, *May 7*, 16.
Royal Irish Constabulary—Interference of members of, in Civil Actions outside their district*, Case of Sergeant Kilgannon, *May 8*, 202.
- Law Courts, High Court of Justice, etc.**
Civil Code for the United Kingdom or British Empire—Preparation of, proposed.
Q. Sir J. Leng ; A. Sir R. Finlay, *May 14*, 691.
- Lawrence, Mr. W. F.** [Liverpool, Abercromby.]
Sierra Leone Rebellion—Losses sustained in, Grant of compensation to traders, proposed, *May 12*, 421.
- Lawson, Mr. Grant**—*Secretary to the Local Government Board*—[Yorkshire, R.N., Thirsk.]
Conway Infectious Diseases Hospital—Site of, Alleged to be unsuitable, Local inquiry to be held previous to sanction of Local Government Board, *May 20*, 1214.
Liverpool.
Emigrant Lodging Houses—Alleged omission of Registration of, Explanation, *May 26*, 1803.
George Square, Cases of Infectious Diseases, Number removed from, for last three years, *May 26*, 1803.
Smallpox Epidemic.
Inquiry into measures adopted by Health Authorities with regard to, *May 7*, 29.
Patients.
Escape of, from Hospital alleged—No foundation for statement, *May 26*, 1804.
Register of, Arrangement for keeping Register at Office of Clerk to Sanitary Authority, *May 7*, 29.
Private Smallpox Hospitals
Number of, *May 11*, 303.
Lymph—Humanised Lymph, Use of, discontinued—Reason for—Date of change, *May 7*, 29.
- Lawson, Sir W.** [Cornwall, Camberne]
Licensing Prosecutions for Opening during Prohibited Hours—Action of High-gate Magistrates, *May 14*, 671.
Transvaal, Civil Administration of—Arrest of Dutch Minister at Rustenberg, Increased Stringency of Peace Preservation Ordinance, *May 20*, 1207.
- Lee, Mr. A.** [Hampshire, Fareham]
Horses for 125th, 126th, and 127th Field Batteries—Number of Horses available, Authorised Establishment, *May 18*, 920.
Somaliland Military Expedition—Alleged Deficiency of Ammunition, General Manning's Reply, *May 18*, 921.
- Leese, Sir Joseph** [Lancashire, Accrington]
Votes—Arrangement of Order of, *May 21*, 1366.
- Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage** [St. George's, Hanover Square]
Somaliland Military Expedition—Grant of Free Passage Home for Wounded Officers, *May 12*, 417.
- Leigh Corporation Bill**
c. Con.* *May 15*, 801.
3R*. *May 19*, 1078.
l. 1R*. *May 22*, 1455.
- Leitrim—**
Agricultural and Technical Instruction—Levy of Rate by County Council for purposes of, Amount Levied, Amount received from Department, etc.
Q. Colonel M'Calmont ; A. Mr. Atkinson, *May 11*, 291.
- Leng, Sir J.** [Dundee]
Civil Code for the United Kingdom or British Empire—Preparation of, proposed, *May 14*, 691.
Port of London Bill, *May 13*, 613.
Post Office Packet Service—Deficiencies in Service between United Kingdom and United States—Competition between English and German Boats—Contracts with the Cunard Company, *May 11*, 392.
Preferential Railway Rates for Foreign Produce, Alleged—Inability of Board to insist on uniform rates, Legislation proposed, *May 19*, 1093.
Scotland, Collection of Death Duties in—Proposed Centralisation of Death Duty Assessment in Edinburgh, Effect of Change, etc, *May 12*, 415.
- Lepers**
Ceylon, Number of Leper Hospitals in—Provision of Additional Hospitals in Isolated Districts proposed.
Q. Mr. Schwann ; A. Mr. J. Chamberlain, *May 20*, 1206.
- Lerwick**
See Scotland

May 7—May 26.

Levy, Mr. M. [Leicestershire, Loughborough]

London Education Bill, *May 19*, 1166.

Workmen's Compensation Act, *May 13*, 628.

Lewis, Mr. J. H. [Flint Boroughs]

London Education Bill *May 26*, 1875, 1882.

Lewis, Island of

Major Matheson and his Tenants, Delay in coming to terms.

Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. G. Murray, May 12, 1352.

Licences—Publicans

Licences Refused, Number of, Grounds of Refusal.

Q. Sir W. Houldsworth; A. Mr. Akers-Douglas, May 8, 201.

Licensing Act, 1902

Amending Bill—Introduction of proposed, *May 12*, 408.

Life Association of Scotland Bill

c. 2R. Com.* May 11*, 283.

Rep. May 22*, 1504.

3R. May 26*, 1778.

Lightermen

see Port of London Bill.

Lighterhouse Advisory Board

see Irish Lights Tenders.

Lights, Lighthouses, and Lightships

Local Inspections — Report Presented, *May 21*, 1335; *May 22*, 1457.

Wireless Telegraphy — Fitting Light Vessels with Apparatus, Completion of contracts.

Q. Mr. Doughty; A. Mr. B. Law, May 20, 1213.

Light Load Line

Select Committee — Report Presented, *May 22*, 1456.

Lima Railways Bill

c. 2R. Com.* May 11*, 283.

l. Rep. May 22*, 1504.

c. con. May 26*, 1779.

Limerick

Garrison—Meat Contract, Tenders for—Number, Tender accepted, etc.

Q. Mr. Joyce; A. Mr. Brodrick, May 21, 1341.

Lloyd-Apjohn Estate—Sale to Tenants, Progress in Land Judge's Court.

Q. Mr. Lundon; A. Mr. Wyndham, May 26, 1355.

Lindsey (Lincolnshire) Education Committee

Action of with regard to Estimates—Threatened Resignation of School Committees.

Q. Mr. Mansfield; A. Sir W. Anson, May 20, 1214.

Liquor Traffic and Liquor Licensing Laws

Ireland—Castleblaney Licence Transfer—Case of Mr. Keeley—Action of Inland Revenue Authorities.

Q. Mr. Clancy; A. Mr. Ritchie, May 18, 932.

Licensing Act, 1902—"Internal Communication," Course of Action to be adopted in Reference to Term.

Q. Mr. D. A. Morgan; A. Mr. Akers-Douglas, May 20, 1203.

Licences.

Refusals to Renew Licences during 1901 and 1902—Return Requested.

Q. Sir W. Houldsworth; A. Mr. Akers-Douglas, May 21, 1337.

Return showing Number of Years during which Licencees had held Licence, etc., proposed.

Q. Mr. Cohen; A. Mr. Akers-Douglas, May 20, 1202.

Licensing Prosecutions for Opening during Prohibited Hours—Action of High-gate Magistrates.

Q. Sir W. Lawson; A. Mr. Akers-Douglas, May 14, 671.

Manchester Licensing Committee, Election of—Voting of Persons not entitled to Vote—Proceedings against Offenders.

Q. Mr. Whittaker; A. Sir R. Finlay, May 18, 928.

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children—Breaches of Intoxicating Liquors (Sale to Children) Act—Reporting Cases to Commissioner.

Q. Mr. Crombie; A. Mr. Cochrane, May 25, 1640.

Scotland—Licensing Appeals, Number of, in 1901, 1902—Number of Reversals of Decision, etc.

Q. Mr. Black; A. Mr. G. Murray, May 20, 1217.

Listowel

Mail Delays, Number of, previous and subsequent to Amalgamation of Waterford and Limerick Railway Company and Great Southern and Western Railway Company.

Q. Mr. Flavin; A. Mr. Wyndham, May 7, 34.

Telegraphic Communication between Listowel and Tralee—Extension of System to Listowel, proposed.

Q. Mr. Flavin; A. Mr. Austen Chamberlain, May 19, 1087.

Union Accounts—Re-examination of Accounts by Auditor pending Decision with regard to holding Sworn Inquiry.

Q. Mr. Flavin; A. Mr. Atkinson, May 12, 424.

Urban Council Audit—Removal of Papers from Urban Council Office, Authority for, Auditor, etc.

Qs. Mr. Flavin; As. Mr. Wyndham, May 7, 34.

May 7—May 26.

Liverpool

Disturbances in Streets by Wiseites—Prevention of Further Disorder.

Q. Mr. Cullinan; *A.* Mr. Akers-Douglas, *May 8, 189.*

Emigrant Lodging Houses.

Houses not on Register, alleged—Reason for Omission.

Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. G. Lawson, *May 26, 1803.*

Overcrowding in, Intimation of, to Liverpool Corporation, proposed.

Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. W. Long, *May 14, 689.*

George Square—Cases of Infectious Diseases, Number removed from, for last three years.

Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. G. Lawson, *May 26, 1803.*

Small-pox Epidemic.

Escape of Patient from Fazakerley Hospital.

Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. W. Long, *May 14, 689; May 26, 1804.*

Inquiry into Measures adopted by Health Authorities with regard to.

Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. G. Lawson, *May 7, 29.*

Register of Small Pox Patients—Arrangements for keeping Register at Office of Clerk to Sanitary Authority, proposed.

Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. G. Lawson, *May 7, 28.*

Liverpool University Bill

l. Rep.* *May 26, 1750.*

Lloyd-George, Mr. D. [Carnarvon Boroughs]

Aged Pensioners' Bill, *May 22, 1541.*

Brussels Permanent Commission, Establishment of—Necessary Expenditure, Opportunity for Discussion of, *May 25, 1646.*

London Education Bill, *May 18, 947; May 20, 1233, 1272, 1274; May 25, 1664; May 26, 1832.*

Loans

see Education (Borrowing) Bill

Local Government Act (1888) Amendment (London) Bill

c. 1R.* *May 26, 1810.*

Local Government Board

Aged Pensioners Bill, Action regarding.
Os. *May 22, 1512, 1516, 1544, 1566.*

Education (Borrowing) Bill, *see* that title.

Local Government Board, Ireland

Annual Report Presented, *May 22, 1456, 1507.*

Auditors and Public Contracts—No interference on part of Board with work of auditor.

Q. Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *May 26, 1794.*

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill

l. 1R.* *Com.* May 25, 1574.*

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (No. 2) Bill

l. 1R.* *May 7, 4.*
2R. Com.* May 25, 1574.*

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill

c. Rep.* *May 7, 10.*
3R. May 8, 193.*
l. 1R.* *May 11, 270.*
2R. Com.* May 25, 1575.*

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill

c. 2R.* *Com.* May 12, 409.*

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill

c. 2R.* *May 19, 1079.*
Com. May 19, 1079.*
Rep. May 26, 1779.*

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill

c. 2R.* *Com.* May 19, 1079.*

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill

c. 2R.* *Com.* May 19, 1079.*
Rep. May 26, 1779.*

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (Housing of Working Classes) Bill

c. Rep.* *May 22, 1505.*
3R. May 25, 1617.*
l. 1R.* *May 26, 1751.*

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill

l. 2R.* *Com.* May 25, 1575.*
Rep. May 26, 1752.*

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill

l. 2R.* *Com.* May 25, 1575.*
Rep. May 26, 1752.*

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill

l. 2R.* *Com.* May 25, 1575.*
Rep. May 26, 1752.*

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill

c. Rep.* *May 7, 10.*
3R. May 8, 193.*
l. 1R.* *May 11, 271.*
2R. Com.* May 22, 1575.*

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill

c. 2R.* *Com.* May 11, 283.*
Rep. May 22, 1505.*
3R. May 25, 1617.*
l. 1R.* *May. 26, 1751.*

May 7—May 26.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill

- c.* 2R.* *Com.* May 11, 283.*
- Rep.* May 22, 1505.*
- 3R.* *May 25, 1617.*
- l.* 1R.* *May 26, 1751.*

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill

- c.* 2R.* *Com.* May 15, 801.*
- Rep.* May 22, 1505.*
- 3R.* *May 25, 1617.*
- l.* 1R.* *May 26, 1751.*

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill

- c.* 2R.* *Com.* May 19, 1079.*

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill

- c.* 2R.* *Com.* May 19, 1079.*

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill

- c.* Ordered, *May 8, 193.*
- 1R.* *May 8, 193.*
- 2R.* *Com.* May 22, 1503.*

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11) Bill

- c.* Ordered, *May 8, 193.*
- 1R.* *May 8, 194.*
- 2R.* *Com.* May 19, 1079.*
- Rep.* May 26, 1779.*

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 12) Bill

- c.* Ordered, *May 12, 409.*
- 1R.* *May 12, 410.*
- 2R.* *Com.* May 22, 1503.*

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13) Bill

- c.* Ordered, *May 12, 409.*
- 1R.* *May 12, 410.*
- 2R.* *Com.* May 22, 1503.*

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 14) Bill

- c.* Ordered, *May 14, 665.*
- 1R.* *May 14, 665.*
- con.* May 25, 1617.*

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 15) Bill

- c.* Ordered, *May 14, 665.*
- 1R.* *May 14, 665.*
- 3R.* *Com.* May 22, 1503.*

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 16) Bill

- c.* Ordered, *May 15, 801.*
- 1R.* *May 15, 802.*
- 2R.* *Com.* May 25, 1617.*

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 17) Bill

- c.* Ordered, *May 25, 1617.*
- 1R.* *May 25, 1617.*

Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas) Bill

- c.* 2R.* *Com.* May 15, 801.*
- Rep.* May 22, 1505.*
- 3R.* *May 25, 1617.*
- l.* 1R.* *May 26, 1751.*

Local Government Provisional Order (Housing of the Working Classes) Bill

- l.* 2R.* *Com.* May 25, 1575.*
- Rep.* May 26, 1752.*

Local Government Provisional Orders (Poor Law) Bill

- c.* Ordered, *May 12, 409.*
- 1R.* *May 12, 410.*
- 2R.* *Com.* May 22, 1503.*

Local Taxation

Payment of Rates through Landlord—Liability of Tenants—Amendment of Law, proposed.

Q. Mr. K. Hardie; *A.* Mr. W. Long, *May 20, 1199.*

Refusals to pay the whole Amount of the Rates—Issue of Circular instructing Collectors to accept Amount offered, proposed.

Q. Mr. Mansfield; *A.* Mr. W. Long, *May 14, 690.*

Lochnell Estate Bill

- l.* 2R.* *May 25, 1574.*

Lockwood, Lieut.-Colonel A. [Essex, Epping]

London Education Bill, *May 25, 1740.*

London and North-Western Railway Bill

- l.* 3R.* *May 26, 1750.*
- c.* 1R.* *May 26, 1784.*

London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Bill

- l.* Royal Assent, *May 22, 1453.*
- 3R.* *May 26, 1750.*
- c.* 1R.* *May 26, 1784.*

London County Council

Expenditure—Return of sum spent by Council in promoting and opposing Bills in Parliament, proposed.

Qs. Earl of Camperdown, Earl of Wemyss; *As.* Earl of Halsbury, Lord Welby, *May 22, 1498; May 25, 1614.*

London Education Bill, *see that title.*

Port Authority, Representation on.

Os. *May 13, 545, 550, 561, 566, 572, 587, 595, 600.*

London County Council (General Powers) Bill

- c.* 3R.* *May 7, 9.*
- l.* 1R.* *May 8, 153.*
- 2R.* *Com.* May 18, 866.*

London County Council (Money) Bill

- c.* *Rep.* May 22, 1503.*

May 7—May 26.

London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill

- c. Rep.* May 13, 525.
- con.* May 20, 1197.
- 3R.* May 25, 1616.
- l. 1R.* May 26, 1751.

Londonderry

- Customs — Cigar Smuggling, Action of Collector of Customs and Board of Customs with reference to case on s.s. "Columbia."
- Q. Mr. O'Doherty; A. Mr. Ritchie, May 7, 26.
- Land Appeal Court,ittings of—Date of Last and Next Sitting.
- Q. Mr. Wood; A. Mr. Wyndham, May 7, 30.

Londonderry, Marquess of—President of the Board of Education

- Education Act, 1902—Owners and Trustees of Non-provided Schools, Position of, under Act, May 15, 798.

London Education Bill

- Considered in Committee, May 18, 941; May 19, 1097; May 20, 1227; May 25, 1651; May 26, 1813.*

- Ad Hoc* Authority, Question of, 950, 953, 960, 963, 967, 977, 978, 982, 998, 1003, 1009, 1013, 1023, 1024, 1032, 1036, 1143, 1148, 1177, 1237, 1243, 1244, 1652, 1727.

- Appeals, *see* subheading Board of Education.

Board of Education.

- Appeals to, 1097, 1705, 1708, 1713, 1738.

- Authority of, 961, 973, 977.

- Borough Committees, Constitution and Working of, 1715, 1832.

- Borough Councils, Representation on Educational Committee of, 946, 949, 953, 954, 961, 966, 969, 971, 1002, 1004, 1006, 1011, 1014, 1016, 1018, 1020, 1024, 1141, 1151, 1162, 1169, 1171, 1173, 1178, 1180, 1181, 1194, 1195, 1229, 1234, 1235, 1237, 1240, 1242, 1243, 1652, 1657, 1677, 1681, 1683, 1684, 1690, 1698, 1705, 1708, 1709, 1710, 1711, 1714, 1716, 1717, 1720, 1723, 1728, 1734, 1736, 1741, 1814, 1819, 1828, 1845, 1857, 1850, 1851, 1856.

Building.

- Cost of, 961, 1028.

- Sites, Purchase and selection of—1739, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885.

- Central Authority, *see* Borough Councils—London County Council.

- Clause 1, Suggested Postponement of—942, 944, 947, 949, 952, 953, 955.

- Clause 2, Postponement of—1164, 1165, 1166.

- Clergy, Attitude (regarding management) of—1100, 1106, 1124.

London Education Bill—cont.

Considered in Committee—cont.

- Committee, *see* Borough Councils—London County Council.

- Co-ordination between different Branches of Education, 961, 962, 965, 972, 975, 976, 1140, 1148, 1239, 1687, 1705, 1715, 1718, 1843.

- Corporation and Livery Guilds, Schools under—1901, 1902, 1903.

- County Council, *see* subheading London County Council.

- Curriculum, Method of securing Uniformity of—966, 1718, 1819, 1826.

- Deaf, Schools for the—*see* subheading Special Schools.

- Decentralisation, Principle of—1706, 1711, 1714, 1715, 1722, 1729, 1817.

- Denominational Schools, *see* subheading Religion.

- Education Board, *see* subheading Board of Education.

- Education Committee, Constitution of—946, 948, 975, 1008, 1009, 1018, 1025, 1161, 1164, 1169, 1657, 1660, 1663, 1685, 1686, 1687, 1689, 1696.

- Elections, Methods of—1013, 1017, 1021, 1029, 1229, 1230.

- Elementary Schools, Management of—962, 964, 973, 974, 1122, 1148, 1163, 1709.

- Endowment Clause, Modification of—1905, 1906, 1907.

- Evening Schools, Management of—1709.

- Finance, *see* London County Council.

- Grouping of London Schools, 1904, 1905.

- Higher Grade Schools, Management of—1824, 1825, 1841.

- Irish Members, Attitude of—1039.

- Jewish Schools, Management of, *see* subheading Religion.

- Local Authority, Constitution of—946, 952, 955, 971, 972, 974, 994, 997, 1013, 1097.

London County Council.

- Committee, Power of Electing—1685, 1686, 1687.

- Committee, Suggested Constitution of—1655, 1681, 1836.

- Consideration of Bill, Opportunity for—942, 944, 947, 981, 984, 986, 987, 989, 994, 1035, 1657, 1659.

- Financial Control, Extent of—1707, 1710.

- Increase of Members Suggested—1131, 1181, 1187, 1235.

- Majority, Number of Elected—1172, 1175, 1265, 1279.

[*cont.*

May 7—May 26.

London Education Bill—cont.*Considered in Committee—cont.***London County Council—cont.**

Number to sit on Education Committee—1677.

Rating of—967, 1025, 1110.

Representation on Committee, 946, 949, 952, 961, 967, 971, 976, 978, 1000, 1004, 1006, 1011, 1014, 1016, 1018, 1020, 1022, 1023, 1025, 1028, 1030, 1035.

Representation on Committee, 1037, 1039, 1131, 1140, 1143, 1144, 1145, 1149, 1169, 1171, 1177, 1178, 1180, 1186, 1228, 1229, 1234, 1237, 1240, 1257, 1268, 1280, 1282, 1286, 1652, 1661, 1663, 1665, 1697, 1698, 1708, 1709, 1710, 1714, 1717, 1728, 1729, 1734, 1819, 1836, 1839, 1845, 1850, 1853, 1874, 1875.

Women, Right to Control Election of, *see* subheading Women.**London School Board.**

Abolition of Authority, 951, 953, 960, 964, 965, 969, 972, 1021, 1039, 1144, 1177.

Consideration of Bill, Opportunity for—942, 944, 951, 952, 981, 984, 989, 987, 989, 994, 1657, 1659.

Representation on Committee of—1655, 1722.

Work of—960, 963, 968, 972, 975, 976, 1140, 1148, 1239, 1733, 1839.

Managers, Groups of—1864, 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868, 1871.

Municipal Authority, *see* subheading Local Authority.

National Union of Teachers, Position of—1691, 1694.

Nonconformists, *see* Religion.

Outsiders on the Committee, 1171, 1174, 1180, 1229.

Progress, Motion to Report—942, 947, 1040, 1041, 1664, 1667, 1672.

Provided Schools, Management of—954, 1028, 1109, 1731, 1735, 1813, 1874.

Ratepayers, Protection and Rights of—985, 986, 988, 990, 992, 1011, 1015, 1099, 1238, 1690, 1719, 1837, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1892.

Rating Authority, 969, 1025.

Religion.

Demoninational Schools, Management of—954, 965, 1105, 1112, 1117, 1122, 1144, 1718.

Jewish Schools, Management of—1100.

Nonconformist Protests against Bill—1099, 1107, 1115, 1124, 1150.

London Education Bill—cont.*Considered in Committee—cont.***Religion—cont.**

Roman Catholics, Teaching of—1038, 1040, 1101, 1107, 1112, 1114, 1115.

Teachers, Theological Tests for—1102, 1138.

Teaching, Difficulties in Religions—1107, 1109, 1112, 1114, 1116, 1137, 1138, 1738.

Repairs, Cost of—1849.

Roman Catholics, *see* subheading Religion.School Board, *see* subheading London School Board.

Secondary Education, Management of—962, 964, 969, 974, 1148, 1163, 1899.

Sites, *see* subheading Building.

Special Schools (for Deaf, Blind, and Mentally Afflicted), Management of—1737, 1896, 1897.

Supernumary Members of the Committee, 1678, 1680.

Teachers.

Appointment of—961, 966, 1007, 1017, 1028, 1105, 1109, 1709, 1734, 1737, 1815, 1827, 1829, 1833, 1842, 1849, 1885.

Circulation of, 1719, 1735.

Payment of, 1103, 1110.

Theological Tests for, 1102, 1138.

Voluntary School, Inadequate Number of Teachers in, 1102.

Voluntary Schools, Management of, 948, 954, 966, 969, 970, 1000, 1909, 1098, 1101, 1102, 1108, 1121, 1136, 1146, 1152, 1735, 1739.

Wales, Attitude towards Bill in, 1100, 1103, 1124.

Women, Representation of.

London County Council to fix Number, Authority of, 1675, 1676, 1677, 1679.

Number on Committee, 1675, 1677, 1682, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912.

Representation on new Authority, 1675, 1678, 1697, 1814, 1879, 1880.

Endowed Schools—Application of Provisions as to Appointment of Managers and Control by Local Authority, to.

Q. Sir J. Dimsdale; *A.* Sir W. Anson, *May 26*, 1793.

Hyde Park Demonstration—Number of Platforms authorised for.

Q. Sir G. Bartley; *A.* Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes, *May 14*, 693.

Local Government Act, Provision for Transfer of Powers of County Council to Borough Council—Prevention of Application of Provision in connection with London Education Bill.

Q. Mr. Lough; *A.* Sir W. Anson, *May 12*, 422.

May 7—May 26.

London Hydraulic Power Bill

- l. 2R.* Com.* May 7, 4.*
- Rep.* May 24, 1454.*
- 3R.* May 26, 1751.*

London School Board

see London Education Bill.

London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway Bill

- c. con.* May 20, 1197.*
- 3R.* May 25, 1616.*
- l. 1R.* May 26, 1751.*

London United Tramways Bill

- c. con.* May 12, 409.*
- 3R.* May 15, 801.*
- l. R.* May 18, 866.*
- 2R.* Con.* May 26, 1750.*

Long, Mr. Walter—President of the Local Government Board [Bristol S.]

- Aged Pensioners Bill, *May 22, 1564.*
- Arsenical Poisoning—Royal Commission Report, Date of issue of final Report uncertain, *May 11, 290.*
- Census of Occupations—Limitation of, to England and Wales, *May 13, 530.*
- Cornwall County Council Allotments—Alleged opposition of Local Government Board, *May 13, 529.*
- Education (Borrowing) Bill, *May 12, 468.*
- Elementary Schools—Expenses of, Proposed Legislation, *May 8, 201.*
- Liverpool.
 - Emigrant Lodging. Houses—Overcrowding in, Action of Liverpool Corporation, General statement with regard to Houses, *May 15, 689.*
 - Smallpox Epidemic—Escape of Patient from Fazakerley Hospital, *May 14, 689.*
- Local Rate Collections—Refusals to pay the whole Amount of the Rates, Decision as to acceptance of Amount offered to rest with Collector, *May 15, 690.*
- London Education Bill, *May 18, 947, 951, 1029, 1041; May 19, 1120, 1131; May 25, 1741; May 26, 1887, 1890, 1895, 1898, 1899.*
- Nottingham Smallpox Hospital—Erection of, on site alleged to be unsuitable and a danger to public health, *May 25, 1638.*
- Offices, Compensation for abolition of—Principle and scale of Awards, *May 18, 916.*
- Peterborough Rural District—Overcrowding in, *May 13, 528.*
- Poor Law Schools, Inspection of—Placing under Board of Education, *May 25, 1637.*
- Rates—Payment of, through Landlord, Liability of Tenants, Proposed Amendment of Law, *May 20, 1199.*

Long, Mr. Walter—cont.

- South Shields Union Workhouse—Religious Ministration to inmates, *May 20, 1200.*
- Swine—Tuberculous Swine, Compensation for Condemned Carcases—No promise of compensation possible previous to Report of Royal Commission on Tuberculosis, *May 25, 1637.*
- Vaccination.
 - Cost of—No necessity for granting Return of cost of Vaccination charged on Poor Rate, *May 18, 915.*
- Glycerinated Calf Lymph—Government Supply, Amount produced non-calculable, *May 8, 201.*
- Wandsworth Infirmary, alleged undue violence at—Evidence at Inquest on Michael Sadler—Further inquiries, *May 11, 291.*
- Workhouses, Children in—Number in other than Metropolitan Workhouses, *May 26, 1788.*

Longford

- District Council—Auditor's Surcharge, Payment not to be enforced prior to decision of Engineer's case against Council, proposed.
 - Q. Mr. J. P. Farrell; A. Mr. Wyndham, May 26, 1795.*
- Drainage Boards—Composition and method of election, Legislation proposed.
 - Q. Mr. J. P. Farrell; A. Mr. Wyndham, May 20, 1219.*
- Drumard, E. Farrelly's Holding at—Decrease in size of tenancy, Readjustment of Boundaries, proposed.
 - Q. Mr. J. P. Farrell; A. Mr. Wyndham, May 21, 1353.*
- Magistrates, Appointments of—Number made on recommendation of Lord Lieutenant of County—Number of Roman Catholics and Protestants, &c.
 - Q. Mr. J. P. Farrell; A. Mr. Wyndham, May 21, 1340.*
- Mails, Conveyance of, from Longford Station to Post Office—Employment of more suitable method of transit.
 - Q. Mr. J. P. Farrell; A. Mr. Austen Chamberlain, May 25, 1624.*
- Sale and Purchase of Estates—Cusack Estate—Refusal of grazing tenancies to evicted Tenants—Assistance to enable Tenants to purchase Farms, proposed.
 - Q. Mr. J. P. Farrell; A. Mr. Wyndham, May 25, 1626.*
- Trees, Sale of—Provision in Irish Land Bill for preservation of trees in rural parts, proposed.
 - Q. Mr. J. P. Farrell; A. Mr. Wyndham, May 20, 1219.*

Lonsdale, Mr. J. B. [Armagh, Mid.]

- Irish Land Bill—Repurchase of Estates, Conditions of under Bill, *May 26, 1793.*

[cont.

May 7—May 26.

Lonsdale, Mr. J. B.—cont.

Trinity College Leases—Treatment of portion of land held under a Trinity College perpetuity lease as a separate estate for purposes of sale, *May 18*, 931.

Lough, Mr. T. [Islington, W.]

Budget Resolutions—Opportunity for discussion—Question regarding increase of Revenue from tobacco, spirits and beer—Annual imposition of Duty on those articles, *May 11*, 433, 441.

Holloway Prison—Executions—Representation for discontinuance of carrying out executions, decision with regard to, *May 7*, 27.

London Education Bill, *May 18*, 942, 973, 981, 1039; *May 19*, 1113, 1195; *May 20*, 1227, 1232, 1279, 1281; *May 25*, 1670, 1675, 1682, 1690, 1711; *May 26*, 1847, 1866, 1897, 1902, 1912.

Provision of Local Government Act for transfer of powers of County Council to Borough Council—Prevention of Application of Provision in connection with London Education Bill, *May 12*, 422.

Minister of Agriculture (Motion for Adjournment), *May 21*, 1426.

Naval Expenditure—Protest against Increased Outlay on Shipbuilding—Two-Power Standard—Comparison of Expenditure with that of other Powers—Requests for fuller Information, *May 14*, 730, 743, 746.

Post Office Reforms Criticised as Meagre—Reasons in favour of the Re-purchase of Stamps—Increased Facilities for obtaining Postal Orders—Cheapening of Telephone Communication—Grievances of Post Office Employee, *May 11*, 314.

Prisons—Executions in, *May 21*, 1446.

Shipbuilding Vote—Increase in Amount of—Policy of Government, Explanation of on Report Stage of Vote, *May 18*, 939.

Lowther, Mr. Claude [Cumberland, Eskdale]

London Education Bill, *May 18*, 968.

Lowther, Rt. Hon. James [Kent, Thanet]

Budget Resolutions—Want of Proper Arrangements for Debating Finance, *May 12*, 428, 433.

Lowther, Rt. Hon. J. W.—Chairman of Committee of Ways and Means [Cumberland, Penrith]

Budget.

Resolutions, Opportunity for Discussion of—New Taxes, *May 12*, 434.

Taxation, Motion for Increased—This can only be proposed by Government, *May 12*, 456.

Lowther, Rt. Hon. J. W.—cont.

London Education Bill in Committee.

Amendment, Digressions from, *May 18*, 971.

Amendment proposed shown to be already provided for, *May 26*, 1883, 1863, 1871.

Amendments—Alterations suggested for, proposed, *May 26*, 1906.

Amendments beyond scope of Bill, *May 18*, 959; *May 26*, 1897, 1902.

Amendments—Order of considering, *May 20*, 1232, 1233.

Clause, Essential Principle of a, *May 25*, 1699.

Clauses, Amendments of new—These cannot be moved until the Clauses have been read a second time, *May 26*, 1887.

Clauses, Analysis of new, *May 26*, 1886.

Digressions—Attention called to, *May 19*, 1117, 1119.

Education Committee, Member discusses—This is out of Order at this stage, *May 19*, 1166.

Irrelevant Discussions, *May 25*, 1739.

Irrelevant Remarks—Attention called to, *May 18*, 989, 992; *May 19*, 1125, 1141, 1142.

“Modification”—Explanation of the word, *May 25*, 1678.

Motion to Report Progress—Debate must be confined to, *May 25*, 1659, 1664, 1667.

Motion to Report Progress refused, *May 18*, 942.

Parliamentary Procedure—Effect of working out, *May 25*, 1662.

Passage of Bill, Question as to attempt to delay—Such a question cannot arise on the Amendment, *May 18*, 993.

Postponement of Question until the next Clause, *May 19*, 1132.

Repetition of Previous Arguments is out of order, *May 25*, 1700, 1702.

Schedule—Point discussed during consideration of Amendment which should be raised on, *May 19*, 1176.

Schedule—Question raised on, *May 25*, 1682, 1683.

Standing Order—Reasons for passing a, *May 25*, 1701.

Whole Bill, Member discusses—The subject under consideration is the Amendment, *May 19*, 1111.

Old Bridewell Burying Ground Bill, *May 11*, 374.

[cont.]

May 7—May 26.

Lowther, Rt. Hon. J. W.—*cont.*

Supply.

Belleville Boilers are not on the Section of the Vote under discussion, *May 14*, 739.Council of Defence discussed on the Shipbuilding Vote—Such a discussion is out of order, *May 14*, 737.Vessels on Contract, Price of—This subject is not on the Vote under discussion, *May 14*, 738.**Lucas, Colonel F. A.** [Suffolk, Lowestoft]All Saints (Poplar) Rate Abolition Bill, *May 21*, 1442.**Lucas, Mr. Reginald** [Portsmouth]"County" Class of Vessels—Information requested concerning, *May 14*, 793.Dockyard Labourers, Wages and Conditions of work among, *May 14*, 754.Naval Expenditure, Increase in—Negotiations with the Powers with a view to reduction of Naval Armaments, *May 14*, 746.Persia, South-west—British Railways, Development of—Intentions of H.M. Government with regard to, *May 12*, 421.Shipbuilding, English progress in—Information requested regarding new Cruisers, *May 14*, 775.**Lunatics and Lunatic Asylums**Report of Number of Visits made, Patients seen, etc., *Presented, May 11*, 271, 286.

Scotland—Royal Edinburgh Asylum, Overcrowding in, resulting in outbreak of dysentery.

Qs. Mr. Weir; As. Mr. Anstruther, May 11, 304.**Lundon, Mr. W.** [Limerick, E.]Lloyd Apjohn's Estate, County Limerick—Sale to Tenants, progress in Land Judges' Court, *May 21*, 1355.**Lyttelton, Mr. A.** [Warwick and Leamington]Port of London Bill, *May 15*, 880.Trade Disputes Bill, *May 8*, 221.Division on the Trade Disputes Bill—Error in counting the "No" votes in the division—Correction of mistake, *May 11*, 313.**Lytton, Earl of**Musical Copyright Bill, *May 19*, 1048.**McArthur, Mr. Charles** [Liverpool, Exchange]Church Discipline (No. 2) Bill, *May 12*, 503.Free Trade in the Congo Free State—Agreement with Signatories to Act of Berlin with regard to Clauses relating to Complete Freedom of Trade and Prohibition of Monopolies, *May 26*, 1801.**McArthur, Mr. Charles**—*cont.*

Greece.

Currant Monopoly—Sending Home Information by Telegraph with regard to proposed Monopoly, *May 18*, 917.Sale of Currants in—Scheme for Granting Monopoly of Sale to Greek and British Syndicate—Action of British Minister in Athens, *May 7*, 16.Marine Insurance Bill, *May 12*, 498.**M'Calmont, Colonel J.** [Antrim, E.]Agricultural and Technical Instruction in Leitrim—Levy of Rate by County Council for purposes of—Amount Levied—Amount Received from Department, etc., *May 11*, 291.Ulster and Connaught Light Railways Bill, *May 14*, 765.**Macdona, Mr. J. Cumming** [Southwark, Rotherhithe]Port of London Bill, *May 13*, 614.**M'Fadden, Mr. E.** [Donegal, E.]Strabane Labourers' Cottages—Loan Fund Appeal for Erection of—Delay in Granting Loan, *May 11*, 294.**MacIver, Mr. David** [Liverpool, Kirkdale]Budget Resolutions—Undesirability of Increasing Tax on Tobacco, *May 12*, 443.**M'Iver, Sir Lewis** [Edinburgh, W.]

Edinburgh Post Office.

Promotion of Clerks—Dissatisfaction with regard to Promotion of Junior Clerks, *May 21*, 1339.Retirement of Staff at Age of Sixty-five—Regulation not complied with, *May 21*, 1339.**McKean, Mr. J.** [Monaghan, S.]Irish Education—Building Grants under the Board of National Education—Decision with regard to Scale, *May 21*, 1352.**McKenna, Mr. R.** [Monmouth, N.]London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May 18*, 952, 960, 984, 1023; *May 19*, 1146; *May 26*, 1889, 1899.National Debt—Permanent Annual Charge, *May 12*, 456.Parcel Post—Refusal to Deliver Parcel on Grounds of Insufficient Address, Reason for, *May 15*, 806.**M'Killop, Mr. J.** [Stirlingshire]Application of Mr. James Stuart for a Bull—Reconsideration of, proposed, *May 13*, 534.Dromore Labourers' Cottages—Delay in Erection of, *May 14*, 698.

May 7—May 26.

Macnamara, Dr. T. J. [Camberwell, N.]

Electric Lighting in Camberwell—Application of London Electric Supply Corporation for Extension of Area, Reason for Refusal, *May 20*, 1203.

Evening Continuation School Grants—Non-provided Evening Schools, Payment of Grants by Board of Education, Powers of Local Education Authority over Schools, *May 21*, 1338.

Housing of the Working Classes Bill—Date of Introduction, *May 7*, 36.

London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May 18*, 944, 959, 965, 997, 1030, 1031, 1032; *May 19*, 1102, 1129, 1179, 1185; *May 25*, 1656, 1659, 1676, 1682, 1684, 1736; *May 26*, 1817, 1825, 1855, 1861, 1865, 1882, 1884, 1891, 1909, 1913.

MacNeill, Mr. Swift [Donegal, S.]

Stanford, Mr.—Maltreatment of, at Cape Town, Action of Colonel Cooper with regard to, Exclusion of Report of Legal Proceedings and Apologies of Officers from Cape Press, *May 7*, 20.

Maconochie, Mr. [Aberdeenshire, E.]

Aged Pensioners Bill, *May 22*, 1563.

Magistrates and Justices of the Peace

Ireland.

Down and Belfast, Counties of—Number of Appointments, Number of Roman Catholics, etc.

Q. Mr. Wood; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *May 7*, 30.

Justices of the Peace Convicted under the Crimes Act—Removal of Disqualifications, proposed.

Q. Mr. Mansfield; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *May 14*, 698.

Longford, County—Appointment of Magistrates, Number made on Recommendation of Lord Lieutenant of County, Number of Roman Catholics and Protestants, etc.

Q. Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *May 21*, 1340.

Maidstone Gas Bill

l. 2R.* *Com.* May 11*, 270.

Rep. May 14*, 654.

3R. May 19*, 1046.

Mails

see Post Office.

Mail Service

China—Conveyance by the Trans-Siberian Route, Arrangements with Russia.

Q. Sir H. Fowler; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *May 11*, 289.

Scotland, *see* Names of Places.

Malcolm, Mr. [Suffolk, Stowmarket]

Walsham-le-Willows Anti-Vaccinationists—Refusal of Exemption Certificates, alleged, *May 25*, 1640.

Maloney, Sergeant

Proposed Transfer of, Reason for.

Q. Mr. W. Redmond; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *May 18*, 919.

Manchester

Licensing Committee, Election of—Voting of Persons not entitled to vote, Proceedings against Offenders, *May 18*, 928.

Manchester and Leeds Exhibitions

List of Government Property, to whom Lent—Inquiries into *Status* of Promoters of Exhibitions, etc., *May 18*, 924.

War Office Loans—Nature of Application for, Insurance of Goods, etc., *May 12*, 418.

Manchester, Duke of

Board of Trade Examiner at Liverpool—Name of Successful Candidate, Qualifications, etc., *May 8*, 191.

Manœuvres

Army Manœuvres—Pre-ervation of Old Dean Common for purposes of Military Manœuvring Ground.

Q. Colonel Wyndham-Quin; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *May 18*, 920.

Mansfield, Mr. H. [Lincoln, Spalding]

Cornwall County Council Allotments—Inability of County Council to provide Allotments owing to opposition of Local Government Board, alleged, *May 13*, 529.

Education Finance—Order for handing over of Balances of Voluntary School Associations and Managers to Local Education Authority, proposed, *May 26*, 1804.

Elementary School Buildings—Condition of, Surveyors' Reports, Instruction to Surveyors, *May 20*, 1215.

Holland County Council Education Scheme—Objections to Scheme from Spalding and Sutton Bridge Urban Councils, Non-representation of Districts on the Authority, *May 26*, 1805.

Holland (Lincolnshire) Education Committee, Composition of, Preponderance of Churchmen, Equal Representation on Committee, proposed, *May 20*, 1215.

Imperial Yeomanry—Service in South African War, Number of Companies going to South Africa, Date of Return of last Company, Financial Settlement, Number of Officers having received Gratuity, etc., *May 19*, 1090.

Justices of the Peace Convicted under the Crimes Act (Ireland)—Removal of Disqualifications, proposed, *May 14*, 698.

Lindsey (Lincolnshire) Education Committee—Action of, with regard to Estimates, Threatened Resignation of School Committees, *May 20*, 1214.

[cont.]

May 7—May 26.

Mansfield, Mr. H.—cont.

Local Rate Collections—Refusal to pay the whole Amount of the Rates, Issue of Circular instructing Collectors to accept Amount offered, proposed, *May 14, 690.*

London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May 25, 1705.*

Peterborough Rural District—Overcrowding in, *May 13, 528.*

West Horsley National School—Dismissal of Headmaster, Issue of Circular requesting Local Authorities to have Reports made on condition of school-house previous to accepting responsibility for it, *May 14, 694.*

Maple, Sir. J. Blundell [Camberwell, Dulwich]

London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May 19, 1143.*

Marine Insurance Bill

c. 2R. May 12, 501.

Debate on 2R. [H.C.], May 12, 492.

Codification—Effect and Objects of, 492, 497, 498, 499.

Common Law—Removal of subject from province of, 492, 498, 500.

History of Marine Insurance, 492.

Ship Owners—Position and Interests of, 495, 498.

Shipping and Commerce—Chambers of, 497, 499.

Standing Committee on Trades—Suggested reference to, 501, 502.

Statutory Law—Question of placing subject under, 492.

Underwriters—Position of, 495, 498.

Marine Store Dealers (Ireland) Bill

c. 1R. May 19, 1096.*

Market Drayton Gas Bill

l. 2R. Com.* May 22, 1454.*

Rep. May 26, 1749.*

Markham, Mr. [Nottinghamshire, Mansfield]

Boiler Question—Suggested Combination of cylindrical and water-tube boilers, *May 14, 775.*

Coal Mines Regulation Bill, *May 15, 20.*

Land Registry—Operation of the Land Transfer Act, *May 21, 1399.*

Natal—Church Properties Bill, Measure for transfer of Church of England property to South African Bishops, Declining to sanction Bill, proposed, *May 20, 1207.*

Turbines—Use of, *May 14, 794.*

Marriages Legalisation Bill

c. 1R. May 13, 541.*

Maryborough

Militia Rations at — Curtailment of, Alleged.

Qs. Mr. Delany; As. Mr. Brodrick, May 25, 1627.

Maryport Harbour Bill

l. Rep. May 22, 1453.

3R. May 26, 1750.*

c. 1R. May 26, 1784.*

Mayo

Application of Mr. James Stuart for a Bill—Reconsideration of, proposed.

Q. Mr. W. McKillop; A. Mr. Wyndham, May 13, 534.

Mayo, Earl of

Ireland—Protection of Wild Birds, Wild Birds Protection Act—No notice with regard to Law posted on Constabulary Barracks for three years—Reasons for Omission, *May 7, 7.*

Meat Contracts for the Army

Limerick Garrison — Tenders for Meat Contract, Number of, Tender accepted, etc.

Q. Mr. Joyce; A. Mr. Brodrick, May 21, 1341.

Meath, Earl of

Deck Loads on Merchant Ships, *May 25, 1613.*

Grocers' School Cadet Corps—Application of Headmaster for Recognition of School Battalion as a non-uniformed Cadet Corps, *May 26, 1761.*

Medical Officers

Scotland—Poor Law Medical Officers in Highland Crofting Counties, Grievances of—Inclusion in Terms of Reference of Poor Law Medical Officers' Inquiry.

Q. Mr. C. Wason; A. Mr. G. Murray, May 25, 1623.

Mediterranean

British Fleet.

Alleged Waste of Ammunition, Condition of Firing, Authority Responsible for Practice, etc.

Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Mr. Arnold-Forster, May 25, 1632.

Gunnery—Laying on Table of Information with regard to Comparative Merit of Shooting Efficiency in Ships of Mediterranean Fleet, proposed.

Q. Mr. Harmsworth; A. Mr. Arnold-Forster, May 14, 683.

Merchant Service

Transport Service Medal—Delay in Granting.

Os. May 14, 656, 662.

Merchant Shipping

Committee of Inquiry — Report, with Minutes of Evidence, Appendices and Index, Presented, *May 22, 1456, 1507.*

Orders in Council, Presented, *May 25, 1576, 1619.*

Sight Tests—Return Presented, *May 13; May 8, 154.*

May 7—May 26.

Merchant Shipping] Act, 1894. [Amendment Billl. 1R.* *May 18, 868.***Merchant Ships***see* Deck Loads on Merchant Ships.**Methuen, Lord**Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill,
*May 22, 1493.***Metropolitan District Railway (Various Powers) Bill**c. Rep.* *May 12, 410.*Com.* *May 18, 910.*l. 1R.* *May 22, 1455.*3R.* *May, 22, 1503.***Metropolitan Police***see* Police.**Middlemore, Mr. [Birmingham, N.]**London Education Bill (*Committee*),
*May 18, 1017, 1034; May 25, 1679.***Midland and Belfast and Northern Counties Railways Bill**c. Rep.* *May 11, 283.*Com.* *May 18, 910.*3R.* *May 21, 1334.*l. 1R.* *May 22, 1455.***Midland Great Western Railway of Ireland Bill**c. Rep.* *May 12, 411.*con.* *May 22, 1503.***Milford Docks Bill**c. 2R.* Com.* *May 18, 910.*Rep.* *May 26, 1779.***Military and Naval Works Acts**Finances—Repayment of Borrowings
under Charge on the Estimates.Q. Mr. H. Samuel; A. Mr. Ritchie,
*May 12, 415.***Military Lands Provisional Orders Bill.**c. Ordered, *May 22, 1503.*l. 1R.* *May 22, 1503.***Militia**

Ireland.

Militia Rations at Maryborough,
Curtailment of alleged.Qs. Mr. Delany; A. Mr. Brodrick,
*May 25, 1627.*Queen's County Militia Recruits—Pay
of, etc.Q. Mr. Delany; A. Mr. Brodrick,
May 25, 1628.

Medical Officers—Reduction of Pay.

Q. Major Rasch; A. Mr. Brodrick, *May 14, 680.*Officers—South African War, Rewards for
Officers refused, Reconsideration of
Cases, proposed.Q. Mr. Seely; A. Mr. Brodrick,
*May 13, 530.***Millers**Ireland—Bonding Stores, Grant of Licence
to Dublin Miller, Refusal to Country
Miller alleged, Grant of equal privileges
proposed, *May 7, 25.*Proposed Bonding Arrangements—Alteration
of, for benefit of Millers of United
Kingdom.Q. Mr. Sullivan; A. Mr. Ritchie,
*May 7, 26.***Mills—Corn and Flour**Number and Output, thirty years ago as
compared with present day.Q. Mr. J. A. Pease; A. Mr. G.
Balfour, *May 21, 1349.***Miners**Workmen's Compensation Act—Position
with regard to.Os. *May 13, 627, 646.***Miners' Permanent Relief Fund***see* Coal Mines Regulation Bill.**Mines***see* Coal Mines Regulation Bill.Accidents—Persons employed, etc., General
Report and Statistics Presented.
*May 18, 867, 913.*Electricity in Mines—Report of Committee,
Probable Date of Publication.Q. Mr. J. Ellis; A. Mr. Akers
Douglas, *May 25, 1625.*Female Labour in Coal Mines—Employment
of, Names of Collieries in Great
Britain in which Women are employed.Q. Mr. Sullivan; A. Mr. Akers
Douglas, *May 26, 1802.*Report for 1902 Presented, *May 12, 407, 413.***Mining Association of Great Britain***see* Coal Mines Regulation Bill.**Minister of Agriculture—Earl of Onslow**Debate on Adjournment (Under Standing
Order No. 10), *May 21, 1416.***Ministers of the Crown**Absence of Ministers to whom Questions
were addressed—Occurrence pointing
to Desirability of Postponing Afternoon
Meeting of the House until 2.30
p.m., *May 21, 1358.***Monastir**Alleged Massacre of Christians, Statement
with regard to—Representations to
Turkish Government.Qs. Mr. W. Redmond; As. Lord
Cranborne, *May 15, 688.***Money Orders**Money Order System with the Colonies
and Foreign Countries—Excessive
Cost of Commission—Improvement of
System, proposed.Q. Mr. H. Heaton; A. Mr. Austen
Chamberlain, *May 18, 917.*

May 7—May 26.

Mooney, Mr. [Dublin County, S.]

Public Offices (Dublin) Bill—New Buildings—Invitation to Irish Architects to submit Plans, proposed, *May 14*, 695.

Morgan, Mr. D. J. [Essex, Walthamstow]

Licensing Act, 1902—"Internal Communication," Course of Action to be adopted in reference to Term, *May 20*, 1203.

Port of London Bill, *May 13*, 547.

Morley, Earl of—*Chairman of Committees*

Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill, *May 22*, 1486.

Port of London Bill, *May 19*, 1075.

Sittings of Parliament, *May 25*, 1596.

Morley, Mr. John [Montrose Burghs]

Irish Land Bill, *May 7*, 113.

Morrell, Mr. [Oxfordshire, Woodstock]

Church Training Colleges, Relation of, to Local Education Authority, etc., *May 12*, 414.

Motor-Cars

see Police.

Driver's disregard of Constable's Signals in Parliament Street—Constable's Report.

Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Akers Douglas, *May 26*, 1788.

Identification—Need for system of identification, Compelling motors to bear number and letter indicating county, proposed, *May 19*, 1056, 1058, 1060.

Motor Car Traffic—Bill dealing with Regulation of, Introduction into Upper House, proposed.

Q. Earl of Camperdown; *A.* Lord Balfour of Burleigh, *May 19*, 1061.

Motor Car Traffic in Scotland—Regulation of, Revision of Regulations on lines of Resolution of Haddington County Council, proposed.

Q. Earl of Wemyss; *A.* Lord Balfour of Burleigh, *May 19*, 1054.

Parliament Street, Westminster—Disregard of police signals by Chauffeurs passing through.

Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Akers Douglas, *May 21*, 1349.

Race from Scotland to London—Breaches of the law committed.

Q. Mr. C. Wason; *A.* Sir R. Finlay, *May 21*, 1348.

Registration of Cars proposed, *May 19*, 1058.

Regulation of—Bill dealing with, Introduction of, in House of Lords.

Q. Earl of Camperdown; *A.* Lord Balfour of Burleigh, *May 22*, 1457.

Speed Regulations—Alteration of present regulations with regard to speed limit, proposed, *May 19*, 1056, 1060, 1061.

Mullingar, Kells and Drogheda Railway Bill

c. Rep. May 19*, 1079.

con. May 25*, 1617.

Municipal Trading

see Port of London Bill.

Murphy, Mr. [Kerry, E.]

Ballahacoman—Equal Postal Facilities for entire townland, proposed, *May 14*, 676.

Ireland—Hospital Relief for Policemen—Amendment of law with regard to, proposed, *May 25*, 1627.

Listry—Extra Police Stationed at, Number of, Cost of Maintenance, Withdrawal proposed, *May 26*, 1794.

Murray, Rt. Hon. Graham—*Lord Advocate* [Buteshire]

Congested Districts, Migration of Cottars from—Legislation to give powers for acquisition of land not contemplated, *May 21*, 1351.

Congested Districts (Scotland) Board—Stallions, Purchase of, by Board, Veterinary Examination previous to purchase, *May 26*, 1787.

Island of Lewis—Major Matheson and his Tenants, Negotiations for Allocation of Allotments not yet completed, *May 21*, 1352.

New Holdings in Highland Crofting Counties—Number of, during year under review, *May 21*, 1351.

Physical Training, Scotland.

Committee, Appointment of, to carry out Recommendations of Royal Commission, *May 7*, 17.

Medical Inspection of School Children, Assistance of Medical Officers in carrying out Recommendations of Royal Commission with regard to, *May 7*, 18; *May 11*, 290.

Poor Law Medical Officers in Highland Crofting Counties—Grievances of, Inclusion in Terms of Reference of Poor Law Medical Inquiry, *May 25*, 1623.

Scottish Aid Grant, Distribution of—Minute relating to, Laying on Table previous to taking of Education Vote, *May 20*, 1217.

Scottish Crofting Districts—Medical Officers, Provision of, in all Crofting districts with exception of Gigha, *May 25*, 1623.

Scottish Licensing Appeals—Number of, in 1901, Number of Reversals of Decision, etc, *May 20*, 1217.

Vaccination—Glycerinated Calf Lymph and Vaccine Lymph Supply, Sources of, etc., *May 19*, 1085.

Vaccination in Scotland—Human Lymph, Use of, Question under consideration, *May 26*, 1806.

May 7—May 26.

Murray, Private J.

Balance Due to—Payment of, to Deceased Soldier's Mother, proposed.

Q. Mr. J. P. Farrell; A. Mr. Brodrick, *May 26, 1797.*

Musical Copyright Bill

1. R.* *May 8, 155.*

2. R. *May 19, 1051.*

Rep.* *May 25, 1614.*

Statement on 2R. [H.L.], May 19, 1048.

Advertisements of Pirated Music, 1050.

Hawkers, Sale of Pirated Music Bill, 1049.

Magistrates' Power to Grant Warrants, 1050.

Pedlars, Suggested Treatment of, 1051.

Penalties for Sale of Pirated Music, 1050.

Pirated Music, *see* subheading Hawkers.

Police, Power to Seize, granted to, 1049.

Publishers, Inquiries Sustained by, 1048.

Search Warrants, Power to Issue, 1050.

Muskerry, Lord

Deck Loads on Merchant Ships, *May 25, 1607.*

Irish Lights Tenders, *May 11, 272.*

Stranding of the "Firth of Forth"—Board of Trade Inquiry into—Able Evidence of Second Officer—Recommendation of Court to Recoup Expenses Involved by Second Officer, Result of, *May 7, 6.*

Transport Service Medal, *May 14, 656.*

Naas

Repair of Roads in Naas District—Increased Expenditure on Road necessitated by Traffic to Barracks—Repayment of Outlay to Naas Council, proposed.

Q. Mr. J. O'Connor; A. Mr. Brodrick, *May 7, 20.*

Nannetti, Mr. J. P. [Dublin, College Green]

Dublin Post Office.

Counter Duties in—Number of Sorting Clerks and Telegraphists Employed on—Length of Employment, etc, *May 11, 309.*

Supervising Duties, Performance of, by Junior Sorting Clerks and Telegraphists — Stoppage of Practice proposed, *May 11, 308.*

Garrison in Ireland—Supply of Brushes for use of, Contract Value of, *May 14, 681.*

Irish Postal Servants—Preclusion of, from Joining 24th Middlesex Volunteers, Removal of Disabilities proposed, *May 26, 1797.*

Nannetti, Mr. J. P. —cont.

Post Office Reforms—Proposed Committee of Inquiry into Grievances of Employees—Inadequate wages—Position in Ireland, *May 11, 358.*

Women Telegraphists, Promotion grievance—Appointment of telegraphists of inferior qualifications to disadvantage of senior and more experienced employees—Reason for appointment, *May 7, 27.*

Natal

Church Properties Bill—Measure for transfer of Church of England Property to South African Bishops—Declining to sanction Bill, proposed.

Q. Mr. Markham; A. Mr. J. Chamberlain, *May 20, 1207.*

National Debt

Aggregate gross liabilities and gross net Annual Expenditure — Return presented, *May 8, 197.*

Annuities—Accounts presented, *May 12, 414; May 14, 656; May 25, 1576, 1620.*

Amendment of Law relating to National Debt, Customs and Inland Revenue, *May 13, 617.*

Sinking Fund—Application of, to purchase of Transvaal Government Guaranteed Stock.

Q. Mr. C. Hay; A. Mr. Ritchie, *May 18, 926.*

see also Budget.

National Gallery

Annual Report—Indication in report of new pictures acquired during year, proposed.

Q. Sir B. Gurdon; A. Mr. A. Elliot, *May 20, 1204.*

National School Teachers, Ireland

Assistant Teachers—Employment of on teacher in schools where average reaches fifty—Continuation of, proposed.

Q. Mr. Sloan; A. Mr. Wyndham, *May 7, 30.*

Pension Fund.

Account of Receipts and Payments for 1902. Presented, *May 22, 1456, 1507.*

Report of Revised Fund to be laid on Table, proposed.

Q. Mr. T. O'Donnell; A. Mr. A. Elliot, *May 19, 1088.*

Revision of, Date of completion.

Q. Mr. S. Young; A. Mr. A. Elliot, *May 12, 432.*

Politics—Regulations debarring Teachers from associating themselves with politics—Repeal of, proposed.

Q. Mr. Sloan; A. Mr. Wyndham, *May 7, 30.*

May 7—May 26.

National Schools, Ireland

Equipments—Provision of, by Teachers, alleged—Allocation of annual sum for provision of equipment supplies, proposed.

Q. Mr. O'Dowd; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *May 11*, 538.

Erection of—Increase of Building Estimates, Scheme for Expediting adoption of.

Q. Mr. T. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. A. Elliot, *May 26*, 1791.

Inspectors' Reports.

Date of sending Reports for 1901 to Board of Education.

Q. Mr. O'Shaughnessy; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *May 11*, 307.

Managers of Schools, Assistance given by—Laying Reports on Table, proposed.

Qs. Mr. O'Shaughnessy; *As.* Mr. Wyndham, *May 20*, 1218.

Publication of, in abbreviated form.

Qs. Mr. O'Shaughnessy; *As.* Mr. Atkinson, *May 13*, 537.

Repairs of Schools damaged by Storms—Body responsible for repair.

Q. Mr. Roche; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *May 12*, 423.

National Union of Teachers

see London Education Bill.

Naval Forces Bill

l. 3R.* *May 7*, 5.

Naval Training

Debate [H.L.], *May 8*, 155.

Admiralty, Position and Work of—155, 168, 176.

Cadets.

Age of Entry, 158, 171, 186.

Competition, Question of—173, 186.

Dartmouth, Training at—188.

Engineering Studies—166, 182.

Osborne, Training at—188.

Seamanship Studies—161, 186.

Three Branches of Naval Study, 160, 174, 182.

Competition, *see* subheading Cadets.

Engineers,

Change in title, 164.

Grievances, 157.

Position contrasted with that of executive, 165.

Training, 156, 178.

Engines on Man-of-War, 170, 177.

Executives, Position and title of—164, 165.

Interchangeability of—160, 174, 183.

Naval Training—cont.

Debate—cont.

Marines.

Court Martial, Position on—169.

Position of—169.

Use on board ship—159, 175, 179.

Memorandum concerning new scheme, 155, 168, 175.

Osborne, *see* subheading Cadets.

Paper asked for, 155, 168.

Personnel, Increase necessary in—157, 175.

Promotion, *see* subheading Warrant Officers.

Ratings, Alteration in—189.

Specialisation, Value of—160.

Trade Unionism in the Navy, 167, 169.

United States—Experience in new style of training, 167, 176.

Unity of Services, 156, 175.

Warrant Officers.

Position of—158.

Promotion from Warrant Rank, 158.

Naval Works Provisional Order Bill

c. Ordered, *May 13*, 525.

1R. May 13*, 525.

2R. Com.* May 19*, 1079.

Navigation

Annual Statement of Shipping and Navigation Presented, *May 26*, 1759, 1786.

Navy

Ammunition.

Regulations—Revision of, governing supply of for practice purposes—Effect of.

Qs. Mr. G. Bowles; *As.* Mr. Arnold-Forster, *May 14*, 669, 684.

Wasteful Expenditure of, by Mediterranean Fleet, alleged—Authority for action, etc.

Q. Mr. G. Bowles; *A.* Mr. Arnold-Forster, *May 13*, 535.

Boilers.

Belleville Boilers, Expenditure on.

Os. in Com. of Supply, May 14, 758, 767, 775, 789.

Cylindrical Boilers, Use of.

Os. May 14, 762, 770, 775.

Water-tube Boilers, Use of.

Os. May 14, 758, 770, 775.

Coal, Consumption of.

Os. in Com. of Supply, May 14, 758, 769, 772, 779, 781, 783.

Colonies, *see* subheading Expenditure.

May 7—May 26.

Navy—cont.**Cruisers.**

Boilering and General Construction of New, *May 14*, 761, 770, 776.

“County” Class of Cruisers—Speed Tests, Number of Vessels passed and failed.

Q. Mr. Harmsworth; *A.* Mr. Arnold-Forster, *May 14*, 671.

Os. *May 14*, 793, 795.

Dockyards.**Equipment of.**

Os. *May 14*, 777, 784, 789.

Labour in—Hours and Conditions.

Os. *May 14*, 748, 749, 752, 756.

Wages, Amount of.

Os. *May 14*, 750, 752.

Engines of New Ships—Inferiority of.

Os. *May 14*, 781, 786.

European Powers, Question of Friendly Negotiations with.

Os. *May 14*, 716, 722, 724.

Expenditure.

Army—Comparison with that of the, *Os.* *May 14*, 713, 730, 735, 740, 742.

Colonies—Contribution of the.

Os. *May 14*, 708, 711.

European Powers—Comparison with Expenditure of.

Os. in *Com. of Supply*, *May 14* 704, 712, 719, 726, 733, 739, 743, 747.

Personnel—Cost of.

Os. in *Com. of Supply*, *May 14*, 715, 720.

Food Supply in War Time.

Os. in *Com. of Supply*, *May 14*, 723, 728.

Gunnery.

Efficiency, Annual Publication of List of Ships in Order of—Alteration of Prize System, etc., Proposed.

Q. Mr. G. Bowles; *As.* Mr. Arnold-Forster, *May 26*, 1799.

Gun Sights, Defective—Shooting Returns Affected by, Number of, etc.

Q. Mr. G. Bowles; *A.* Mr. Arnold-Forster, *May 14*, 671.

Inefficiency of—As shown in Returns of Prize Firing, Inquiry into Cause.

Q. Mr. G. Bowles; *A.* Mr. Arnold-Forster, *May 14*, 685.

Returns—Examination of by Admiralty, Importance of Gunnery and Good Shooting Encouraged by Admiralty, Pretention of Admirals in their Command to be Dependent upon the Shooting Efficiency of their Fleets, Proposed, but considered undesirable.

Q. Mr. G. Bowles; *A.* Mr. Arnold-Forster, *May 18*, 925.

Navy—cont.

Ireland—Claims of.

O. *May 14*, 794.

Merchant Service—Transport Service Medal, Delay in Granting.

Os. *May 14*, 656, 662.

Navy List—Entrance of Names of Officers in Order of Rank and Seniority, in Accordance with the New Scheme, proposed.

Q. Sir Fortescue Flannery; *A.* Mr. Arnold-Forster, *May 11*, 287.

Naval Training Scheme—Similar to Scheme Introduced into American Navy—Reports of Results.

Q. Earl of Glasgow; *A.* Earl Selborne, *May 8*, 155.

see also Naval Training.

Pensions—Widows of Seamen and Marines Killed on Duty, Decision with Regard to Granting of State Pensions to.

Q. Mr. Kearley; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *May 21*, 1343.

Personnel.

European Powers—Comparison with that of.

Observations in Com. of Supply, *May 14*, 715, 720, 724.

Wages—Amount of.

Os. *May 14*, 725.

Oil Fuel—Experiments with.

Os. *May 14*, 774, 780, 783, 788, 79

Repairs of Ships—Expenditure on.

Observations in Com. of Supply, *May 14*, 704, 759, 767, 776, 785.

Shipbuilding.

Contracts—Carrying-out of.

Os. *May 14*, 776, 785.

Expenditure on.

Observations in Com. of Supply, *May 14*, 703, 724, 726, 731, 735.

Submarines, Experiments with.

Os. *May 14*, 774.

Turbines, Adoption of.

Os. *May 14*, 788, 792.

Two-Power Standard, Expenditure Regulated by.

Observations in Com. of Supply, *May 14*, 706, 713, 732., 745.

Votes, Transference of Surpluses on.

Os. *May 14*, 779, 782, 787.

see also Navy Training.

Navy Estimates

Matériel, Shipbuilding, Repairs, Maintenance, etc., £4,686,700—*Com.*, *May 14*, 758.

Personnel, £2,991,800—*Com.*, *May 14*, 703.

Neath, Pontardawe, and Brynaman Railway Bill

c. Rep. May 22*, 1504.

May 7—May 26.

Nelson Corporation Bill

- c. con.* May 11, 283.*
- 3R.* May 14, 665.*
- l. 1R.* May 15, 797.*
- 2R.* Com.* May 25, 1574.*

New Hunstanton Improvement Bill

- c. con.* May 12, 409.*
- 3R.* May 15, 801.*
- l. 1R.* May 18, 886.*
- 2R.* Com.* May 26, 1750.*

New Member Sworn

Kerr, Mr. J., for Borough of Preston, *May 18, 941.*

New Writs

Preston, Borough of, *May 7, 9.*

New York

see United States of America.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply Bill

- c. con.* May 8, 193.*
- 3R.* May 15, 801.*
- l. 1R.* May 18, 866.*

Newfoundland

Colonial Probates Act, 1892, Application of, to Newfoundland—Order in Council Presented, *May 25, 1576, 1619*

Newport (Mon.) County Council

Education Scheme.

Passed by what Majority—Specific Object of Proposed Inquiry.

Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas ; A. Sir W. Anson, May 14, 677.

Position of.

Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas ; A. Sir W. Anson, May 7, 29.

Newton, Lord

Betting Bill, *May 18, 900.*

Parliament, Sittings of, *May 25, 1577.*

Nicol, Mr. D. N. [Argyll]

Congested Districts (Scotland) Board—Stallions, Purchase of, by Board—Veterinary Examination previous to Purchase, *May 26, 1787.*

Nigeria

Military Operations—Additional Charge on National Exchequer in Consequence of.

Q. Mr. J. Ellis ; A. Mr. J. Chamberlain, May 25, 1629.

Northern Nigeria—Additions to the Protectorate—Responsibilities involved—Area of required Country, etc.

Q. Mr. J. Ellis ; A. Mr. J. Chamberlain, May 12, 419.

Southern Nigeria, Currency of—Order in Council Presented, *May 25, 1576, 1619.*

Nolan, Mr. J. [Louth, S.]

Canteen Committee Report—Date of Circulation, *May 13, 534.*

Nonconformists

see Church Discipline (No. 2) Bill.

Norman, Mr. H. [Wolverhampton, S.]

English Girls, Treatment of Two—By Police at Cape Town, *May 19, 1088.*

Post Office Reforms—Parcels Post, Use of Motor Cars for, *May 12, 487.*

North British Railway (General Powers) Order Confirmation Bill

l. 2R. May 26, 1732.*

North Middlesex Gas Bill

l. Rep. May 22, 1454.*

3R. May 26, 1750.*

Northbrook, Earl of

Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill, *May 22, 1464.*

North's Navigation Collieries Bill

c. 2R. Com.* May 11, 283.*

Rep. May 22, 1503.*

3R. May 26, 1778.*

Northumberland, County Council of

Education Committee—Exclusion of the Press from Meetings of, Rescinding of Resolution, proposed.

Qs. Mr. Trevelyan ; As. Sir W. Anson, May 18, 929.

Norton, Captain C. W. [Newington, W.]

Army Blankets Infected with Disease—Regulations with regard to Sale of Army Goods, Steps for Prevention of spread of Disease, *May 25, 1630.*

Customs Watchers—Alleged Grievances of, Committee of Inquiry, proposed, *May 11, 304.*

Manchester and Leeds Exhibitions.

Admiralty Exhibits at—Government Loans not returned—Character of Promoter of Exhibition, etc., *May 13, 534.*

Loans to—List of Government Property, to whom lent—Inquiries into Status of Promoters of Exhibition, etc., *May 18, 924.*

United Service Gazette—Name of Proprietors of, to whom Government Property was lent, *May 20, 1209.*

War Office Loans not returned, Character of Promoter of Exhibition, Steps for Recovery of Government Property and Payment of Regimental Bands, etc., *May 12, 418.*

Post Office Reforms—Repurchase of Postage Stamps—Grievances of Employees—Proposed Committee—Question of Disfranchisement—Objections to Committee, *May 11, 328.*

Nottingham

Smallpox Hospital—Erection of, on Un-suitable Site—Danger to the Public.

Q. Mr. J. Ellis ; A. Mr. W. Long, May 25, 1638.

May 7—May 26.

Nuisances, Law relating to*see* Trade Disputes Bill.**Nussey, Mr. T. W.** [Pontefract]London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May 19*, 1107.Police Force—Pay for Special Services, *May 27*, 1413.**O'Brien, Mr. J. F. X.** [Cork]Cork Model Schools — Committee of National Education, Action with regard to Alterations of Schools made at Suggestion of Commissioners, Reason for, *May 20*, 1220.**O'Brien, Mr. Kendal** [Tipperary, Mid]Town Tenants (Ireland) Bill, *May 22*, 1571.**O'Brien, Mr. Murrough***see* Irish Land Bill.**O'Brien, Mr. Patrick** [Kilkenny]Ulster and Connaught Light Railways Bill, *May 14*, 765.**"Ocean," H.M.S.**

Repairs to Boilers, Nature of.

Q. Mr. Harmsworth; A. Mr. Arnold-Forster, *May 14*, 670.**O'Connor, Mr. James** [Wicklow, W.]Army Purchases in Ireland—Purchase of Local Produce, Extended Powers of Commander-in-Chief and General Officers Commanding in regard to, *May 11*, 297.Irish Equivalent Education Grant, Application of Portion to Primary Education, *May 25*, 1644.Licensed Premises in Ireland, Valuation of—Raising of Valuation without due Notice being Served, Case of Mrs. Lowe, *May 14*, 679.Naas District, Repair of Roads in—Increased Expenditure on Roads necessitated by Traffic to Barracks, Repayment of Outlay to Naas Council, proposed, *May 7*, 20.Post Office Reforms—Position of Postmen—Leave of Absence, Committee for Inquiry into Grievances of Employees, *May 11*, 353.Rent Appeals at Kilbaylet, Kilcoagh, Co. Wicklow, etc., Delay in Hearing, *May 11*, 308.Royal Irish Constabulary—Bicycles, Number of Men provided with, Number of Irish Manufacture, etc., *May 25*, 1643.**O'Connor, Mr. T. P.** [Liverpool, Scotland]Irish Land Bill, *May 7*, 74.London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May 18*, 1037; *May 26*, 1854.**O'Doherty, Mr. William** [Donegal, N.]Londonderry Customs and Cigar Smuggling—Action of Collector of Customs and Board of Customs with Reference to Case on ss. "Columbia," *May 7*, 26.Sub-Sanitary Officers, Ireland—Salaries of, Grant of Return relative to, *May 11*, 295.**O'Donnell, Mr. Thomas** [Kerry, W.]Gun Licences, Ireland—Refusal of Licence to P. Courmane, Castlemaine, Reason for, *May 7*, 19.Irish Equivalent Grant—Allocation of, for Improvement of School Appliances, etc., *May 19*, 1087.National School Teachers' Pension Fund, Ireland—Laying Report of Revised Fund on Table, proposed, *May 19*, 1088.**O'Dowd, Mr. John** [Sligo, S.]Castleblawin Postal Facilities—Delay in Delivery of Letters in Roscommon, Removal of Grievance, proposed, *May 19*, 1094.Irish National School Equipments—Provision of, by Teachers alleged, Allocation of, Annual Sum for Provision of Equipment Supplies, proposed, *May 13*, 538.Ulster and Connaught Light Railways Bill, *May 14*, 764.**Offals of Corn, etc.**

Export, Amount of, in years 1900, 1901, 1902.

Q. Mr. Wingfield-Digby; A. Mr. A. Elliot, *May 21*, 1338.**OKelly, Mr. C.** [Mayo, N.]Congested Districts Board, Ireland—Working of, Number of Formerly Congested Districts no longer answering to Definition, *May 13*, 538.Irish Electoral Divisions—Grant of Return relative to, *May 14*, 699.**Old Bridewell Burying Ground Bill** (Lords) [By Order]*Debate on 2R.* [H.C.], *May 11*, 371.

Building Sites, Private Property converted into, 372.

"Burial Ground".—Legal Meaning of, 375, 376, 378.

Christ's Hospital as a Precedent—Removal of, 373, 374, 380.

Committee—Consideration of Bill by, 377, 378, 382.

Disused Burial Grounds Act, 379.

Home Office—Closure of Site by Order of, 372, 376.

Land Owners — Power of Private, 372.

Metropolitan Open Spaces Act—Application of, 373.

Open Spaces—Parliamentary Control of, 373, 377.

Old Dean CommonPreservation of, for purposes of Military Manœuvring, *May 18*, 920.

May 7—May 26.

O'Malley, Mr. William [Galway, Conne-
mara]

Poor Law Superannuation (Ireland) Bill—
Alterations in, as regards Financial
Clauses, Facilities for Discussion, pro-
posed, *May 14*, 679.

Open Spaces

see Old Bridewell.

Ormsby-Gore, Mr. S. J. [Lincolnshire, Gains-
borough]

Light Railways—Introduction in poor
Agricultural Districts in England,
Legislation, proposed, *May 18*, 927.

Oyster Beds—Board of Trade Inspector,
proposed, *May 18*, 918.

Osborne Naval College

see Naval Training.

O'Shaughnessy, Mr. P. J. [Limerick, W.]

Irish National Schools—Inspectors' Re-
ports.

Assistance given by Managers of
Schools—Laying Reports on
Table, proposed, *May 20*, 1218.

Date of sending Reports for 1901, to
Board of Education, *May 11*,
307.

Publication of, in Abbreviated Form,
May 12, 537.

Registration of Titles, Ireland.

Return of Number of verified Personal
Searches and Common Searches,
proposed, *May 15*, 807.

Searches—Order giving Solicitors the
option of having Personal Un-
official Searches in lieu of Official
Common Searches, disregard of,
alleged, *May 15*, 807.

Outdoor Relief [Friendly Societies] Bill

l. Debate on 2^d., May 22, 1458.

Report of Chief Registrar, Presented, *May*
8, 154.

Oysters

Oyster Beds—Board of Trade Inspection,
proposed.

Q. Mr. S. Ormsby-Gore; *A.* Mr.
G. Balfour, *May 18*, 918.

Pacific Cable

Colonial Contributions towards expenses
of Cable, Treasury Minute directing
appropriation of, Presented, *May 20*,
1199; *May 22*, 1457.

Interruption of Service—Places at which
occurring, &c.

Q. Sir J. Colomb; *A.* Mr. J.
Chamberlain, *May 11*, 287.

Paddington

Post Office Sites Bill, *see* that title.

Parcel Post

Address Insufficient, Refusal to deliver
parcel on grounds of—Reason for.

Q. Mr. McKenna; *A.* Mr. Austen
Chamberlain, *May 15*, 806.

Agreement between Great Britain and the
Netherlands Presented, *May 12*, 414.

Pari Mutual System

Betting Bill, *see* that title.

Parliament

House of Commons.

Bright's, Mr. J., Statue.

Removal to better site, proposed.

Q. Mr. Powell Williams; *A.*
Mr. V. Cavendish, *May 25*,
1641.

Removal to Central Lobby,
proposed.

Q. Mr. W. Redmond; *A.* Mr.
V. Cavendish, *May 25*,
1641.

Telegraph Room—Defective ventila-
tion.

Q. Mr. W. Redmond; *A.* Mr.
Ailwyn Fellowes, *May 13*,
531.

House of Lords.

Fee Fund—Annual Account Pre-
sented, *May 20*, 1198.

Poulett Peerage—Viscount Hinton's
Claim, Petition, *May 25*, 1573.

Sat first in Parliament—Willoughby
de Broke, Lord, *May 12*, 407.

Sittings of Parliament, *see* that title.

Temporary Laws—Register Presented,
May 7, 14.

Parliamentary Boroughs

Polling Arrangements for.

O. May 22, 1501.

Parliamentary Constituencies

Boroughs—Diagrams showing Parlia-
mentary and Municipal Boroughs and
Parliamentary County Divisions, etc.,
Address for Return, *May 7*, 14.

Parliamentary Procedure

Hour of Meeting—Afternoon sitting to
commence at 2.30 instead of 2 o'clock,
proposed.

Qs. Mr. J. Ellis; *As.* Mr. A. J.
Balfour, *May 12*, 425; *May 21*,
1358.

Patents

Report of Comptroller-General with Ap-
pendices for 1902 Presented, *May 22*,
1457, 1507.

Patents Act, 1902.

Date of Coming into Operation.

Q. Sir A. Hickman; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour,
May 7, 18.

Paulton, Mr. J. [Durham, Bishop Auckland]

Old Bridewell Burying Ground Bill, *May*
11, 371.

May 7—May 26.

Pauper Children

Number in other than Metropolitan Work-houses, Number under three years of age.

Q. Mr. Harwood ; A. Mr. W. Long.
May 26, 1789.

Pauperism

Aged Pensioners Bill, *see* that title.

Pease, Mr. J. A. [Essex, Saffron Walden]

Corn and Flour Mills—Number and Output thirty years ago, as compared with present day, *May 21, 1349.*

Pease, Mr. Pike [Darlington]

Budget Resolutions—Amount of Revenue received from Tax on Tobacco and on Cigars, *May 12, 447.*

Pee!, Mr. William [Manchester, S.]

London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May 20, 1231, 1232, 1233, 1234 ; May 26, 1844, 1856, 1861, 1863.*

Port of London Bill, *May 13, 600.*

Pelican and British Empire Life Office Bill

c. 1R.* *May 7, 11.*

2R.* *con.* May 18, 910.*

Rep.* *May 26, 1779.*

Peninsular and Oriental Mail Service

see Post Office—Mails.

Pentillie Estate Bill

l. 2R.* *May 22, 1451.*

Percy, Earl—*Under Secretary for India* [Kensington, S.]

Leprosy in Burmah—Number of Lepers, Provision for Compulsory Segregation.
May 20, 1212.

Perks, Mr. R. [Lincolnshire, Louth]

All Saints, Poplar (Rate Abolition), Bill.
May 21, 1439.

Permanent Annual Charge

see Budget.

British Railways in South West Persia—Development of, Intentions of H.M. Government with regard to.

Q. Mr. R. Lucas ; A. Lord Cranborne, *May 12, 421.*

Persia

River Karun—Improved Navigation of, Attitude of Persian Government.

Q. Mr. Schwann ; A. Lord Cranborne, *May 11, 299.*

Perth

Mails to—Time at which due, Number and extent of delays.

Q. Mr. Harmsworth ; A. Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *May 11, 288.*

Peterborough

Rural District—Overcrowding in.

Q. Mr. Mansfield ; A. Mr. Walter Long
May 13, 528.

Picketing, Law relating to

see Trade Disputes Bill.

Pier and Harbour Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill

l. 2R.* *May 14, 654.*

Rep.* *May 25, 1575.*

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill

c. 1R.* *May 26, 1784.*

l. 3R.* *May 26, 1752.*

Piers and Harbours

Blacksod Pier, Ireland—Extension of, Inclusion of in schemes to be assisted by Equivalent Grant.

Q. Mr. O'Kelly ; A. Mr. Atkinson,
May 11, 295.

Coonana Pier, Ireland—Repair of.

Q. Mr. Boland ; A. Mr. Atkinson, *May 11, 306.*

Pilkington, Colonel [Lancashire, Newton]

Coal Mines Regulation Bill, *May 15, 825.*

Pilotage

see Port of London Bill.

Pirated Music

see Music Copyright Bill.

Plymouth and Stonehouse Gas Bill

c. Rep.* *May 14, 666.*

con.* *May 21, 1334.*

3R.* *May 25, 1616.*

l. Amendts. con.* *May 26, 1751.*

Plymouth Corporation Bill

c. Rep.* *May 18, 911.*

con.* *May 25, 1617.*

Poles

Employment of in Scottish Coal Mines—Examination of Employees in knowledge of language and laws for safety of mine, etc., Preference of question to Alien Commission.

Qs. Sir H. Vincent ; As. Mr. Akers Douglas, *May 21, 1347*

Police

Freight-trains, Regulation of street passage of.

Os. *May 21, 1415.*

Hooliganism — Increase and suggested methods for prevention.

Os. *May 21, 1407, 1413.*

Intoxicating Liquors, Sale to children of—Suggested additional powers to policemen.

Os. *May 21, 1414.*

Motor Cars, Increased force necessary on account of.

Os. *May 21, 1408, 1409, 1410.*

Numbers of.

Os. *May 21, 1405, 1408.*

Street Collections by children, Regulation of.

Os. *May 21, 1415.*

Traffic, Powers for Regulation of.

O. *May 21, 1413, 1415.*

May 7—May 26.

Polling Arrangements (Parliamentary Boroughs) Bill

- l.* 1R.* *May 19*, 1047.
2R.* *Com.* May 22*, 1501.

Polling Districts (County Councils) Bill

- l.* 1R.* *May 18*, 868.
2R.* *Com.* May 22*, 1502.

Pontypridd Urban District Council Bill

- c.* 1R.* *May 26*, 1784.
3R.* *May 25*, 1574.

Poole and District Electric Traction Bill

- c.* 1R.* *May 26*, 1784.
l. Rep.* *May 7*, 3.
3R.* *May 26*, 1750.

Poor Law

Aged Pensioners' Bill, *see* that title.

Ireland—Amalgamation of Unions—Appointment of Commission, Terms of Reference, etc.

Q. Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *May 25*, 1629.

Poor Law Schools

Inspection of—Placing under Board of Education.

Q. Mr. Crooks; *A.* Mr. Walter Long, *May 25*, 1637.

Poor Law Superannuation (Ireland) Bill

Alterations in, as regards financial clauses—Facilities for discussion, proposed.

Q. Mr. O'Malley; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *May 14*, 679.

Port Authority

see Port of London Bill.

Port of London Bill

- l.* Committee, Consideration of, *May 19*, 1073.

Debate on 2R. [H.C.], *May 13*, 542.

Barges, Licensing of, 602.

Committee, Reference of Bill to a Joint, 616.

Docks.

Improvement, Necessity for, 542, 557, 580.

Purchase Scheme, 543, 548, 556, 565, 567, 570, 576, 578, 600, 608, 614.

Stock, Value of, 544, 554, 571, 596.

Dredging and general improvement of river, 553, 601, 614.

Dues, *see* subheading Schedule.

Jetties, Use of, 543.

Lightermen, *see* subheading Watermen.

London County Council, Representation on Port Authority of, 545, 550, 561, 566, 572, 587, 595, 600.

Municipal trading, Connection of Bill with, 546, 549, 566, 595.

Port of London Bill—cont.

Debate on 2R.—cont.

Pilotage, Law of, 601.

Port Authority, Suggested establishment of new, 545, 548, 560, 574, 575, 578, 586, 591, 604, 608, 612.

Provisional Order of Board of Trade, Question of fixing Dues by, 552, 553, 572, 577.

Ratepayers, Protection of, 545, 551, 561, 571, 583, 589, 596, 605.

Royal Commission, Report of, 553, 556, 559, 566, 573, 578, 580, 585, 591, 600, 611.

Schedule of Dues, Necessity for, 546, 553, 563, 577.

Steamers, Accommodation necessary for large, 551, 557, 609, 615.

Thames Conservancy, Work of, 542, 559, 575.

Tilbury Docks, Development of, 551, 558.

Trade, Board of, Action with regard to the Port Authority, 546, 548, 563, 586, 598.

Trade of the Port, 542, 552, 556, 568.

Trinity House, Extension of Bill to, 576, 587, 591, 601.

Victoria and Albert Docks, Development of, 551, 558.

Warehousemen, *see* subheading Wharfingers.

Watermen and Lightermen, Treatment of, 564, 614.

Waterway, Necessity for improvement of, 544, 558.

Wharfingers and Warehousemen, Competition between Commission and, 544, 549, 562, 578, 581, 589, 591, 604, 608, 613.

Portugal

Congo Free State, Attitude regarding. *Os.* *May 20*, 1301, 1328.

Postage Rates

Continental Postage Rates, Reduction of—Consideration of at Postal Union Meeting, proposed.

Q. Sir T. Dewar; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *May 25*, 1636.

Transvaal—Excessive postage rate, Reduction to scale adopted in England, proposed, *May 25*, 1624.

Postal Orders

see Post Office.

Post Office

Agricultural Produce, Carriage of. *Os.* *May 12*, 482, 485.

Betting Communications, Authority with Regard to Opening. *Os.* *May 13*, 886, 893.

Cash on Delivery System for Parcels. *Os.* *May 11*, 351, 355.

May 7—May 26.

Post Office—cont.

Colonies, Cost of Postage to.

Os. in Com. of Supply, May 11, 318.

Delivery of Letters—Interpretation of Rule 56, in the Provincial Town Postmen's Rule Book.

Q. Mr. F. Thomas; A. Mr. Austen Chamberlain, May 26, 1791.

Egypt, Postage to.

Os. May 11, 326, 343.

Embossed Stamps, Use of.

O. May 11, 321.

Employees.

Disfranchisement, Question of.

Os. May 11, 316, 330, 343.

Grievances.

Allowances, Officials in Receipt of.

O. May 11, 350.

Committee of Inquiry.

Evidence of Staff—Access for those to give Evidence to Official Documents, Proposed.

*Q. Mr. C. Grant; A. Mr. Austen Chamberlain, May 26, 1802.**Os. in Com. of Supply, May 11, 316, 328, 329, 333, 345, 348, 349, 351, 352, 354, 356, 358.*

Women on Reduced Pay and Sub-postmasters, Case of, Inclusion in Inquiry, Proposed.

Qs. Sir C. Dilke, Mr. Bayley; As. Mr. Austen Chamberlain, May 11, 302.

Leave of Absence.

Os. May 11, 336, 353, 356.

Postmen, Position of.

Os. May 11, 317, 337, 353.

Sub-postmasters, Position and Wages of.

O. May 11, 337, 349, 357.

Wages, Amount of.

Os. May 11, 336, 344, 347, 354, 359.

Women, Position of.

Os. May 11, 332, 344, 352, 357.

Neglect, Default and Larceny, Cases of.

Os. May 11, 324, 343.

Women Clerks—General Post Office, Extension of Age Limit, Proposed.

Q. Mr. J. P. Farrell; Mr. Austen Chamberlain, May 21, 1350.

Estimates—Details of, Date on which Available.

*Q. Mr. Bignold; A. Mr. Austen Chamberlain, May 12, 417.***Post Office—cont.**

Ireland.

Ballatracomane—Equal Postal Facilities for entire Townland, Proposed.

Q. Mr. Murphy; A. Mr. Austen Chamberlain, May 14, 676.

Ballyduff—Inconvenience caused by not having Sunday Delivery, Sunday Service proposed.

Q. Mr. Flavin; As. Mr. Austen Chamberlain, May 18, 935.

Castlebaldwin Postal Facilities—Delay in Delivery of Letters in Roscommon, Removal of Grievance.

Q. Mr. O'Dowd; A. Mr. Austen Chamberlain, May 9, 1094.

Donaghadee Post Office—Removal of, to more Central Site, Reply to Memorial.

Q. Mr. S. L. Corbett; A. Mr. Austen Chamberlain, May 19, 1095.

Employees—Preclusion from Joining the 24th Middlesex Volunteers, Removal of Disabilities proposed.

Q. Mr. Nannetti; A. Mr. Brodrick, May 26, 1797.

Letter Boxes, Arrangement for.

Os. May 11, 325.

Mail Trains, Delay of.

O. May 11, 351.

Mails.

Cape Colony, Service to.

*Os. May 11, 402, 403.*China, Service to, *see* sub-heading P. & O.

Cunard Mail Service, Contracts made with.

*Os. May 11, 388, 391, 392.*India, Service to, *see* sub-heading P. & O.

Ireland, Delivery in.

O. May 11, 387, 390.

Lerwick, Inadequate Mail Service to.

O. May 11, 386.

New York, Deficiencies in Service to.

Os. May 11, 388, 391.

P. & O. Steamers for Conveyance to India and China Mails.

Os. May 11, 394, 402, 403, 404.

Scotland, Packet Service on Western Islands of.

Os. May 11, 385, 386, 387, 389.

Motor Cars.

see sub-heading Parcels Post.

Packet Service, Deficiencies in.

Os. in Com. of Supply, May 11, 385, 386, 387, 389.

Parcel Post.

Agricultural Produce—Carriage of.

*Os. in Com. of Supply, May 11, 320, 351.**Os. May 12, 482, 485.*

[cont.]

May 7—May 26.

Post Office—*cont.*

- Motor Cars, use of.
Os. May 12, 487.
- Postal Orders, Facilities for Obtaining.
Os. in Com. of Supply, May 11, 314, 317, 328, 339.
- Post Cards, Cost of.
Os. May 11, 321, 341.
- Postmarks, System for Improvement in.
O. May 11, 324.
- Recalling of Letters after Postage—
Os. May 11, 323.
- Samples, Payment for Postage of—
O. May 11, 320.
- Savings Bank, Regulations of the—
O. May 11, 327.
- Scotland—Edinburgh, *see* that Title.
- Stamps, Repurchase of—
Os. in Committee of Supply, May 11, 315, 328, 339.
- Stationery Contract—Quality of Stationery supplied — Remonstrance with regard to inferiority.
Q. Mr. H. Heaton ; A. Mr. Austen Chamberlain, May 26, 1790.
- Subsidies, Granting of.
Os. May 11, 385, 386.
- Telephone Communication between Sub-Post Offices.
O. May 11, 315.
- Trains, Postage on—
O. May 11, 322.

Post Office Packet Service

see Supply.

Post Office Sites Bill

- c. 2R. May 12, 490.*
- Debate on 2R. [H.C.] May 12, 488.*
- Borough Council, Consent to Construction given by—489.
- Buxton, Proposed Construction of Office at—489, 490.
- Electricity, Generating Station for supply of—489, 490.
- Generating Stations, *see* subheading Electricity.
- Great Western Railway, Acquisition of property of—488.
- Paddington, Extension of Office at—488.

Post Office Sites (Expenses)

Resolution Reported, *May 20, 1332.*

Port Talbot Railway and Docks Bill

- c. 1R.* May 26, 1784.*
- l. Rep.* May 22, 1454.*
- 3R.* May 26, 1750.*

Powell, Sir Francis [Wigan]

London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May 19, 1105 ; May 26, 1854.*

Powell-Williams, Mr. J. [Birmingham, S.]

Bright's, Mr. J., Statue—Removal to Better Site in House, proposed, *May 25, 1641.*

Premiums

see Insurance.

Preston, Chorley, and Horwich Tramways Bill

- c. 1R.* May 26, 1784.*
- l. 3R.* May 26, 1750.*

Pretyma, Captain E. G.—*Lord of the Admiralty* [Suffolk, Woodbridge]Dockyards, Wages Paid in—Hours and Conditions of Work, *May 14, 750, 756.*

Prevention of Cruelty to Children (Amendment) Bill

l. Rep. May 8, 155.*

Committee, House in.

O. Lord Alverstone, May 19, 1048.

Prevention of Cruelty to Wild Animals Bill

Debate on 2R. [H.C.], May 13, 651.

Prisons

see Dietary.*Os. May 21, 1447, 1450.*

Executions, Carrying out of.

Os. May 21, 1446, 1451.

Expenditure, Amount of.

Os. May 21, 1446.

Flogging, Abolition of,

Os. May 21, 1448.

Ireland, Number of Prisoners in,

Os. May 21, 1444.

Military—Directors, Change of,

Os. May 21, 1446.

Officers, Position and Wages of,

Os. May 21, 1449, 1451,

Short Sentences, Effect of,

Os. May 21, 1448, 1450.

Vagrancy, Imprisonment for,

Os. May 21, 1447, 1450.

Private Business

Committee of Inquiry—Recommendations of—Appointment of Joint Committee to consider, proposed.

Q. Mr. H. Hobhouse ; A. Mr. A. J. Balfour, May 7, 36.

Probate Registrar

Judicature, Court of.

Provided Schools

see London Education Bill.

Public Offices (Dublin) Bill

Gallery of Modern Art and Royal Hibernian Academy—Provision in Bill for Allocation of site for purposes of.

Qs. Mr. Boland ; As. Mr. Elliot, Mr. Wyndham, May 20, 1217, 1220.

Irish Architects and New Buildings - Invitation to Irish Architects to submit Plans, proposed.

Qs. Mr. Mooney ; As. Mr. Elliot, May 14, 695.

May 7—May 26.

Public PetitionsCommittee Report, presented, *May 13*, 541.**Purchase of Land (England and Wales) Bill**c. 1R.* *May 11*, 313.**Quarries**Accidents—Persons Employed, etc.—Report and Statistics for 1902, presented *May 12*, 407, 413; *May 18*, 867, 913.**Queen's County**

Militia Recruits—Pay of, etc.

Q. Mr. Delany; A. Mr. Brodrick, *May 25*, 1628.**Queensland Investment and Land Mortgage Bill**c. 3R.* *May 7*, 9.l. com.* *May 8*, 153.**Questions**

Case of a Question not being on the Paper—Remedy for Omission.

Qs. Mr. W. Redmond; As. Mr. Speaker, *May 26*, 1808.**Quilter, Sir Cuthbert [Suffolk, Sudbury]**Arsenical Poisoning—Royal Commission Report—Date of Issue of Final Report, *May 11*, 290.Budget Resolutions—Increased Taxation resulting in deterioration of articles taxed—Request for Information, *May 12*, 446.**Rabinek Case**

see Congo Free State.

Railway CommissionAnnual Report, presented, *May 12*, 407, 413.

Appeals to.

Os. *May 12*, 475, 481.**Railways**

Clare Railways, see that title.

Construction—Certificate of Board of Trade Authorising Construction of a Railway across Western Shore Road, Southampton, presented, *May 14*, 656, 668.

Light Railways—Introduction of, in Poor Agricultural Districts in England—Legislation proposed.

Q. Mr. S. Ormsby-Gore; A. Mr. G. Balfour, *May 18*, 927.

Preferential Rates for Foreign Produce, alleged—Inability of Board to Insist on Uniform Rates—Legislation proposed.

Q. Sir J. Leng; A. Mr. G. Balfour, *May 19*, 1093.Returns—Preliminary Statement Presented, *May 7*, 5.Ulster and Connaught Light Railways Bill, *May 14*, 763.**Railways (Electrical Powers) Bill**Debate on 2R. [H.C.], *May 12*, 474.

Agreements, Modification of Working, 475, 476.

Agricultural Produce, Effect on carriage of, 477.

Compulsory Acquisition of Land, Provisional Orders for, 475, 476, 477.

Generating Stations, Construction of, 475, 477.

Passenger Fares, Regulation of, 479, 481.

Provisional Orders—see Compulsory (subheading).

Railway Commissioners, Appeals to, 475, 481.

Trade, Board of—Orders conferring Powers on Companies, 475, 476, 477, 480.

Rasch, Major F. C. [Essex, Chelmsford]Somaliland Military Expedition—European Troops serving in Campaign—Extra Allowance for, proposed, *May 11*, 295.Volunteer and Militia Medical Officers—Reduction of Pay, *May 14*, 680.**Redny, Mr. M. [King's County, Birr]**United Irish League Meetings at Birr—Continued Supervision of the Police, *May 11*, 306.**Redmond, Mr. J. [Waterford]**Cork Model Schools—Technical Instruction Committee under Notice of Eviction—Postponement of Eviction till after taking of the Irish Education Estimates, *May 14*, 696; *May 20*, 1221.Parliamentary Procedure—Hour of Meeting—Proposal to commence Afternoon Sitting at 2.30 instead of 2 o'clock—Opinions of Irish Members, *May 12*, 425.Trade Disputes—Appointment of Royal Commission, Representation of Ireland on, *May 20*, 1223.Ulster and Connaught Light Railways Bill, *May 14*, 764.**Redmond, Mr. W. H. K. [Clare, E.]**Board of Trade Appointments—Advisability of appointing Merchant Service Men as Board of Trade Representatives, in preference to Naval Officers, *May 18*, 927.Bright's, Mr. J., Statue—Removal to Central Lobby of House, proposed, *May 25*, 1641.Budget Resolutions—Plea for encouragement of Irish grown Tobacco, by increasing the duty on foreign Cigars and Tobacco, *May 12*, 444, 447.Clare Railways, *May 20*, 1332.

[cont.]

May 7—May 26.

Redmond, Mr. W. H. K.—*cont.*Congo Free State, *May 20*, 1323.Equivalent Grant, Ireland—Amounts to be allocated for Educational Purposes, *May 18*, 933.Gun Licences, Refusal of—Case of J. Galvin, Kilnamona, County Clare, *May 11*, 306.House of Commons Telegraph Room—Defective Ventilation, *May 13*, 531.Irish Land Dispute—Case of Rev. Mr. Elliot, *May 26*, 1806.Lancers, 21st—Alleged ill-treatment of Officer—Information with regard to, *May 14*, 680.London Education Bill, *May 26*, 1861.Monastir Massacres—Alleged Massacre of Christians, Statement with regard to—Representations to Turkish Government, *May 14*, 688.Newmarket, Clare—Removal of two Guns from possession of Owner, *May 21*, 1354.Parliamentary Procedure—Case of a Question not being on the Paper—Remedy for omission, *May 26*, 1808.St. Louis Exhibition—Exhibit of Irish Industries, *May 13*, 537.Sergeant Maloney—Reason for Proposed Transfer of, *May 18*, 919.

Somaliland Military Expedition.

Abyssinian Force, Position of, *May 19*, 1088.Application to Halifax Government for Military co-operation, Laying Papers on Table, proposed, *May 19*, 1088.Town Tenants (Ireland) Bill, *May 22*, 1572.**Red Sea**

Lighthouses—Lighting of New Houses—Cause of Delay.

Qs. Sir J. Fergusson, Mr. Helder ;
As. Lord Cranborne, *May 11*,
287 ; *May 26*, 1792.**Reid, Sir Robert** [Dumfries Burghs]Judicature, Expenditure of Supreme Court of—Appointments made by heads of Departments—Superfluous offices, *May 21*, 1369.Land Registry—Operation of the Land Transfer Act, *May 21*, 1397.Naval Expenditure, Negotiations with the Powers as a method of reducing—Foodstuffs not regarded as Contraband of War, *May 14*, 722.Permanent Annual Charge, *May 12*, 459Trade Disputes Bill, *May 8*, 244.Votes, Arrangement of the Order of, *May 21*, 1362.**Remnant, Mr. J. F.** [Finsbury, Holborn]Aged Pensioners Bill, *May 22*, 1509.London Education Bill, *May 18*, 1002.**Renshaw, Sir Charles** [Renfrew, W.]Railways (Electrical Power) Bill, *May 12*, 478.**Renwick, Mr. G.** [Newcastle-on-Tyne]Port of London Bill, *May 13*, 608.**Revenue, Expenditure—Finance System, etc.**Budget, *see* that title.Budget Resolutions Debate, *May 12*, 428, 450.**Ribblesdale, Lord**Polling Arrangements (Parliamentary Boroughs) Bill, *May 22*, 1561.Polling Districts (County Councils) Bill, *May 22*, 1501.Sittings of Parliament, *May 25*, 1598.**Richards, Mr. H. C.** [Finsbury, E.]Sir Bhashyam Aiyanger—Continuation in office after receiving Pension, *May 14*, 675.Sligo Police Barracks—Further Inquiries as to Ownership of Land, proposed. *May 14*, 678.**Rickett, Mr. J. Compton** [Scarborough]Irish Land Bill, *May 7*, 92.**Rickmansworth Gas Bill**c. 1R.* *May 11*, 284.2R.* *Com.* May 25*, 1617.**Rifle Clubs**

Supply of Ammunition to, at reduced rates.

Q. Sir E. Strachey ; A. Mr. Brodrick, *May 8*, 203.**Regg, Mr. R.** [Westmoreland, Appleby]Ecclesiastical Commission—Court of Benefices, Amount paid by Commission to officers of Court—Duties of Officers—Fund out of which Payments are made, etc., *May 21*, 1336.**Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. T.**—*Chancellor of the Exchequer* [Croydon]Budget Resolutions—Arrangements for Debate on Finance, *May 12*, 429, 432, 435, 437, 438, 439, 444, 447, 449.Castleblaney Licence Transfer—Case of Mr. Keely—Action of Inland Revenue Authorities, *May 18*, 932.Coal Exports—Quantity of Coal Exported during year ending March 31st, 1903, at a declared value not exceeding 6s. per ton and 8s. per ton respectively, *May 7*, 25 ; *May 11*, 300.**Corn Duty Rebate.**Eligibility of Duty-paid cereals for Rebate, *May 19*, 1086.Irish Merchants, Inclusion of, in proposed Grant of Rebate, *May 26*, 1790.Rebates on imported Duty-paid Wheat—Allowance on present stocks, *May 26*, 1790.

May 7—May 26.

Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. T.—cont.

Customs and Excise Duties on Beer, Spirits and Tobacco for year ending March 31st, 1903, *May 14*, 676.

Distillation of Spirits in England—Amount distilled in 1902, Materials from which distilled, etc., *May 7*, 23.

Guaranteed Transvaal Loans.

Applications for, Number of, *May 18*, 916.

Sinking Fund—Application of, to purchase of Stock, *May 18*, 926.

Income Tax, Abatement of.

• Advisability of extending limit of abatement and exemption—Forms of inquiry and reference, *May 13*, 618.

Number of Persons claiming, *May 25*, 1622.

Insurance—Suggested extension of system of reduction, with regard to premiums **May 13*, 617.

Londonderry Customs and Cigar Smuggling—Action of Collector of Customs and Board of Customs with reference to case on s.s. "Columbia," *May 7*, 26.

Military and Naval Works Acts—Finances Repayment of borrowings under, Charge on the Estimates, *May 12*, 415.

Millers—Proposed bonding arrangements Alteration of, for benefit of Millers of the United Kingdom, *May 7*, 26.

Millers' Bonding Stores, Ireland—Grant of licence to Dublin Miller, Refusal to country Miller alleged, Grant of equal privileges, *May 7*, 25.

Permanent Annual Charge, *May 12*, 460.

Whisky Trade.

Adulterated Whisky—Allegations with regard to—No necessity for appointment of proposed Committee of Inquiry, *May 18*, 916.

Alleged Frauds—Inclusion of sale of spirituous liquors under supervision of Food and Drugs Act, Power of chemical analysis to determine composition of alcoholic liquors, *May 7*, 24.

Ritualism.

see Church Discipline (No. 2) Bill.

Roberts, Mr. J. B. [Carnarvon, Eifion]

Congo Free State—Proposed grant of Bahr-el-Ghazal to Congo Free State, Consideration of present inhabitants. Discussion of proposal previous to decision, *May 26*, 1792.

Somaliland Military Expedition.

Policy of the Government with regard to—Communication of, to General Manning, *May 18*, 921.

The Mullah—Treatment of a Spy, *May 14*, 682.

Roberts, Mr. J. B.—cont.

South African Mines—Rand Mine owners, Difficulty of obtaining Native Labour, Obtaining Kaffir labour by means of increasing wages, proposed, *May 20*, 1208.

Transvaal Coal Mines—Increased Kaffir Labour in, How obtained, *May 14*, 670.

Roberts, Mr. J. H. [Denbigh, W.]

Clubs, Registration of—Number of Registered Clubs under Licensing Act in England and Wales, *May 18*, 926.

Conway Infectious Diseases Hospital—Unsuitability of proposed Site, Adoption of more suitable Site, Representations to Conway Guardians, *May 20*, 1214.

Hill Tipperah Native State—Rule of succession in, Interference with, by Government of India, *May 25*, 1625.

Land Revenue in Gujerat—Standard of Assessment, Comparison with that of Bengal, Reduction of Assessments, etc., proposed, *May 20*, 1205.

Railways (Electrical Powers) Bill, *May 12*, 479.

South Africa—British Indian Subjects in, Revival of restrictions on, *May 21*, 1347.

Roberts, Mr. Samuel [Sheffield, Ecclesall]

Aged Pensioners Bill, *May 22*, 1520.

Volunteer Field Artillery—Non-application of recent orders to, proposed *May 21*, 1346.

Robertson, Mr. Edmund [Dundee]

Budget Resolutions—Tobacco Tax and reduction of Revenue, *May 11*, 438.

Permanent Annual Charge, *May 12*, 455.

Ships, Enormous Expenditure on new—Increase in amount spent on Repairs, Comparison with the Expenditure of European Powers, Contribution of the Colonies, *May 14*, 703, 720, 745.

Robertson, Mr. T. Herbert [Hackney, S.]

Irish Land Bill, *May 7*, 45.

London Education Bill, *May 26*, 1834, 1875.

Robinson, Mr. B. [Dudley]

"Black List"—Persons placed on List without their consent—Removal of disabilities of such Persons proposed—Case of Commissioner of Police v. Donovan, Decision of High Court, *May 14*, 673.

Robson, Mr. W. S. [South Shields]

Church Discipline (No. 2) Bill, *May 12*, 510.

London Education Bill, *May 25*, 1698.

May 7—May 26.

Roche, Mr. J. [Galway, E.]

National Schools, Ireland — Repair of Schools damaged by Storms, Body responsible for Repair, *May 12*, 423.

Roe, Sir T. [Derby]

Offices, Compensation for Abolition of—Principle and Scale of Awards, *May 18*, 916.

Public Vaccination, Cost of—Return showing Cost of Vaccination charged on Poor Rate, proposed, *May 18*, 915.

Rolleston, Sir John [Leicester]

Aged Pensioners Bill, *May 22*, 1527.

Old Bridewell Burying Ground Bill, *May 11*, 381

Trade Disputes Commission — Date of Appointment — Terms of Reference, etc., *May 14*, 699.

Rollit, Sir Albert K. [Islington, S.]

Land Registry System — Increase of Cost in the Transfer of Land—Operation of the Land Transfer Act—Statutory responsibility of the County Councils, *May 21*, 1382, 1391, 1392, 1400.

London Education Bill, *May 26*, 1877, 1887.

Q. Sir J. Stirling-Maxwell; A. Mr. Brodrick, *May 7*, 20.

Marine Insurance Bill, *May 12*, 496.

Port of London Bill, *May 13*, 566.

Romford and District Tramways Bill

c. Rep.* *May 22*, 1504.

Ropner, Colonel Sir E. H. O. [Stockton]

Port of London Bill, *May 13*, 615.

Workmen's Compensation Act, *May 13*, 641.

Roscommon

Extra Police Tax—Total Amount Levied off De Freyne and Murphy Estates—Liability of Roscommon County Council.

Q. Mr. Tully; A. Mr. Wyndham, *May 7*, 32.

Rosebery, Earl of

Sittings of Parliament, *May 25*, 1592.

Rosmead, Lord

Emoluments of Reserve Officers, *May 11*, 277.

Rotten Row

Additional Sand for the Row.

Q. Mr. C. Hay; A. Mr. V. Cavendish, *May 26*, 1792.

Defective Condition of—Improvement of Drainage, proposed.

Qs. Mr. G. Bowles; As. Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes, *May 14*, 692.

Royal Patriotic Commission

Administration of Funds—Introduction of Bill dealing with, Date of.

Q. Mr. Kearley; A. Mr. A. J. Bal-four, *May 21*, 1342.

Royal Warrant

Reserve Officers, Clauses regarding Pensions of.

O. *May 11*, 277.

Royds, Col. C. M. [Rochdale]

"Discovery," Relief of—Members of Relief Party on Active List of Royal Navy—Request for Exchequer Grant, etc., *May 26*, 1807.

Rubber Industry

see Congo Free State.

Runciman, Mr. W. [Dewsbury]

London Education Bill, *May 19*, 1109.

Naval Armaments—Protest against Increased Expenditure on—Comparison with the Expenditure of European Powers—Number of Cruisers—Two-Power Standard, *May 14*, 725.

Oil Fuel in the Navy, Use of—Consumption of Coal in the Navy compared with that in the Merchant Service, *May 14*, 780.

Russell, Mr. T. W. [Tyrone, S.]

Irish Land Bill — Drainage and other Charges—Provision for Redemption of, in Bill, *May 25*, 1645.

Land Purchase (Ireland) Acts—Number and Amount of Advances applied for under — Number to which sanction was withheld on Ground of Inadequate Security, *May 25*, 1645.

Russia

Herrings, Import Duty on—Charge of Uniform Rate of Duty—Reduction Proposed.

Q. Mr. Weir; A. Lord Cranborne, *May 14*, 687.

Naval Position compared with that of England,

Os. in Com. of Supply, *May 14*, 705, 715, 723, 726, 740.

Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford [Northants, N.]

New Bishopric of Southwark—Reply to Memorial asking for Legislation for purpose of Constituting Bishopric, *May 25*, 1645.

Sadler, Colonel [Middlesborough]

Somaliland, Survey of—Statement on Maps by War Office to the effect that Somaliland has never been Surveyed—Reason for Statement in view of Colonel Swayne's Surveys, *May 18*, 919.

Sadler, Mr.

Resignation of, Circumstances leading to. Q. Mr. Emmott; A. Sir W. Anson, *May 14*, 694.

St. Louis Exhibition

Irish Exhibit.

Q. Mr. W. Redmond; A. Mr. Atkinson, *May 13*, 537.

May 7—May 26.

St. Louis Exhibition—cont.

Scotch Exhibit—Expediency of Making Arrangements for, Proposed.
Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Scott Dickson, *May 14*, 691.

St. Luke's Church and Parish Quoad Sacra Edinburgh Order Confirmation Bill

l. 1R. May 19*, 1041.
Rep. May 19*, 1046.

St. Philip's Chapel (Regent Street) Bill

l. Rep. May 22*, 1454.
3R. May 26*, 1750.
c. 1R. May 26*, 1784.

Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Bill

c. 1R. May 7*, 38.

Salonika

Bomb-Outrage—Number of Deaths resulting from.
Q. Mr. Trevelyan; A. Lord Cranborne, *May 11*, 299.

Samuel, Mr. Harry [Tower Hamlets, Limehouse]

London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May 18*, 1008; *May 20*, 1229, 1236, 1237, 1239.

Samuel, Mr. Herbert [Yorkshire, Cleveland]

Congo Free State, *May 20*, 1289.

Military and Naval Works Acts, Repayment of Borrowings under, Charge on the Estimates, *May 12*, 415.

Railways (Electrical Power) Bill, *May 12*, 481.

Samuel, Mr. Stuart [Tower Hamlets, Limehouse]

Jews—Massacre of, at Kischineff, Details of, *May 19*, 1093.

London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May 25*, 1683.

Sandhurst Military College

Musketry and Mounted Infantry, Course for Cadets awaiting Commissions Proposed.

Q. Mr. H. Hobhouse; A. Mr. Brodrick, *May 25*, 1627.

Savings Bank

see Post Office.

Scarborough Gas Bill

c. 3R. May 11*, 283.
l. 1R. May 12*, 406.
2R. Com.* May 22*, 1454.
Rep. May 26*, 1749.

Schools

Elementary Schools—Expenses of, Proposed Legislation.

Q. Sir B. Gurdon; A. Mr. W. Long, *May 8*, 201.

Schwann, Mr. C. E. [Manchester, N.]

Argentine Cattle Trade—Contagious Disease among Cattle, Cause of—Area Affected, Effect upon Live Cattle Exports, etc., *May 25*, 1639.

Burmah.

Condition of Finances, *May 18*, 925.

Surplus Revenue, Method of Expenditure, *May 25*, 1635.

Coolies in Trinidad Gaols—Protection of Indentured Coolies, Arrangements for, etc., *May 14*, 687.

Lepers.

Burmah—Number of in, Provision for Compulsory Segregation, *May 20*, 1212.

Ceylon—Number of Leper Hospitals in, Provision of Additional Hospitals in Isolated Districts, Proposed, *May 20*, 1206.

Persia, River Karun—Improved Navigation of—Attitude of Persian Government, *May 11*, 299.

Police Force, Inadequate Numbers of—Danger to Property in London—Accidents in London—Reasons for Increase of Hooliganism, *May 21*, 1404.

Post Office Reforms—Proposed Committee of Inquiry into Grievances of Employees—Position of Sub-Postmasters—Question of Allowances, *May 11*, 349.

Transvaal, British Indian Subjects in—Conditions of Residence and Trade—Proposals of Transvaal Government contained in Report of Inter-Colonial Conference, Laying on Table of, proposed, *May 14*, 686.

Scotland

Aberdeen, Delay in building Post Office at. *Os. May 12*, 467, 466.

Allotments—Return Ordered, *May 25*, 1620.

Coal Mines, Regulation of. *Os. May 15*, 816.

Death Duties—Collection of—Proposed Centralisation of Death Duty Assessment in Edinburgh—Effect of Change, etc.

Q. Sir J. Leng; A. Mr. A. Elliot, *May 12*, 415.

Glasgow, *see* that title.

Lerwick Mail Service, *see* Post Office—Mails.

Medical Officers in Crofting Districts—Number of Parish Councils without Parochial Resident Medical Officer.

Q. Mr. C. Wason; A. Mr. G. Murray, *May 25*, 1623.

Physical Training.

Committee, Appointment of, to Carry out Recommendations of Royal Commission.

Q. Mr. Shaw-Stewart; A. Mr. G. Murray, *May 7*, 17.

[cont.]

May 7—May 26.

Scotland—cont.

Physical Training—*cont.*

Medical Inspection of School Children—Assistance of Medical Officers in Carrying out Recommendations of Royal Commission with regard to.

Qs. Mr. Shaw-Stewart, Mr. Harmsworth; A. Mr. G. Murray, *May 7, 18; May 11, 290.*

Post Office Packet Service, Deficiencies in. *Os. May 11, 385, 386, 387, 389.*

Statute Revision.

O. May 22, 1497.

Scottish-American Mortgage Company, Limited, Bill

l. Rep. May 26, 1749.*

Scunthorpe Urban District Water Bill.

l. 3R. May 19, 1045.*

c. 1R. May 22, 1504.*

Seaforth and Sefton Junction Railway Bill

c. con. May 11, 283.*

3R. May 14, 665.*

l. 1R. May 15, 797.*

"Seamew," H.M.S.

Sea Police, Duties of—Area Patrolled, etc.

Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. Arnold-Forster, May 14, 674.

Secondary Education

see London Education Bill.

Seely, Mr. C. H. [Lincoln]

Militia Officers, South African War—Rewards for Officers refused, reconsideration of Cases proposed, *May 13, 530.*

Selborne, Earl of—First Lord of the Admiralty.

Foreign Warships in British Harbours, under what Regulations admitted—Changes in Regulations—Principle of Government with regard to—Consideration of Question by Committee of Imperial Defence, *May 19, 1063.*

Naval Training.

New Scheme of—Unity of the Navy—Importance of Machinery in modern ships, hence importance of Engineers—Present position of Royal Marines—Interchangeability of Officers—Scheme of future Officers' Education—Evils of Competitive Examination, *May 8, 175.*

New Scheme, similar to that introduced into American Navy—Reports of results, undesirability of publication, *May 8, 175.*

Transport Service Medal, *May 14, 662.*

Shackleton, Mr. [Lancashire, Clitheroe]

Trades Disputes Bill, *May 8, 204.*

Shaw-Stewart, Mr. M. H. [Renfrew, E.]

Physical Training, Scotland.

Committee, Appointment of, to carry out recommendations of Royal Commission, *May 7, 17.*

Medical Inspection of School Children, Assistance of Medical Officers in carrying out recommendations of Royal Commission with regard to, *May 7, 18.*

Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation Bill

l. Rep. May 22, 1454.*

3R. May 26, 1750.*

c. 1R. May 26, 1784.*

Shephed Urban District Gas Bill

l. Rep. May 12, 405.*

3R. May 18, 866.*

c. 1R. May 19, 1080.*

Shipbuilding

Vote—Increase in Amount of—Policy of Government, Explanation of, on Report Stage of Vote.

Qs. Mr. Lough; A. Mr. A. J. Balfour, *May 18, 939.*

Shipman, Dr. J. G. [Northampton]

Underground Bakehouses—Refusal of Certificates to tenants of—Introduction of Bill dealing with compensation, proposed, *May 13, 529.*

Shipping and Commerce

see Marine Insurance Bill.

Sierra Leone

Rebellion—Losses sustained in, Grant of Compensation to Traders, proposed.

Q. Mr. Lawrence; A. Mr. J. Chamberlain, May 12, 421.

Simeon, Sir B.

Animals, Destruction of Injured, by Police—Authority to Police to kill injured Animals without permission of owner, proposed, *May 14, 672.*

Sinclair, Mr. L. [Essex, Romford]

Foreign Ministers of Commerce—Report on Constitution and Functions of, Date of Laying on Table, *May 25, 1626.*

Trade, Board of—Inquiry into Duties and Functions of, *May 26, 1787.*

Sinking Fund

see Budget.

Sittingbourne District Gas Bill

l. 2R. Com.* May 15, 797.*

Rep. May 26, 1749.*

Sittings of the House

Alteration of period of Sitting, proposed, *May 25, 1577.*

Twelve o'clock Rule—Suspension of (Sir Acland-Hood), *May 25, 1747.*

May 7—May 26.

Sligo

Irish Constabulary Barracks, Royal—Ownership of land, Further inquiries as to, proposed, etc.

Q. Mr. H. C. Richards; A. Mr. Atkinson, *May 14*, 678.

Sloan, Mr. T. H. [Belfast, S.]

Army Chaplains—Number of, Members of the Army Guild of the Holy Standard, *May 14*, 682.

Belfast.

Canteen arrangements at Barracks, *May 14*, 681.

Constabulary and Motor Cyclists—Demand of Names and Occupations of Motor Cyclists, Reason for, *May 11*, 307.

Primary Schools—Unsatisfactory condition of—Improvement with the aid of State Grants, *May 21*, 1354.

Betting Offices in Ireland—Declaration with regard to—Inquiry, proposed, *May 18*, 934.

Deaf, Dumb, and Blind Institutions, in Ireland—Consideration of claims of, in Development Grant Bill, *May 11*, 308.

Gun Licences, Ireland—Refusal of Licence to J. Adair, Castleblaney—Refund of Money, *May 7*, 35.

National School Teachers.

Payment of one Assistant Teacher in Schools where average reaches fifty, Continuation of proposed, *May 7*, 30.

Politics—Regulations debarring Teachers from associating themselves with politics—Repeal, proposed, *May 7*, 30.

Workington, Port of—Unsatisfactory condition of, through non-cleaning of river, *May 21*, 1350.

Smallpox

Liverpool Epidemic.

Escape of Smallpox Patient from Fazakerley Hospital.

Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. W. Long, *May 14*, 689.

Inquiry into measures adopted by Health Authorities with regard to.

Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. G. Lawson, *May 7*, 29.

Register of Smallpox Patients—Arrangements for keeping Register at office of Clerk to Sanitary Authority, proposed.

Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. G. Lawson, *May 7*, 28.

Hospitals, Number of Private.

Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. G. Lawson, *May 11*, 303.

Smith, Mr. Hugh [Northumberland, Tyne-side]

London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May 19*, 1147.

Smith, Hon. W. F. D. [Strand, Westminster]

London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May 19*, 1177; *May 26*, 1832.

Sneem

Eviction on Warden Estate—Case of Mr. Sheehan, Reinstatement of Tenant, proposed.

Q. Mr. Boland; A. Mr. Atkinson, *May 11*, 305.

Soares, Mr. [Devonshire, Barnstaple]

Minister of Agriculture, *May 21*, 1419.

Post Office Reforms—Agricultural Parcels Post, Suggested establishment of an—Probable effect on development of Small Holdings—Evil Results from chemical packing of foreign Produce—History of efforts to establish an Agricultural Post, *May 12*, 482.

Soldiers

Average cost of Soldiers belonging to Artillery, Cavalry, etc., in England, South Africa, etc.

Q. Mr. C. Hobhouse; A. Mr. Brodrick, *May 26*, 1796.

Deceased Soldiers, Balances due to—Case of Private T. Murray, *May 26*, 1797.

Solicitor-General

Fees for last twelve months.

Q. Mr. Whitley; A. Mr. A. Elliot, *May 20*, 1204.

Somaliland

Military Expedition.

Abyssinian Force, Position of.

Q. Mr. W. Redmond; A. Mr. Brodrick, *May 19*, 1088.

Ammunition, Alleged deficiency of, General Manning's reply.

Q. Mr. A. Lee; A. Mr. Brodrick, *May 18*, 921.

European Troops serving in Campaign—Extra allowance for, proposed.

Q. Major Rasch; A. Mr. Brodrick, *May 11*, 295.

Government Policy with regard to—Communication of, to General Manning.

Qs. Mr. B. Roberts; As. Mr. Brodrick, *May 18*, 921.

Italian Government—Application to for Military Co-operation, Laying Papers on Table, proposed.

Qs. Mr. W. Redmond; As. Mr. Brodrick, *May 19*, 1088.

Officers Wounded—Grant of Free Passage home for wounded Officers.

Q. Colonel Legge; A. Mr. Brodrick, *May 12*, 417.

Report on Situation caused by Results of recent fighting.

Q. Mr. Fuller; A. Mr. Brodrick, *May 18*, 921.

Spy of the Mullah, Treatment of.

Q. Mr. B. Roberts; A. Mr. Brodrick, *May 14*, 682.

[cont.]

May 7—May 26.

Somaliland—cont.Military Expedition—*cont.*

Wireless Telegraphy—Cost of Systems employed during Campaign—Employment of Naval System alleged—Results of Tests applied to Wireless System during German Army Manœuvres.

Qs. Mr. J. Campbell ; *As.* Mr. G. Bowles, *May 21*, 1344.

Revenue and Expenditure.

Q. Mr. C. Hobhouse ; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton, *May 22*, 1507.

Survey of—Statement on Maps issued by War Office to the Effect that Somaliland has never been surveyed—Reason for Statement, in view of Colonel Swayne's Surveys.

Q. Colonel Sadler ; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *May 18*, 919.

Somerset and District Electric Power Bill

l. 3R. May 19*, 1046.

c. 1R. May 22*, 1505.

South African Loan and War Contribution Bill

c. Ordered, May 7, 151.

1R. May 7*, 152.

South African Settlement

Compensation Claims—Number and Amount of Lodged up to 31st December by Colonies.

Qs. Mr. Weir ; *As.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *May 26*, 1801.

Transvaal Guaranteed Loan.

Number of Applications.

Q. Mr. Cohen ; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *May 18*, 916.

Sinking Fund, Application of, to Purchase of Stock.

Q. Mr. C. Hay ; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *May 18*, 926.

South African War

Disease in the Army—Report of Committee—Laying on Table of.

Q. Dr. Farquharson ; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *May 21*, 1347.

Medals, Imperial Yeomanry—Issue of, to 78th Company.

Q. Sir J. Stirling - Maxwell ; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *May 7*, 20.

Royal Commission—Completion of Evidence, Date of Publication of Report.

Qs. Mr. C. Hobhouse ; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *May 20*, 1222.

South Eastern and London, Chatham and Dover Railways Bill

l. 3R. May 25*, 1574.

c. 1R. May 26*, 1784.

South Lancashire Tramways Bill

l. 3R. May 25*, 1574.

c. 1R. May 26*, 1784.

South Shields, Sunderland and District Tramways Bill

c. Rep. May 26*, 1780.

South Shields Workhouse

Religious Ministrations, Denial to Inmates, Alleged.

Q. Mr. Talbot ; *A.* Mr. W. Long, *May 20*, 1200.

South Staffordshire Tramways Bill

l. Com. May 14*, 654.

South Wales Mineral Railway Bill

c. 2R. Com.* May 18*, 910.

Rep. May 26*, 1780.

South Yorkshire Joint Railways Bill

c. Rep. May 14*, 666.

Com. May 25*, 1617.

Southampton Harbour Bill

l. Rep. May 7*, 3.

3R. May 12*, 406.

c. 1R. May 14*, 666.

2R. Com.* May 26*, 1779.

Southwark

New Bishopric—Reply to Memorial asking for legislation for purpose of constituting Bishopric.

Q. Colonel Stopford-Sackville ; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *May 25*, 1645.

Speaker

Bills

Church Discipline (No. 2) Bill—Committee. When the reference of a Bill to the Committee is the subject under discussion, a Member must confine himself to that subject, *May 12*, 522.

London Education Bill—Amendments introduced at Committee Stage. This is out of order, *May 18*, 941.

Marine Insurance Bill—Discussing a Speech made upon the Bill of this year is out of order, *May 12*, 495.

Trade Disputes Bill—Discussion of Trades Union Funds in, irrelevant, *May 8*, 251.

Motion for Adjournment, Debate on—Appointment of Minister of Agriculture, Discussion of relative importance of the different posts in the Government is out of order, *May 21*, 1434, 1435.

Question—Case of a Question not being on the Paper—Remedy for Omission, *May 26*, 1808.

Rulings—Impropriety of asking Return from a Private Member, *May 22*, 1500.

Speeches, Attention called to rule against written, *May 13*, 554.

Trade Disputes Bill—Division of—Error in Counting the "No" Votes in the Division—Correction of Mistake, *May 11*, 313.

Special Schools

see London Education Bill.

"Speedwell," H.M.S.

Sea Police, Duties of, Area Patrolled, etc.

Q. Mr. Weir ; *A.* Mr. Arnold-Forster, *May 14*, 674.

May 7—May 26.

Spencer, EarlBetting Bill, *May 18, 1906.*Justices of the Peace Bill, *May 22, 1497.*Naval Training, New Scheme of—Necessity for Changes and Reforms—Equality in Status and Education of Three Branches of Service, Desirable Effects of, *May 8, 168.*Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Bill, *May 22, 1489.***Spirits**Customs Duties on, *see Tobacco.*

Duties for Year Ending March 31st, 1903.

*Q. Sir H. Fowler ; A. Mr. Ritchie, May 14, 676.***Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Bill***c. 2R.* Com.* May 18, 910.**Rep.* May 26, 1780.***Stamps***see Post Office.***Stamford, Mr. H.**

Maltreatment of, by Officers at Cape Town—Action of Colonel Cooper with regard to—Exclusion of Report of Legal Proceedings and Apologies of Officers from Cape Press.

*Qs. Mr. S. MacNeill ; As. Mr. Brodrick, May 7, 20.***Stanley, Lord—Financial Secretary to the War Office [Lancashire, Westhoughton]***United Service Gazette*—Names of Proprietors unknown, *May 20, 1209.***Statue**

Statue of James II. at Gwydyr House, Whitehall—Removal of, Date of Restoration.

*Q. Mr. Bayley ; A. Mr. A. Fellowes May 19, 1085.***Statute Law Revision (Scotland) Bill***l. 2R., May 22, 1497.**2R.* Com.* May 22, 1498.**Rep.* May 26, 1760.***Statutory Law***see Marine Insurance Bill.***Stevenson, Mr. F. S. [Suffolk, Eye]**Tuberculous Swine—Compensation for Condemned Carcases—Amendment of Diseases of Animals Act and Public Health Acts, proposed, *May 25, 1637.***Stirling-Maxwell, Sir J. [Glasgow College]**Glasgow Post Office—Assistant Postmen, Established Appointments for, *May 7, 15.*South African War Medals—Imperial Yeomanry, Issue of, to 78th Company, *May 7, 20.***Stoke Newington Borough Council Bill***l. Rep.* May 12, 405.**3R.* May 18, 866.***Strabane**

Labourers' Cottages.

Delay in, Erection of—Cause.

Q. Mr. M'Fadden ; A. Mr. Atkinson, May 11, 294.

Loan—Application to Local Government Board for—Delay in Granting Loan.

*Q. Mr. M'Fadden ; A. Mr. Atkinson, May 11, 294.***Strabane and Letterkenny Railway Bill***c. 2R.* Com.* May 18, 910.***Strachey, Sir Edward [Somersetshire, S.]**Agriculture—Appointment of Minister of, *May 21, 1416.*Rifle Clubs—Supply of Ammunition to, at Reduced Rates, *May 8, 203.*Whiskey, Adulterated—Allegations with regard to, Appointment of Committee of Inquiry, proposed, *May 18, 916.***Straits Settlements**Currency Committee — Report with Minutes of Evidence and Appendices, Presented, *May 11, 285 ; May 12, 407.***Stratford-on-Avon**

Shakespearean Relics, Proposed Demolition of—Powerlessness of Government to Deal with Question.

*Q. Mr. Yoxall ; A. Mr. A. J. Balfour, May 13, 540.***Street Collections**

Children Employed in.

*Os. May 21, 1415.***Streets, and Street Traffic, London**

Breaking up Streets, Control over.

Q. Sir H. Vincent ; A. Mr. Akers-Douglas, May 26, 1788.

New Road from the Mall to Charing Cross, Date of opening.

*Q. Sir H. Fowler ; A. Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes, May 13 532.***Strokestown**

Union Inquiry—Grounds for Ordering Inquiry.

*Q. Mr. Tully ; A. Mr. Wyndham, May 7, 33.***Stroud and District Tramways Bill***c. con*. May 18, 910.**3R.* May 22, 1503.**l. 1R.* May 25, 1574.***Sugar Bounties**

Brussels Permanent Commission, Establishment of.

Bill—Introduction of, Enabling Convention to be Carried into Effect. Date uncertain.

Q. Mr. G. Bowles ; A. Mr. A. J. Balfour, May 20, 1223.

May 7—May 26.

Sugar Bounties—cont.Brussels Permanent Commission, etc.—
cont.

Expenditure, Necessary for Establishment.

Date and Form of Application to House for Expenditure Involved in Establishment of.

Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Mr. A. J. Balfour, *May 20*, 1923.

Discussion of, Opportunity for.

Q. Mr. Lloyd-George; A. Mr. A. J. Balfour, *May 25*, 1946.

Funds for, Provision of, Previous to Obtaining Assent of the House, to.

Q. Mr. G. Bowles; A. Mr. A. J. Balfour, *May 25*, 1946.**Sullivan, Mr. O.** [Westmeath, S.]Coal Mines—Female Labour in, Employment of—Names of Collieries in Great Britain in which Women are employed, *May 26*, 1902.**Millers.**Bonding Arrangements, Alteration of, Proposed for Benefit of Millers of United Kingdom, *May 7*, 26.Licence, Grant of, to Dublin Miller, Refusal to Country Miller alleged, Grant of Equal Privileges proposed, *May 7*, 25.**Sunderland Institute for the Blind**

Lock-out of Shipfender Makers at—Intervention of Charity Commissioners, Proposed.

Q. Mr. Tomkinson; A. Mr. G. Boscawen, *May 11*, 304.**Supply**Army and Navy Estimates, *see* those titles.

Civil Service and Revenue Departments Estimates.

Art and Science Buildings, £30,150—
Report, *May 12*, 465.County Courts, £25,000—*Com.* *May 21*, 1403.Customs, Inland Revenue, Post Office and Post Office Telegraph Buildings, etc., £239,000—Report, *May 12*, 465.Diplomatic and Consular Building, £37,500—Report, *May 12*, 465.Harbour of Refuge at Peterhead, £17,980—Report, *May 12*, 466.Harbours under Board of Trade, £14,204—Report, *May 12*, 466.Houses of Parliament Buildings, £27,700—Report, *May 12*, 465.Land Registry, £28,144—*Com.*, *May 21*, 1381.Legal Buildings, Miscellaneous, £36,120—Report, *May 12*, 465.**Supply—cont.**Civil Services and Revenue Departments Estimates—*cont.*Metropolitan Police, £26,390—*Com.*, *May 21*, 1403.Post Office, £6,267,500—*Com.*, *May 11*, 313; Report, *May 12*, 482.Post Office Packet Service, £536,790—*Com.*, *May 11*, 385.Prisons, England and Colonies, £375,897—*Com.*, *May 21*, 1446.Public Buildings, Sundry, £222,000—
Report, *May 12*, 465.Royal Parks and Pleasure Gardens, £51,400—Report, *May 12*, 464.Stationery and Printing, £381,333—
Report, *May 12*, 467.Supreme Court of Judicature, £180,118—*Com.*, *May 21*, 1366.Survey of the United Kingdom £119,019—Report, *May 12*, 466.Treasury and Subordinate Departments, £52,264—Report, *May 12*, 467.**Supply of Electricity Bill**l. 1R.* *May 26*, 1760.**Sutton Coldfield Corporation Bill**l. 3R.* *May 8*, 153.c. 1R.* *May 11*, 284.2R.* *Com.* May 25*, 1617.**Sutton District Water Bill**l. 2R.* *Com.* May 7*, 4.Rep.* *May 24*, 1454.3R.* *May 26*, 1750.**Swine**Tuberculous Swine, Compensation for
Condemned Carcases of—Amendment
of Diseases of Animals Act and Public
Health Acts, Proposed.Q. Mr. Stevenson; A. Mr. Walter
Long, *May 25*, 1637.**Taff Vale Strike***see* Trade Disputes Bill.**Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G.** [Oxford University]South Shields Union Workhouse—
Religious Ministration, Denial of, to
inmates, alleged, *May 20*, 1200.**Taxation**Budget, *see* that title.Customs Duties—Debate on Budget
Resolutions, *May 12*, 428–450.**Taxes and Imposts**Rates of Duties, Taxes or Imposts col-
lected by the Imperial Officers, etc.,
Return Ordered, *May 12*, 414.**Taylor, Mr. Austin** [Liverpool, East
Toxteth]London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May*
19, 1107.

May 7—May 26.

Taylor, Mr. Theodore [Lancashire, Radcliffe]

All Saints, Poplar (Rate Abolition), Bill,
May 21, 1443.

Teachers

see London Education Bill.

Technical Instruction

Subjects to be taught under Clause 8 of
Act, for County of Glamorgan—Copy
of Minute Presented, *May 26, 1786.*

Telegraph Service

Ireland—Communication between Listowel
and Tralee, Extension of system to
Listowel, proposed.

Q. Mr. Flavin; *A.* Mr. Austen
Chamberlain, *May 19, 1087.*

Wapping Telegraph Office—Inconvenience
of present site, Establishment of more
central office, proposed.

Q. Sir T. Dewar; *A.* Mr. Austen
Chamberlain, *May 25, 1636.*

Women Telegraphists—Promotion grievance—Appointment of Telegraphists
of Inferior Qualifications to disadvantage of Senior and more
Experienced Employees—Reason for
Appointment.

Q. Mr. Namnetti; *A.* Mr. Austen
Chamberlain, *May 7, 27.*

Telephone

see Post Office.

Tennant, Mr. [Berwickshire]

Post Office Reforms—Offences of Post
Office Employees—Disfranchisement
of Employees, proposed Committee of
Inquiry, *May 11, 342.*

Workmen's Compensation Act, *May 18, 642.*

Thames Conservancy

see Port of London Bill.

Thomas, Mr. D. A. [Merthyr Tydvil]

Coal Export Duty—Export of Coal at
values between 7s. and 8s. per ton,
May 11, 300.

Coal Exports—Decrease of Export of Coal
of declared value of 5s. to 6s. per ton—
Comparison with previous year—
Cause of alleged decrease, *May 7, 25.*

Coal—Stored Coal, Deterioration of, Experiments directed towards prevention of, progress of, etc., *May 14, 686.*

Consular Reports.

Advertisements in—Precautions taken
by Foreign Office before sanctioning
insertion of Advertisements, *May 25, 1636.*

Use of, as medium of Advertisement
for particular Firms, alleged—
Case of Mr. Consul Neville Rolfe's
Report on Trade of South Italy
—Issue of instructions to Consuls,
proposed, *May 7, 17.*

Thomas, Mr. D. A.—*cont.*

Imported Food Supplies—Report relative
to, Date of Issue, *May 25, 1641.*

Local Education Authorities and Board of
Education—Policy of Board of Education,
Application of policy to Elementary
Education, *May 18, 918.*

Newport (Mon.) County Council Education
Scheme—Position of, *May 7, 29.*

Newport County Council's Education
Scheme—Passed by what majority,
Specific object of, proposed inquiry
May 14, 677.

Transvaal Coal Mines—Output since
December 31st, 1902, *May 11, 297.*

Transvaal Mines—Gold and Coal Mines—
Labour in, Number of White Men and
Kaffirs employed respectively, *May 25, 1634.*

Thomas, Mr. F. [Hastings]

Delivery of Letters—Interpretation of
Rule 56 in the Provincial Town Postmen's
Rule Book, *May 26, 791.*

Thomson, Mr. Whitley [Yorkshire, W.R., Skipton]

Duke of York's School, Scarlet Fever,
Epidemic—Alleged refusal to give
information to Sanitary Authorities,
Instructions to School Officials proposed,
May 18, 921.

Income Tax, Payment on Incomes under
£400, £500, £600, and £700 respectively,
yield from Tax, *May 25, 1621.*

Thornton, Mr. [Clapham]

London Education Bill (Committee) *May 11, 1165.*

Tilbury Docks

see Port of London Bill.

Tipsters

see Betting Bill.

Tobacco, Beer and Spirits

Customs Duties on—Budget Resolutions,
May 12, 428.

Tobacco Duty

Duties for year ending March 31st, 1903.
Q. Sir H. Fowler; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *May 14, 676.*

Tomkinson, Mr. [Cheshire, Crewe]

Sunderland Institute for the Blind—Lockout of Ship-fender Makers at, Intervention of Charity Commissioners, proposed, *May 11, 304.*

Torquay Corporation Water Bill

l. 3R.* *May 26, 1750.*

c. 1R.* *May 26, 1784.*

May 7—May 26.

Town Tenants (Ireland) Bill*Debate on 2R. [H.C.], May 22, 1371.*

Agricultural Holdings, Application to, 1572.

Home Rule, 1572.

Land Act of 1881, Wish for Repeal of—1571.

Taxpayers, Position of—1572.

Trade and CommerceAnnual Statement of Trade of United Kingdom for 1902 Presented, *May 8, 154, 198.*

British Trade with Foreign Countries—Return of, proposed.

*Q. Master of Elibank; A. Mr. J. Chamberlain, May 25, 1634.***Trade and Navigation**

Accounts—Explanation of item.

*Q. Colonel Denny; A. Mr. Gerald Balfour, May 15, 805.***Trade, Board of**

Appointments—Advisability of appointing Merchant Service men as Board of Trade representatives in preference to Naval Officers.

Q. Mr. W. Redmond; A. Mr. G. Balfour, May 18, 927.

Examiner at Liverpool—Name of successful Candidate, Qualifications, etc.

Q. Duke of Manchester; A. Lord Wolverton, May 8, 191.

Inquiry into Duties and Functions of.

Q. Mr. L. Sinclair; A. Mr. A. J. Balfour, May 26, 1787.

Irish Lights Tenders, Action regarding.

Os. May 11, 272, 275.

Port Authority, Action regarding.

Os. May 13, 546, 548, 563, 586, 598.

Railways (Electrical), Powers conferred on.

*Os. May 12, 475, 476, 477, 479, 480.***Trade Disputes**

Commission.

Appointment of, Representation of Ireland on.

Q. Mr. J. Redmond; A. Mr. A. J. Balfour, May 20, 1223.

Appointment of a Woman on proposed Commission.

Q. Sir C. Dilke; A. Mr. A. J. Balfour, May 21, 1355.

Date of Appointment Terms of Reference, etc.

Qs. Sir J. Rolleston, Mr. Bryce; As. Mr. A. J. Balfour, May 14, 699.

Nature of.

Q. Sir C. Dilke; A. Mr. A. J. Balfour, May 14, 699.

Subjects of Inquiry of—Inclusion of Questions arising from Taff Vale Judgment.

*Q. Sir C. Dilke; A. Mr. A. J. Balfour, May 14, 699.***Trade Disputes Bill***Debate on 2R. [H.C.], May 8, 204.*

Combinations of Employers and Workmen, Clauses relating to, 235, 240, 248, 253, 262.

Conspiracy, Law relating to, 208, 218, 224, 227, 243, 245, 250.

Employers' Power over Trade Unions, *see* subheading Trade Unions.

Employees' right to terminate Contracts, 209.

Ireland, Extension of Bill to, 249.

Law, Present Interpretation of, 206, 212, 232, 240, 253.

Nuisances, Laws relating to Common, 217, 224, 227, 234, 246, 253.

Peaceful Persuasion exercised with regard to Trade Combinations, 207, 217, 227, 234, 246.

Picketing, Clauses relating to, 205, 212, 224, 226, 233, 243, 245, 248, 250, 254.

Privileged Legislation, Bill reckoned as, 229.

Royal Commission, Proposed Appointment of, 231, 247, 249, 253, 259.

Strikes, Objects and Justification, 209, 211, 214, 245, 251.

Taff Vale Strike, 211, 212, 233, 242, 251.

Trade Unions, History and Powers of, 204, 205, 211, 214, 222, 245, 251.

Trade Reports PresentedAnnual Series, *May 8, 154, 199; May 13, 527; May 14, 655, 669; May 18, 867; May 19, 1083; May 22, 1456, 1507; May 25, 1575, 1620.*Miscellaneous Series, *May 13, 527; May 14, 655; May 18, 867; May 19, 1082; May 25, 1576, 1620.***Trade Unions***see* Coal Mines Regulation Bill.*see* Trade Disputes Bill.

Royal Commission, Appointment of—Date, Composition, etc.

Q. Mr. Bell; A. Mr. A. J. Balfour, May 14, 699.

Workmen's Compensation Act, Attitude regarding.

*Os. May 13, 635, 647.***Training Colleges for Teachers**

Church Training Colleges—Relation of, to Local Education Authority, etc.

*Q. Mr. Morrell; A. Sir W. Anson, May 12, 414.***Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill***l. 2R.* May 25, 1574.***Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill***l. 2R.* May 25, 1574.*

May 7—May 26.

Transport Service

Government Shipments to South Africa—Discontinuance of Shipping Cargo by Conference Lines, proposed.

Q. Mr. Dalziel; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *May 19, 1092.*

South African War—Railway Transport of Troops, Inadequacy of, Improvement, proposed.

Q. Mr. Flower; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *May 18, 919.*

Transport Service Medal

Delay in Granting.

Os. *May 14, 656, 662.*

Transvaal

Administration—Naturalisation of Aliens, Arrangements for, Inclusion of Ordinances relative to, in Parliamentary Papers, proposed.

Qs. Mr. J. Ellis; *As.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *May 12, 420.*

Aliens, Naturalisation of—Address for Copy of Ordinances of Rules and Regulations, Presented, *May 20, 1199.*

British-Indian Subjects—Conditions of Residence and Trade, Proposals of Transvaal Government contained in Report of Inter-Colonial Conference, Laying on Table of, proposed.

Q. Mr. Schwann; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *May 14, 686,*

Civil Administration of the Transvaal—Arrest of Dutch Minister at Rustenberg—Increased Stringency of Peace Preservation Ordinances.

Q. Sir W. Lawson; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *May 20, 1207.*

Coal Mines—Increased Kaffir Labour in, how obtained.

Q. Mr. Bryn Roberts; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *May 14, 670.*

Coal Mines—Output since December 31st, 1902, etc.

Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *May 11, 297.*

Compensation Claims, *see* South African Settlement.

Financial Position of the Transvaal and Orange River Colony—Statement Presented, *May 18, 867, 915.*

Legislative Council—Number and Composition, Number of Boer Members, etc.

Q. Mr. Lambert; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *May 35, 1634.*

Mines.

Chinese Labour in, Alleged Recruiting in America, Action of Transvaal Government.

Q. Mr. Trevelyan; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *May 26, 1799.*

Employment of Asiatic Labour.

Attitude of H. M. Government towards proposal.

Q. Mr. K. Hardie; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *May 25, 1633.*

Transvaal—cont.**Mines—cont.**

Employment of Asiatic Labour—*cont.*

Protest against, Opinion of H. M. Government, etc.

Q. Mr. J. Ellis; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *May 25, 1633.*

Gold and Coal Mines, Labour in, Number of White Men and Kaffirs employed respectively,

Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *May 25, 1634.*

Native Labour in—Statistics of Disease, Death, Desertion, etc.

Q. Mr. Trevelyan; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *May 20, 1211.*

Postage Rates—Excessive Rate, Reduction to Scale adopted in England, proposed.

Q. Mr. L. Sinclair; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *May 25, 1624.*

Trawling

Gunboats and Cruisers—Sea Police Duties of H.M.S. "Seamew," "Speedwell," and "Cockchafer," Area Patrolled, etc.

Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Arnold-Forster, *May 14, 674.*

Treasury

Judicature, Financial Control over Court of.

Os. *May 21, 1375, 1376.*

Treasury Bill

see Budget.

Trevelyan, Mr. [Yorkshire, W.R., Elland]

Education Committee of the Northumberland County Council—Exclusion of the Press from Meetings of, Rescinding of Resolution, proposed, *May 18, 929.*

London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May 18, 976; May 19, 1098, 1121, 1150; May 25, 1678.*

Passive Resistance to the Education Rate—Proceedings against National Committee, *May 18, 937.*

Salonika Bomb Outrage—Number of Deaths resulting from, *May 11, 299.*

Transvaal Mines.

Chinese Labour in—Alleged Recruiting in America, Action of Transvaal Government, *May 26, 1799.*

Native Labour in—Statistics of Disease, Death, Desertion, etc., *May 20, 1211.*

Westminster Hall—Closing of, to Public, Date of, Reasons for, Re-opening proposed, *May 25, 1642.*

Trinidad

Gaols, Indentured Coolies in—Protection of Indentured Coolies, Arrangements for, etc.

Q. Mr. Schwann; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *May 14, 687.*

May 7—May 26.

Trinity House*see* Port of London Bill.**Tritton, Mr.** [Lambeth, Norwood]London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May* 18, 978; *May* 19, 1135.**Trustee Act (1893) Amendment (No. 2) Bill***c. 1R.* May* 21, 1452.**Tuberculous Swine**Compensation for Condemned Carcases—Amendment of Diseases of Animals Act and Public Health Acts, proposed. *Q. Mr. Stevenson; A. Mr. W. Long, May* 25, 1637.**Tully, Mr.** [Leitrim, S.]Boyle Union—Proposed Inquiry, Grounds for Ordering Inquiry, *May* 7, 33.Granard Union—Inquiry into Action of Medical Officer, Result of, *May* 7, 32.Roscommon Extra Police Tax—Total Amount Levied off De Freyne and Murphy Estates—Liability of Roscommon County Council, *May* 7, 32.Strokestown Union Inquiry—Grounds for Ordering Inquiry, *May* 7, 33.**Tweedmouth, Lord**Betting Bill, *May* 18, 903.Panna, Maharajah of—Deposition, Publication of Papers relating to, *May* 26, 1771.Port of London Bill—Bill committed to a Joint Committee of both Houses, previous to Introduction and Second Reading in the Upper House, Similar procedure denied in the case of the London Water Bill—Explanation, *May* 19, 1074.Sittings of Parliament, *May* 25, 1588.**Tynemouth and District Tramways Bill***l. Com.* May* 11, 270.*Rep.* May* 22, 1454.*3R.* May* 26, 1750.*c. 1R.* May* 26, 1784.**Ulster and Connaught Light Railways Bill (By Order)***Debate on 2R. [H.C.], May* 14, 763.

Arbitration, Parties to, 765.

Powers granted to Company, 764, 765.

Settlement, Terms of, 764.

c. 2R. May 21, 1439.**Underwriters***see* Marine Insurance Bill.**Unfunded Debt***see* Budget.**Union of Benefices Act, 1860, Amendment Bill***l. 1R.* May* 15, 798.*2R.* May* 19, 1052.*Rep.* May* 22, 1502.*Statement on 2R.—Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, May* 19, 1052.**United Irish League**

Birr, Meetings at—Supervision of the Police.

Q. Mr. W. Redmond; A. Mr. Atkinson, May 11, 306.**“United Service Gazette”**

Proprietors of.

Qs. Captain Norton; As. Lord Stanley, May 20, 1209.**United States**

Congo Free State, Interference in.

Os. May 20, 1309.

Naval Position Compared with that of England.

Os. in Com. of Supply, May 14, 713, 721, 723, 729.

Naval Training Scheme.

Os. May 8, 167, 176.

New York—Mail Service to.

Os. May 11, 388, 391.**Universities**Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877—Statutes Presented, *May* 18, 867, 914.Scotland—University Court Ordinance, Copy Presented, *May* 15, 804.University of London — Amendment of Statutes Presented, *May* 15, 798, 804.**Vaccination**

Anti-Vaccinationists, Prison Treatment of—Case of H. Elderkin imprisoned in Northampton Gaol.

Qs. Mr. Channing; As. Mr. Akers Douglas, May 11, 301.Exemption Certificates, Refusal of, to Anti-Vaccinationists at Walsham-le-Willows, alleged, *May* 25, 1640.

Glycerinated Calf Lymph—Government Supply, Amount produced but not issued in 1901-1902.

Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. W. Long, May 8, 201.**Lymph.**

Humanised Lymph—Use of, discontinued, Reason for, Date of Change.

Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. G. Lawson, May 7, 29.

Unofficial Lymph—Number of private Establishments for production of Lymph.

Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. G. Lawson, May 11, 303.

Public Vaccination—Cost of, Return, showing Cost of Vaccination charged on Poor Rate, proposed.

Q. Sir T. Roe; A. Mr. W. Long, May 18, 915.**Scotland.**

Glycerinated Calf Lymph and Vaccine Lymph—Supply, sources of, etc.,

Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. G. Murray, May 19, 1085.

Human Lymph, Prohibition of use of, Introduction of Legislation, proposed.

Q. Mr. Weir; A. Mr. G. Murray, May 26, 1806.

Vagrancy*see* Prisons.**Valuation**

Ireland—Licensed Premises, Raising of Valuation of, without due notice being served, Case of Mrs. Lowe.

Q. Mr. J. O'Connor; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *May 14, 679.*

Vestry

Ecclesiastical Rates, Collection of.

O. *May 21, 1440*

Victoria and Albert Docks

see Port of London Bill.

Vincent, Sir Howard [Sheffield, Central]

Alien Immigration—Measures for prevention of increase in Number of Alien Immigrants from Russia in East London, Number of Immigrants on German line, etc., *May 25, 1621.*

London Streets, Breaking up of—Control over, *May 26, 1788.*

Poles in Scottish Coal Mines, Employment of—Examination of Employees in Knowledge of Language and Laws for Safety of Mine, etc.—Reference of question to Alien Commission, *May 21, 1347.*

Royal Commission on Militia and Volunteer Forces—Unequal Representation alleged, Appointment of Additional Member with Knowledge of Working of a City Corps of Volunteers, proposed, *May 21, 1343.*

Vivisection

London University College.

Certificates, Number of persons holding—Qualifications of Operators, etc.

Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Akers Douglas, *May 8, 200*

Dogs subjected to experiment—Number of, etc.

Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Akers Douglas, *May 11, 300.*

Experiment on a Brown Dog.

Details of.

Q. Sir F. Banbury; *A.* Mr. Akers Douglas, *May 20, 1200.*

Killed on Removal from Theatre.

Q. Sir F. Banbury; *A.* Mr. Akers Douglas, *May 12, 416.*

Proposal for such Experiments to be Discontinued or Conducted in presence of Home Office Inspector.

Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Akers Douglas, *May 11, 300.*

Under what Certificate Performed.

Q. Sir F. Banbury; *A.* Mr. Akers Douglas, *May 8, 200.*

Number of Experiments Performed under Licences in 1902—Address for Return, *May 26, 1787.*

Voluntary Schools

see Education (Borrowing) Bill.

see London Education Bill.

Aid Grant.

Date of Payment of—Auditing of Accounts, Application of Grant, etc.

Q. Mr. Lambert; *A.* Sir W. Anson, *May 18, 930.*

Payment of, to Individual Schools or Governing Bodies.

Qs. Mr. Lambert; *As.* Sir W. Anson, *May 18, 930.*

Repair of—Application of Aid Grant under Act of 1897 to purpose of Repairs.

Q. Mr. Lambert; *A.* Sir W. Anson, *May 25, 1642.*

Transfer—Power to complete Transfer without Reference to Section 8 of the Education Act, 1902.

Q. Mr. E. Griffiths; *A.* Sir W. Anson, *May 14, 677.*

Transfer of Schools—Public Notification of Transfer, Body required to give such Notification.

Q. Mr. H. Hobhouse; *A.* Sir W. Anson, *May 11, 291.*

Upkeep and Alteration of—Application of Public Money to—Opportunity for Discussion of Decision of Education Department with regard to.

Q. Mr. Lambert; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *May 25, 1645.*

West Horsley National School—Dismissal of Headmaster, Issue of Circular requesting Local Authorities to have Reports made on condition of School-house previous to accepting responsibility for, etc.

Q. Mr. Mansfield; *A.* Sir W. Anson, *May 14, 694.*

Volunteers

Artillery, Field Batteries of—Non-application of recent Orders to, proposed.

Q. Mr. S. Roberts; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *May 21, 1346.*

Medical Officers—Reduction of Pay.

Q. Major Rasch; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *May 14, 680.*

Return Presented, *May 8, 199; May 11, 285.*

Royal Commission on Militia and Volunteer Forces—Unequal Representation, alleged—Appointment of Additional Member with Knowledge of Working of a City Corps of Volunteers, proposed.

Q. Sir H. Vincent; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *May 21, 1343.*

24th Middlesex Volunteers—Preclusion of Irish Postal Servants from Joining Regiment—Removal of Disabilities, proposed.

Q. Mr. Nannetti; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *May 26, 1797.*

May 7—May 26.

Waima Arbitration

Payment of Compensation by French Government—Prolonged Delay in Settlement of.

Q. Mr. B. Jones; A. Lord Cranborne, May 14, 674.

Walker and Wallsend Union Gas Bill

l. 2R. Com.* May 22, 1454.*

Wallace, Mr. R. [Perth]

London Education Bill, *May 18, 972.*

Walsham-le-Willows

Anti-Vaccinationists—Refusal of Exemption Certificates, alleged.

Q. Mr. Malcolm; A. Mr. Cochrane, May 25, 1640.

Walton, Mr. Joseph [Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley]

Budget Resolutions—Arrangements for Discussion, *May 12, 429, 433.*

Manchuria, Evacuation of, by Russia—Combination of United States, Japan, and England, in order to secure fulfilment of assurances with regard to, proposed, *May 11, 298.*

Workmen's Compensation Act, *May 13, 635.*

Walton, Mr. Lawson [Leeds, S.]

Workmen's Compensation Act, *May 13, 639.*

Wandsworth Infirmary

Alleged Undue Violence at—Evidence at Inquest on Michael Sadler, Further inquiries.

Q. Mr. J. Ellis; A. Mr. W. Long, May 11, 291.

Wapping

Telegraph Office—Inconvenience of present Site, Establishment of more Central Office, proposed.

Q. Sir T. Dewar; A. Mr. Austen Chamberlain, May 25, 1636.

War Office

Loans to Manchester and Leeds Exhibition—List of Government Property, to whom lent, Loans not returned, Inquiries into *status* of Promoters of Exhibition, etc.

Qs. Captain Norton; As. Mr. Brodric, May 12, 418; May 18, 924.

Warned Elementary Schools

Return Presented, *May 15, 804.*

Warner, Mr. Courtenay [Staffordshire, Lichfield]

Budget Resolutions—Suggested Payment of a Proportionate increase on more Expensive Tobacco, in order to relieve Working Classes, *May 12, 447.*

London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May 18, 977.*

Wason, Mr. J. C. [Orkney and Shetland]

Crofting Districts, Scotland—Medical Officers in, Number of Parish Councils without Parochial and Resident Medical Officer, *May 25, 1623.*

Gilbert and Ellice Islands, Administration of—Allegations against Resident Commissioner, *May 19, 1092.*

Gilbert and Ellice Islands—Illegal deportation of Mr. Hodge from, Payment of Compensation, *May 19, 1091.*

Motor Car Race from Scotland to London—Breaches of the Law Committed, *May 21, 1348.*

Poor Law Medical Officers in Highland Crofting Counties—Grievances of, Inclusion in Terms of Reference of Poor Law Medical Inquiry, *May 25, 1623.*

Post Office Packet Service in Scotland—Inadequate Mail Service to Lerwick and other Parts, *May 11, 387.*

Scots Fusiliers, Officers' Uniforms—Cost of Alterations, *May 29, 1091.*

Watermen

see Port of London Bill.

Water Orders Confirmation Bill

l. 2R. May 22, 1455.*

Watford and Edgware Railway Bill

c. con. May 14, 665.*

3R. May 18, 910.*

l. 1R. May 19, 1046.*

Ways and Means

Budget, *see* that title.

Weir, Mr. J. G. [Ross and Cromarty]

Army Canteens, Report of Departmental Committee, Laying on Table of the House, *May 11, 296.*

Bengal House Tax, Amount of—Remission of, proposed, *May 21, 1336.*

Congested Districts, Migration of Cottars from—Legislation to give Powers for Acquisition of Land, proposed, *May 21, 1351.*

Crofting Fishery Districts—Resuming Practice of Granting Loans to Fishermen in, proposed, *May 14, 691.*

Dorchester Artillery Barracks—Quartering of Men over Stabling, Effect on Health of Troops, Improvement of Barracks, proposed, *May 7, 22.*

Herrings—Russian Import Duties on Scottish Cured—Charge of Uniform Rate of Duty—Reduction, proposed, *May 14, 687.*

Holyrood Palace, Condition of—Dates of Annual Reports on—Defects of Drainage, When and by whom Reported, etc., *May 14, 692.*

Hong Kong Public Health Laws—Bill Amending Laws, Sanction of, *May 26, 1797.*

May 7—May 26.

Weir, Mr. J. G.—cont.

Island of Lewis—Major Matheson and his Tenants—Delay in Coming to Terms, Cause of, *May 21, 1352.*

Khairpur Currency, Arrangement of Scheme of Conversion of—Condition of Acceptance of Native Rupee by Khairpur State Treasury, *May 7, 15.*

Liverpool.

Emigrant Lodging Houses, Overcrowding in, Intimation of, to Liverpool Corporation, proposed, *May 15, 689.*

George Square—Cases of Infectious Diseases, Number removed from, for last three years, *May 26, 1803.*

Smallpox Epidemic.

Fazakerley Hospital, Escape of Patient from, *May 14, 689.*

Inquiry into Measures adopted by Health Authorities with regard to, *May 7, 29.*

Register of Patients—Arrangement for Keeping Register at Office of Clerk to Sanitary Authority, *May 7, 28.*

Smallpox Hospital—Escape of Patients, alleged, *May 26, 1804.*

Motor Cars in Parliament Street, Westminster—Disregard of Police Signals by Chauffeurs passing through Parliament Street, *May 21, 1349; May 26, 1788.*

New Holdings in Highland Crofting Counties, Number of, during year under review, *May 21, 1351.*

Plague at Hong Kong.

Recurrence of, Number of Deaths—Cause of—Opinion of, Hong Kong Council, *May 11, 298.*

Severity of Epidemic—Date of Laying Report of Sanitary Experts on Table, *May 26, 1800.*

Police Force in London—Increase necessary on account of Motor-cars, *May 21, 1408.*

Post Office Packet Service—Inadequate Service to Western Islands of Scotland—Deficiencies in North British Railway System—Overcrowding on Steamers—Plea for Provision of Subsidies by Post Office, *May 11, 385.*

Ramchandra, Sirdar Balvant—Claims of—Decision with regard to, *May 7, 14.*

Royal Edinburgh Asylum—Overcrowding in, resulting in Outbreak of Dysentery, *May 11, 304.*

Scotch Industries Exhibits at St. Louis Exhibition—Expediency of making arrangements for, proposed, *May 14, 691.*

Sea Police, Duties of H.M.S. "Seamew," "Speedwell," and "Cockchafer"—Area Patrolled, etc., *May 14, 674.*

Weir, Mr. J. G.—cont.

Smallpox—Private Smallpox Hospitals, Number of—*May 11, 303.*

South African Compensation Claims, Number and Amount of, lodged up to 31st December, *May 26, 1801.*

Vaccination—Lymph,

Glycerinated Calf Lymph—Government Supply.

Amount Produced but not Issued in 1901–1902, *May 8, 201.*

Sources of Supply, *May 19, 1085.*

Humanised Lymph.

Discontinuance of use—Reason for, Date of Change, *May 7, 29.*

Scotland—Prohibition of Use—Introduction of Legislation, proposed, *May 26, 1806.*

Unofficial Lymph—Number of Private Establishments for Production of Lymph, *May 11, 303.*

Vivisection at London University College.

Certificates, Number of Persons holding, Qualifications of Operators, etc., *May 8, 200.*

Dogs subjected to Experiments—Number of, Proposal for such, Experiments to be discontinued or conducted in presence of Home Office Inspector, *May 11, 300.*

Welby, Lord

London County Council Expenditure—Return of Sum spent by Council in promoting Bills in Parliament, *May 22, 1498.*

Welby, Lieut.-Col. A. C. E. [Taunton]

Clark's Siding, South Africa—Remount Farm, Management of—Publication of Result of Inquiry, proposed, *May 20, 1206.*

Wellingborough and District Tramroads Bill

c. Rep.* *May 12, 410.*

con.* *May 20, 1197.*

3R.* *May 25, 1616.*

l. 1R.* *May 26, 1751.*

Wellington (Salop) Gas Bill

l. 3R.* *May 7, 4.*

c. 1R.* *May 8, 195.*

2R.* *Con.* May 18, 910.*

Rep.* *May 26, 1780.*

Wemyss, Earl of

Berwickshire County Town Bill, *May 7, 5.*

London County Council Expenditure—Return of sum spent by Council in promoting and opposing Bills in Parliament, proposed, *May 22, 1498.*

Motor Car Traffic in Scotland, Regulation of—Revision of Regulations on lines of Resolution of Haddington County Council, proposed, *May 19, 1054.*

May 7—May 26.

West Cumberland Electric Tramways Bill

c. Rep.* *May 14*, 666.
 con.* *May 20*, 1197.
 3R.* *May 25*, 1616.
 l. 1R.* *May 26*, 1751.

Westminster Hall

Closing of, to public—Date of, Reason for,
 Re-opening proposed.
 Q. Mr. Trevelyan; A. Mr. V.
 Cavendish, *May 25*, 1642.

Wharfingers

see Port of London Bill.

Wharton, Rt. Hon. J. Lloyd [Yorkshire, W.R., Ripon]

Trade Disputes Bill, *May 8*, 248.

Whisky

Adulterated Whisky—Allegations with
 regard to—Appointment of Committee
 of Inquiry proposed.

Q. Sir E. Strachey; A. Mr. Ritchie,
May 18, 916.

Alleged frauds in Whisky Trade—In-
 clusion of sale of spirituous liquors under
 supervision of Food and Drugs Act,
 proposed—Chemical analysis, Power
 of, to determine composition of
 Alcoholic Liquors.

Qs. Mr. T. M. Healy; As. Mr.
 Ritchie, *May 7*, 24.

White, Mr. George [Norfolk, N.W.]

Education (Borrowing) Bill, *May 12*, 474.

London Education Bill, *May 18*, 976, 987,
 1035; *May 26*, 1879.

Whiteley, Mr. George [Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey]

London Education Bill, *May 18*, 1005, 1006;
May 19, 1141, 1280; *May 26*, 1885.

Whitley, Mr. J. H. [Halifax]

Fees of Attorney-General and Solicitor-
 General for last twelve months, *May*
20, 1204.

Judicature, Expenditure of the Supreme
 Court of—Number of Second Class
 Clerks—Salaries of Clerks, *May 21*,
 1368.

Land Registry System, Reasons for inquiry
 into—Operation of the Land Transfer
 Act—Interests of Building Societies,
May 21, 1385, 1400, 1401.

London Education Bill, *May 18*, 954, 990;
May 19, 1151; *May 20*, 1278; *May*
25, 1697.

Prisons—Expenditure, Request of informa-
 tion as to increased, *May 21*, 1446.

Votes—Arrangement of the order of, *May*
21, 1361, 1363, 1266.

Whitmore, Mr. C. A. [Chelsea]

Duke of York's School—Removal from
 Chelsea, *May 12*, 417.

London Education Bill, *May 19*, 1192;
May 25, 1698, 1742.

Whittaker, Mr. T. P. [Yorkshire, W.R., Spen Valley]

Manchester Licensing Committee, Election
 of—Voting of Persons not Entitled to
 Vote—Proceedings against Offenders,
May 18, 928.

Wigan Corporation Tramways Bill

c. Rep.* *May 26*, 1779.

Williams, Mr. A. Osmond [Merionethshire]

London Education Bill, *May 19*, 1144.

Williams, Col. R. [Dorset, W.]

London Education Bill, *May 26*, 1867, 1888.

Wilson, Mr. John [Durham, Mid.]

Coal Mines Regulation Bill, *May 15*, 843.

Wilson, Mr. John [Falkirk Burghs]

Workmen's Compensation Act, *May 13*,
 627.

Winchester Water and Gas Bill

l. 2R.* *Com.* May 7*, 4.
 Rep.* *May 26*, 1750.

Wingfield-Digby, Mr. [Dorset, N.]

Export of Milling Offals—Amount in
 Years 1900, 1901, 1902, *May 21*, 1338.

Wireless Telegraphy

Somaliland Military Expedition—Cost of
 Systems Employed during Campaign
 —Results of Tests Applied to Wireless
 System during German Army
 Manœuvres, etc.

Q. Mr. J. Campbell; A. Mr. Brod-
 rick, *May 21*, 1344.

Wirral Railway Bill

c. 1R.* *May 7*, 11.
 2R.* *Com.* May 18*, 910.

**Wolverhampton and Cannock Chase Rail-
way (Extension of Time) Bill**

c. 2R.* *Com.* May 11*, 283.
 Rep.* *May 22*, 1503.

Wolverton, Lord

Board of Trade Examiner at Liverpool—
 Name of Successful Candidate, Quali-
 fications, etc., *May 8*, 191.

Deck Loads on Merchant Ships, *May 25*,
 1612.

"Firth of Forth," Stranding of, Board of
 Trade Inquiry into—Able evidence of
 second Officer—Recommendation of
 Court to recoup expenses involved by
 second Officer, *May 7*, 6, 7.

Irish Lights Tenders, *May 11*, 275.

Wood, Mr. J. [Down, E.]

Londonderry Land Appeal Court—Sittings
 of, Date of last and next Sittings,
May 7, 30.

Woodhouse, Sir James [Huddersfield]

Judicature, Court of—Appeals between
 King's Bench and House of Lords—
 Pensions of Judges, *May 21*, 1373.

May 7—May 26.

Woolwich Borough Council Bill

c. Rep. May 14, 666.*
con. May 25, 1617.*

Workhouses

Children in other than Metropolitan Workhouses, Number of—Number under three years of age.

Q. Mr. Harwood; A. Mr. W. Long, May 26, 1788.

Workington, Port of

Entrance to—Unsatisfactory Condition of through Non-clearing of River.

Q. Mr. Sloan; A. Mr. G. Balfour, May 21, 1350.

Workmen's Compensation Act

Aged Pensioners Bill, *see* that title.

Workmen's Compensation Act (1897) Amendment Bill

c. 1R. May 20, 1226.*

Debate on Amendment [H.C.] May 13, 624.

Accidents for which Compensation should be granted, 623, 624, 629, 634, 635, 637, 647.

Agricultural Labourers, Extension to 620, 627, 637, 646.

Carelessness, Alleged Inducements to Workmen's, 621, 635, 637, 649.

Codification, Necessity for, 622.

County Courts, Judgment of, 621, 640.

Equality of Trades, Request for, 625, 628, 633, 640, 642, 649, 651.

Litigation arising from Act, 621, 623, 628, 634, 637, 639, 647.

Miners, Application to, 627, 646.

Trades Unions, Attitude of, 635, 647.

Workmen's Compensation Act (1897) Amendment (Seamen) Bill

c. 1R. May 7, 38.*

Worthing Corporation Tramways Bill

l. 3R. May 22, 1454.*

c. 1R. May 25, 1618.*

Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart [Sheffield, Hallam]

All Saints, Poplar (Rate Abolition), Bill, *May 21, 1444.*

Church Discipline (No. 2) Bill, *May 12, 509.*

Workmen's Compensation Act, *May 13, 636.*

Wrench, Mr.

See Irish Land Bill.

Wrightson, Sir Thomas [St. Pancras, E.]

Coal Mines Regulation Bill, *May 15, 836.*

Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George—Chief Secretary for Ireland [Dover]

Altmore, Tyrone—Tenants debarred from Benefitting by Land Acts, by Revolutionary Leases—Proposed provision in Land Bill for Purchase of Farms, *May 7, 33.*

Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George—cont.

Belfast Primary Schools, Unsatisfactory Condition of—Question of Improvement by the aid of State Grants, under consideration, *May 21, 1354.*

Betting Offices, Declaration with regard to—Investigations in Process, *May 18, 934.*

Boyle.

Rural District, New Works in—Estimated Cost—Effect of Adoption of the Main Road Scheme, *May 26, 1795.*

Union.

Inquiry proposed—Grounds for Ordering Inquiry, *May 7, 33.*

Printing Contract, Tenders for—Alleged Acceptance of High Tender in preference to Low one, *May 22, 1508.*

Butter—American Butter sold as Irish, alleged—Steps for Prevention of further Frauds, *May 18, 933.*

Congested Districts Board—Expenditure in Kiltimagh and Carna respectively, *May 26, 1793.*

Cork Model Schools.

Attendance, Proportion of Infants, *May 20, 1221.*

Committee of National Education and Cork Technical Instruction Committee—Difference between Bodies arising from Proposal for further Alterations, *May 20, 1220.*

Pupil Teachers, Number Trained in Schools, etc., *May 20, 1221.*

Technical Education Committee Postponement of Eviction of, till after Discussion on the Estimates—Representations with regard to, *May 20, 1221.*

Cusack Estate, Longford—Alleged Refusal of Grazing Tenancies to Evicted Tenants, *May 25, 1626.*

Dublin Metropolitan Police—Compensation for Injuries received on Duty—Case of Thomas Hackett, *May 22, 1508.*

Drumard, County Longford, E. Farrelly's Holding at—Alleged Decrease in size of Tenancy—Area stated in Agreement, *May 21, 1353.*

Equivalent Grant—Allocation of, *May 18, 933; May 19, 1087; May 25, 1644.*

Evening National Schools—Grants, payment of, delayed, *May 13, 533.*

Evictions, Inquiries in Connection with Irish Land Bill, Action of police with regard to, *May 7, 33.*

Gallery of Modern Art and Royal Hibernian Academy—No provision to be inserted in Public Offices (Dublin) Bill for allocation of site for purposes of Gallery, *May 20, 1217.*

Galway—Removal of extra Police force from Kilmoredaly, *May 20, 1222.*

[*cont.*]

May 7—May 26.

Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George—*cont.*

Granard Union—Inquiry into action of Medical Officer, *May 7, 32.*

Gun Licences—Refusal of Licence to P. Courmane, Castlemaine, *May 7, 19.*

Hospital Relief for Policemen—No Necessity for amending Law with regard to, *May 25, 1627.*

Irish Land Bill, *May 7, 128.*

Drainage and other Charges, Provision for Redemption of, on Bill, *May 25, 1645.*

Irish Land Dispute—Case of Rev. M. Elliot, *May 26, 1806.*

Labourers' (Ireland) Acts—Information with regard to, Publication of in Annual Reports of Local Government Board, *May 25, 1644.*

Land Commission.

Composition of Commission when hearing Appeals, *May 20, 1218.*

Rent Fixing Branch—Annual Cost, etc., *May 13, 532.*

Listowel.

Mail Delays—Number of, Previous and subsequent to Amalgamation of Waterford and Limerick Railway Company and Great Southern and Western Railway Company, *May 7, 34.*

Urban Council Audit—Removal of Papers from Urban Council Office, *May 7, 34.*

Listry—Number of Extra Police stationed at—Cost of Maintenance, *May 26, 1794.*

Lloyd Apjohn's Estate, County Limerick—Sale to Tenants, Cause of Delay, *May 21, 1355.*

Local Government Board Auditors and Public Contracts—No Interference on part of Board with Work of Auditor, *May 26, 1794.*

Londonderry Land Appeal Court,ittings of—Date of Last and Nextittings, *May 7, 30.*

Longford.

Cusack Estate—Alleged Refusal of Grazing Tenancies to Evicted Tenants, *May 25, 1626.*

District Council—Auditor's Surcharge, Lawfulness of Proceedings, *May 26, 1795.*

Drainage Boards—Names of Members, Composition and Method of Election, No Promise of Legislation Possible, *May 20, 1219.*

Magistrates, Appointments of, Number made on recommendation of Lord-Lieutenant of County—Number of Roman Catholics and Protestants, *May 21, 1340.*

Trees, Sale of—Proposed provision in Irish Land Bill for Preservation of Trees in Rural Parts, *May 20, 1219.*

Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George—*cont.*

National Schools.

Inspectors' Reports as to Assistance given by Managers of Schools, Future arrangements with regard to, *May 20, 1218.*

Teachers.

Employment of One Teacher in Schools where Average reaches Fifty, *May 7, 30.*

Politics—Regulations debarring Teachers from associating themselves with Politics, Proposed Repeal of, *May 7, 30.*

Newmarket, Clare—Removal of two Guns from possession of Owner, *May 21, 1354.*

Rathcline Evicted Tenants—Visits by the Police, *May 21, 1353.*

Roscommon Extra Police Tax—Total amount levied off De Freyne and Murphy Estates—Liability of Roscommon County Council, *May 7, 32.*

Royal Irish Constabulary.

Ballyporeen, Numbers assembled on April 26th—Reason for attendance—Payment of Expense involved, *May 7, 31.*
Candidates, Number and Nationality of, *May 8, 202.*

Bicycles, Number of Men Provided with—Number of Irish Manufacture, etc., *May 25, 1643.*

Interference of Members in Civil Actions outside their Districts, alleged—Case of Sergeant Kilgannon, *May 8, 202.*

Reduction of Force, Method of, *May 7, 19; May 8, 202.*

Strokestown, Union Inquiry—Grounds for Ordering Inquiry, *May 7, 33.*

Stuart, Mr. James—Application of, for a Bill—Application Refused, *May 13, 534.*

Technical Instruction—Availability of, Grant in Lieu of the Equivalent Grant for Technical Education—Administration of Funds, *May 7, 31.*

Unions—Appointment of Commission on, Amalgamation of—Terms of Reference, etc., *May 25, 1629.*

Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H. [Glamorgan, S.]

Military Manœuvring Ground—Preservation of Old Dean Common for Purposes of, *May 18, 920.*

Yeomanry, Imperial

Reserve, Institution of—Outline of Scheme.

Q. Lord Denman; A. Earl of Hardwicke, *May 26, 1767.*

[*cont.*

May 7—May 26.

Yeomanry, Imperial—cont.

Service in South African War—Number of Companies going to South Africa, Date of Return of last Company—Financial Settlement, Number of Officers having received Gratuity, etc. Q. Mr. Mansfield; A. Mr. Brodrick, *May 19*, 1090.

Yorkshire

West Riding Polling Districts—Order altering certain Polling Districts in the County, presented, *May 18*, 868, 914.

Yorkshire Dales Railway Company

Certificate of Board of Trade authorising Company to raise additional Capital, presented, *May 12*, 407, 413.

Young, Mr. S. [Cavan, E.]

Irish Teachers' Pension Fund—Revision of, Date of Completion, *May 12*, 423.

Yoxall, Mr. [Nottingham, W.]

London Education Bill (*Committee*), *May 18*, 955, 975, 1019; *May 19*, 1098, 1133, 1161. *May 20*, 1250; *May 25*, 1679, 1683, 1695, 1717; *May 26*, 1871, 1874, 1878, 1888.

Preservation of Historic Buildings—Appointment of Select Committee with view to Establishing System of National Protection, proposed, *May 18*, 937.

Shakespearian Relics at Stratford—Proposed demolition of—Representatives of British Archaeological Association, *May 12*, 540.

Zappo Zapps

see Congo Free State.

